

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

July 31, 2023

Commissioners Present: President William L Hartman
 Vice President Michael Watson
 Vice President Todd Sanderson

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF MAINTENANCE-FAIR BATHROOMS

Larry explained the Sheriff had asked about the restrooms being open for the fair and had talked with the Commissioners but would like to have the topic to be on record. Larry does not feel it is a good idea and felt the Commissioners were also against the idea. Commissioner Hartman feels they do not want to open the restrooms and the other two Commissioners agree.

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty is hoping to get an agreement with the City of Auburn for parking in another lot during the fair, just as it was available in 2022. The Safety committee had discussed renewing the efforts of offering Hepatitis B vaccine to all affected employees. Dotty has sent out OSHA mandated training via emails to employees that can be utilized through IPEP at no additional charge. Recruitment around the County offices was reviewed. Dotty has mentioned before that she has weekly phone meetings with Surest-UHC to be sure any continuing issues are resolved.

MATTER OF OPPORTUNITY BLVD-JOHN KRUSE

John Kruse had emailed the American Heritage Village Plat prior to the meeting for review. John had raised the question of, "what was the intent for this road?" In the top left corner of the plat, paragraph #2 it provides: "This subdivision shall be known and designated as American Heritage Village Section 1, A/An subdivision of Addition to DeKalb County, Indiana. All streets shown and not heretofore dedicated are hereby dedicated to the public." John feels it would seem appropriate that the County consider accepting the road should it be brought up to standards. John also noted that 'Victory Lane' does not actually exist and should not even be on the plat. John reminded the Commissioners that when Kruse Plaza had obtained the property it was on a downward spiral, but now they have increased the events/revenue at the Plaza. John went over the special events that have been held at the Plaza, and he really wants to build on the heritage of DeKalb County. By being able to conduct the Auburn Auction is a wonderful event they are now able to hold at their location. However, with those classic car auctions, come the cars that are unable to drive down Opportunity Blvd. and have to be brought in on a trailer due to the current road condition. John's ultimate request is that the Opportunity Blvd. be brought up to par with the help of the Redevelopment Commission's assistance so that the roads will match the venue. The RDC has expressed 'some' agreeance in helping to accomplish the goal. John also reminded everyone that the topcoat of the road was never put on, the base and binding is there and to County specs as far as he is aware of. John has been committed to the community and has invested millions of dollars into the road already as they have had millions of people using the

facility. John has not been able to conduct certain events due to the road condition. John is hoping the Commissioners would accept the idea of updating the road, along with RDC help and when finished if the County would take over the future care of the road. Commissioner Sanderson asked if the adjoining landowner would develop if the road was improved, and John feels that he definitely would. Commissioner Sanderson looks at this as a favorable project with everything that has been brought into DeKalb County with Kruse Plaza. Commissioner Watson stated that the area is platted as development and is in the City ETJ, and they would need to know what the city specs would be. John said that nobody has claimed ownership from either the city or county, and the trails committee has approached him of possible use with the underground tunnel being on the property. William Hartman feels there is a consensus of the County owning the property and would need to bring Superintendent Ben Parker into the conversation as well as to know what the City would require with it being in the ETJ.

MATTER OF DCCC-GRANT OPPORTUNITY

Michelle Fosnaugh attended to share with the Commissioners that she has taken the opportunity to apply for a DCCC COVID Grant through the Indiana State Department of Health and Indiana Department of Correction to receive COVID related projects from the CDC that are being awarded to residential programs. Over a month ago residential programs who were interested in the funding send ideas to the CDC for approval. Now, ISDH has sent notice to the residential programs of what items were conditionally approved, below is the list of items:

- ~Touchless Water Dispensers for the Residential units (#4) | \$664.97
 - ~Nitrile gloves-may be provided by ISDH as a bulk purchase for all counties
 - ~Power Washer (indoor) to assist in deep cleaning shower and toilet areas of the units and soap to use in the machine | \$242.73
 - ~Supplies to retrofit/upgrade the holding room to function as a quarantine/isolation room.
- DCCC needs to provide further justification of requirements for a participant in the holding room.

~Full Body Scanner: TEK 84 with temperature scanner | \$170,000

The next step is for DCCC to provide the price quotes to ISDH via an online submission. ISDH will then send them on to CDC for final approval. The deadline to submit their desires is August 1, 2023.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve DCCC COVID grant opportunity with ISDH & CDC and for Michelle to submit her requests for final approval. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DCCC MAINTENANCE POSITION

Michelle Fosnaugh and Brian Humbarger met with Dotty Miller to figure out how to make the Maintenance position into a full time position to help with DCCC, Central Dispatch and Sunny Meadows. So far, the applicants that Michelle has received for the part-time position do not have qualifications. The plan is to take the money the grant has earmarked, along with some part-time money from Central Dispatch and ask the County to fund the benefits to make the position full-time. Commissioner Hartman questioned snow removal possibilities and logistics. Commissioner Sanderson would like to see the county have an actual maintenance department. Michael Lapham addressed that the complexity of all the systems in that building and he feels the current pay would not pay for the knowledge needed.

MATTER OF DCCC COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL INSTRUCTOR

At the June 19, 2023 Commissioner Meeting the Commissioners had approved DCCC to get a Cognitive Behavioral Instructor. Michelle is now in attendance to seek approval from the Commissioners to allow one of her full-time employees to be the instructor. The classes would be outside of her normal work hours and would be billed to the County as Contractual Services work. Attorney Kruse has concerns from Federal Labor Standards and his initial thought is this would not be a legal setup. Commissioner Sanderson expressed the person would have to be their own entity billing for the contract. Attorney Kruse agreed with Commissioner Sanderson that an employee with their own entity would be more appropriate for billing purposes. Commissioner Watson agreed. Michelle Fosnaugh will check with the full-time employee about setting up an LLC or sole-proprietor, otherwise she will need to find someone from the outside.

DCCC GRANT FUNDING FOR 2024

The DCCC is receiving about \$50,000 less in funding from 2023 to 2024, this came down from the DOC and she will be sending a new budget in August.

MATTER OF DCCC MEDICATION PASS

Michelle has been made aware of a company that handles dispensing meds in blister packs that would be no cost to Community Corrections to make the processor safer.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2023-R-13: A RESOLUTION OF THE DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS ACCEPTING STATE PUBLIC HEALTH FUNDING

Commissioner Sanderson began by stating that both sides of this issue has validity and there is also distrust from CDC and IDOH. Commissioner Sanderson wanted to start with what happens in DeKalb County, he explained the comment made by Ashley Grogg last week saying that DeKalb County would only receive about \$20,000 is incorrect and the County would actually be receiving around \$400,000 in revenue, and that he contacted Ashley Grogg and she was apologetic. Sanderson then discussed that the \$3 per capita is not correct and discussed that he feels it is closer to \$25 per capita and actually higher, but either way both sides are misleading. Sanderson then wanted to touch on the statement made last week of "you always take the money and figure out later if you have to give it back", is exactly what NOT TO DO. Commissioner Sanderson also pointed out the U.S. News & World Report has a website that compares every county in the Nation and uses over 80 metric to determine overall health, not just metrics use to drive a pre-determined outcome. He found that Indiana is nearly the same as the average in the nation and is better when it comes to availability of health insurance. Next, Commissioner Sanderson wanted to list out what the bill does NOT do and what the bill DOES:

Discussion on what **does not** happen with the bill:

Personal data is not going to be harvested by IDOH

Vaccines are not mandated for COVID

The State does NOT take over the healthcare

Taxes do not increase with this bill. (noted that they could decrease if the State wanted)

Discussion on what **DOES** happen with the bill:

Disperses roughly \$500,000 in the first year and up to \$1,000,000 in the second year

Allows for 40% of funding to be used for current operations
Allows for 60% to be used for targeted areas of concern
Do not have to spend the money to get more money in following years
Do not have to give back any of the money

Sanderson feels the biggest benefit is to the poor- especially broken families, and this is where the money should be spent. We are very blessed to live in a safe and prosperous County and feels the Lord asks all of us to help (not enable) those that are in medical dire straights due to poverty. Sanderson went on to say that 'we really should follow Jesus' example when considering the poor'. With medical help there must be an education and accountability program. When Jesus healed the sick or fed the masses, He gave instruction and rules. "We should do the same", Sanderson stated. Commissioner Sanderson also made it very clear that the County would NOT ever hand out free syringes for drug addicts or support any form of abortion operation regardless of reason for pregnancies. He feels we should use the SRO program to educate and scare kids about drugs and illicit sec. Proper physical and mental health begins at home and should be backed up by very strong school programs.

Commissioner Sanderson feels it is imperative to write an ordinance that gives the Commissioners the final say when it comes to the 60% spent on targeted programs. He feels the health department head and medical officer will come up with a yearly spending plan with details of how the money is spent and the Commissioners will work with the health department to ensure the money spent is always the best use of the funds, and again, benefits the poor.

Commissioner Sanderson would like to table this decision and pass the ordinance and resolution next week. Sanderson said he will vote 'yes' to opt in if we can come together and agree to this proposal.

Commissioner Watson and Hartman both agree the oversight by the Commissioners would not cause an issue. Commissioner Sanderson feels by opting-in gives the County options instead of letting the money go to another County.

Commissioner Watson told Sanderson that he appreciated his analysis of the bill. Watson also explained that if the State wanted to take over the healthcare they would have approved the bill as it initially came out, but instead they spent lots of time to remove what was not right and did not approve the bill until the last 2 days of session.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to table Resolution 2023-R-13: A Resolution of the DeKalb County Commissioners Accepting State Public Health Funding until next week and create an ordinance to include Commissioner Oversight to be approved next week. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed

Ann Forti 5125 CR 60: Thanked the Commissioners and feels they have taken the concerns seriously. Ann wanted to add from her last week presentation, that her comments could possibly be taken as conspiracy theory. Ann does not mean she does not trust local leaders such as Cheryl Lynch, Andy Dirksen, and Dr. Chase, her concern is that everyone needs to know what is going on at a Federal level. She discussed a video that she will send to the Commissioners to see the

corruption of the vaccine injuries and she feels the problem is that the Pillars of our Community are not aware of what is happening. She ended with a quote of Alexander Solzhenitsyn "you can resolve to live your life with integrity. Let your credo be this: Let the lie come into the world, let it even triumph. But not through me".

Lindsay Winslow Brown submitted an email prior to the meeting and requested the contents of the email in its entirety be read into the meeting prior to a vote on SEA 4, Auditor Sleeper read the email.

Kellen Dooley 2128 Dallas Court: asked if he could see the information on the ability to easily opt-out of the program. Commissioner Watson read an email from Rachel Swartwood-Legislative & External Affairs Director of IDOH. The email was in a response to an inquiry from Ben Smaltz. Rachel's email said:

If a county chooses to opt-out in year one, the process does not change. They will continue to receive their legacy funding. Under the legacy funding (which has been the same for the last 20+ years) counties are required to submit financial reports to IDOH. SEA 4 did not change any requirements to receive the legacy funding.

If a county votes to opt-in in year one and then votes to opt out the second year, the local health department would need to finish the required reports and services for year one. The money that goes to the county through the enhanced and legacy funding is non-reverting. Meaning, any left-over funds stay in the county. However, both funding mechanisms can only be used for public health.

Larry Williams 2418 Woodland Trail: He spoke last week to opt-out of the health funding. Larry understands the compromise that Todd has proposed. Larry's opinion is that Ben Smaltz completely . Larry wants everyone to not have an illusion that the money will just be held in an account until an agreement is made on what to spend the money on, because there will be expenses.

Andrew Provines 3920 CR 75: Commended Todd Sanderson on listening to both sides and wanted to be sure the Ordinance would be available to the public to view prior to the vote in case they have questions. Auditor Sleeper explained that all Ordinances and Resolutions have to be posted 48 hours prior to the meeting for public viewing and the public can request the documents from the Auditor's office.

John Graft 5898 CR 7: Was on the 'for' side of the issue without many reservations and feels the County hires competent people who will do what is correct with the money that will be received. He feels the elephant in the room is over the whole COVID pandemic and if COVID had not happened, we would not even be discussing whether to take the money or not. John says he is not a doctor and cannot give you and of vaccines, but he can share historical value to the polio vaccine.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes as dated July 24, 2023. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Michelle Fosnaugh & Brad Ford to attend IACCAC Residential Guidelines Annual Training held at Blue Chip Casino on July 24-25, 2023. Estimated cost of \$351.98 paid by department travel.
- 2) Michelle Fosnaugh to attend the 2023 IACCAC Summer Assembly held at the Drury Plaza Hotel Indianapolis-Carmel on August 23-25, 2023. Estimated cost \$374.00 paid by department travel.
- 3) Ryan Hull to attend Probation Officers Professional Association of Indiana, Inc. Fall Conference held at French Lick Springs on September 20-22, 2023. Estimated cost \$1,021.00 paid by department travel.
- 4) Holly Albright & Dana Hedrick to attend the AIC Annual Conference held at French Lick Springs on September 25-28, 2023. Estimated cost \$1,981.00 paid by department travel.

Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF FUTURE HIGHWAY FUNDING

Council President Rick Ring had sent an email ahead of the meeting that Auditor Sleeper read into the record. Commissioner Sanderson feels that Ben Parker provided the Council with what they need but they did want to know the number of roads that they wanted to update.

Commissioner Watson said after thinking about last week he thinks the Council is wanting a more buttoned up request. Auditor Sleeper expressed that she felt it was a little different since Ben Parker is not an Elected Official and the Commissioners are ahead of Ben and should be seeking information from Ben to approve and pass on to the Council. William Hartman feels that Ben should come to the Commissioners with the plans and that it falls in his court.

Commissioner Watson feels that Ben can present the data, but the Commissioner have to approve what Ben is proposing.

MATTER OF SUNNY MEADOWS WELL HOUSE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and purchase a storage tank and have it insulated to cover the well at Sunny Meadows. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

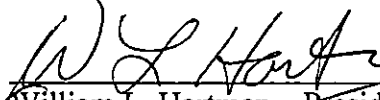
MATTER OF SPEED LIMIT ON COUNTY ROAD 20

Commissioner Hartman promised John Hill they would discuss lowering the speed limit on CR 20. Commissioner Watson wants to hear what Ben has to say about the change before voting on an Ordinance.

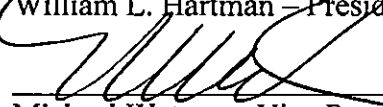
Todd Sanderson made a motion for the Attorney to prepare the speed limit reduction ordinance. William Hartman seconded and motion passed (2,1) with Watson voting against.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

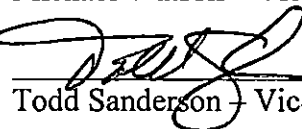
Topics include- EDC meeting & broadband, Todd Land lawsuit/injunction, County Farm Pond with a fish kill issue, City not worrying about having another appraisal done on the pond—idea is to dip the pond out to the depth they are wanting, possible leasing of parking spaces to the City at Union & 9th and Union & 10th parking spots, parking lot by Sheriff boring holes need filled, City trash/recycle bins are being pulled by the Street Department will be pulling the cans out for pickup with the consensus of allowing them off to the side of the entry walkways.



William L. Hartman – President



Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor