

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 7, 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 HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty provided the UHC Stop Loss Application ahead of the meeting for approval.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and the president to sign the UHC Stop Loss Agreement. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Dotty went on to discuss that work with the new insurance is ongoing. Lindsay in HR is working on a document for employees to fill out to make changes to their insurances. The Standard implementation aspect is still being worked on and we are at a standstill until they get through that process in order for us to have access to the website. Recruitment around the County was covered. Dotty brought up the option that Michelle Fosnaugh provided about having a maintenance employee to cover multiple departments to see if the Commissioners wanted to discuss. Commissioner Sanderson would like to see the position to cover multiple departments and to have someone with knowledge of HVAC, electrical, etc. Commissioner Hartman commented that he did not feel the pay listed would get a qualified person. Hartman also questioned the 8-4 hours on the job description. Dotty would think of the position more as a flex position and not have the hours listed on the job description. Hartman also mentioned how to cover mileage between departments, and they agree there should be a maintenance truck with tools and should be housed outside the DCCC facility. Council member Rick Ring agreed with Auditor Sleeper on the funding of the position and feels they should be under a single department, possibly under Larry as the coordinator. Larry agreed with the Commissioners that the current Sheriff Maintenance employee would remain within the Sheriff department, as they are very specialized. Dotty will get back with Michelle Fosnaugh and work on job description and wage. Dotty let the Commissioners know that the Auditor had submitted a review of a position in her office and it has been sent on to WIS for review.

MATTER OF MAINTENANCE

Larry has talked with the City of Auburn about the outside garbage cans and how the current model would not work, but they would order and pay for new garbage cans with a model for front opening, IF the Commissioners would make a cut out of current place to create a cement pad for the placement. Larry had Seiss quote and it will be around \$6,000 for all four locations. The Commissioners agree to have Larry get another quote from Webb Concrete. He can go ahead and order the garbage cans.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-O-5: AN ORDINANCE FOR 2023 SEA 4 FUNDING

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and all to sign Ordinance 2023-O-5: DCC 16-1-8-1 on FIRST Reading. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to suspend the rules for SECOND and THIRD Readings. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-O-5: DCC 16-1-8-1 on SECOND on THIRD readings. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved

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

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and all to sign Resolution 2023-R-13: A Resolution of the DeKalb County Commissioners Accepting State Public Health Funding. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2023-R-14: DCC 22-1-6(A) | DEKALB COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and all to sign Resolution 2023-R-14: DCC 22-1-6(a). Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved

APPROVAL OF THE HANDBOOK SECTION 11.1 ON THE COUNTY TRAVEL POLICY

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the Handbook Section 11.1 updated language. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Bridge #7 was hit by dump truck with crane in the air on US 6; Ben is working with USI and should be paid by insurance. The truck did not fare so well. Ben gave an update on the most recent Highway Construction Meeting. CR 35, 59, 22 projects are moving forward. CR 40 bridge is moving forward as well. Bridge 9 is complete. Short discussion took place on other small structure/bridge replacement logistics.

MATTER OF BRIDGE #132 BID OPENING AS ADVERTISED FOR 10:30 A.M.

Ben Parker opened bids at 10:30 as advertised in the RFP. The bids were due in the Auditors office by 10:00 a.m. The following bids were received:

The engineers estimate was \$426,558.04.

RG Zachrich Construction, INC.: \$449,862.55

Milestone Contractors, LP: \$562,429.59

Todd Sanderson made a motion for Ben to take the bids under advisement and come back to award next week. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY DEFICIT FUNDING FOR COUNCIL WHEEL TAX DECISION

With the help of Ben Parker, Highway Superintendent and Brad Stump there were two proposals shown for the amount of highway funds that would be needed in order to fund all of the highway needs and reconstruct/repair 66.83 miles rated 1-2-3-4 and convert 2 miles per year of gravel to chip and seal; all dependent on the time span for completion chosen. The proposals also included the projected fund deficit for 2025 from the Council's Financial Advisor, reduced funding in the Commissioners LITED dollars, annual maintenance shortfall and contingency for the CR 56 project. Proposal #1 was \$1,830,530 per year needed with a 5-year time span. Proposal #2 was \$457,633 per year needed with a 20-year time span. Commissioners explained the values are arbitrary and they are looking at ways to decrease the amount they had to cut for highway operations out of their LITED budget. Ben made note that the proposals do not include inflation. Ben also mentioned that Cumulative Bridge could have a shortfall depending on how quickly projects move forward. Discussion took place on other costs that would be added to the proposals that would include employees & benefits, trucks, increased maintenance costs. Commissioner Watson had discussions with all three school superintendents and they all have a concern on gravel roads from the safety perspective as well as the maintenance costs on their school buses, in another county that has a higher amount of paved roads the per bus maintenance cost is less.

Commissioner Hartman and Sanderson are both concerned on how we will get the help to do the projects with the wheel tax money. Commissioner Sanderson said that it may be the right time to collect some money but not to spend it until further research is completed. The three commissioners all agree that a Wheel Tax is the best form of tax as the money all stays in the County and does not get sent down to the State. Rick Ring appreciates the work that Ben, Brad and Mike put together as the Council will need this information. Rick also said that not everyone on a gravel road wants theirs paved and there is no way that all of them will be paved. Rick would like to see a standard of how many miles are done each year and possibly a standard on how many houses are per mile then a certain road may be paved. Todd feels tax is inevitable and if it were him, he would go for the most we could get because we could use it for highways. He also feels that if wheel tax is going to be enacted that it should be done at the highest amount, instead of only enacting a percentage and have to come back in a few years to increase again. Commissioner Sanderson would like to see 4-5 miles converted each year instead of 2-3 miles as long as it can be funded. Auditor Sleeper explained that an allowable expense of a wheel tax is a grant match, which Ben has saved the County lots of money by writing our own grants and they are granted. Sleeper also went on why the CCD rate went down and how to get it back to its maximum and remain at the 0.333. Commissioner Hartman would hope the Council could come up with some ideas to offset if the wheel tax is enacted and it will take some thinking outside of the box and some ideas will be suggested at tomorrow's Council Meeting. Commissioner Watson added that DeKalb is not the only county with a wheel tax enactment

decision and it is a hot topic with AIC to work on how much money comes back to the individual counties for roads. All agree the proposals can be presented to the Council.

**MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2023-O-6: DCC 9-1-1-39 | AN ORDINANCE
ESTABLISHING A 45-MPH SPEED LIMIT FOR A PORTION OF CR 20**

Commissioner Sanderson would like to see all county roads at 45mph instead of 55mph because we are more densely populated than it was long ago. Commissioner Watson had suggested prior to the meeting that the decision is not an emergency and suggested doing a single ordinance on multiple roads at one time. Hartman feels this is a safety issue and should be enacted sooner than later and then really push the State to lower the speed limits. Attorney Kruse brought up what will the Commissioners do when everyone else starts coming in wanting the speed on his or her roads reduced and will it open a Pandora's Box. The Commissioners all agree that the State should give up their control and let the Counties decide on the speed of their own roads. Further discussion was held.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2023-O-6: DCC 9-1-1-39 | An Ordinance Establishing a 45-mph speed limit for a portion of CR 20, between CR 23 and CR 27 on the FIRST Reading. William Hartman seconded and motion passed (2,1) with Watson voting against.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period of July 16-29, 2023. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve July 2023 Bookkeeper and Payroll claims along with General claims processed on August 7, 2023 in the amount of \$387,392.68 consisting of warrant #'s 25371 thru 25480 and wire transfer #'s 134486 thru 134536. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes as dated July 31, 2023. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Sheila Stonebraker & Tammy Warstler to attend the Assessor's Summer Conference held at the Hilton Hotel & Suites, Indianapolis on August 22-25, 2023. Estimated cost of \$2,358.00 paid by State Called Meetings account.

- 2) Ronda Hunkler to attend the Northeast District CVSO Meeting held at the Whitley County Government Center on August 30, 2023. Estimated cost \$28.00 paid by department travel.
- 3) Tyler Woods to attend Medicolegal Death Investigation Training held at the Sheraton Hotel & Suites at Keystone on September 8-10 and September 22-24, 2023. Estimated cost \$459.40 paid by department travel.
- 4) Judge Monte Brown to attend the Fall Judicial Conference held at the French Lick Resort on September 13-15, 2023. Estimated cost of \$570 paid by department travel.
- 5) Johanna Scott to attend the 2023 ICCADS Fall Training held at the Brown County Inn on October 4-6, 2023. Estimated cost of \$621.50 paid by department travel.
- 6) Ryan Hull & Mark Pomeroy to attend the ICCADS Fall Conference held at the Brown County Inn on October 4-6, 2023. Estimated cost of \$1,042.00 paid by department travel.

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF NO TRESPASS PROCEDURE

Attorney Kruse explained how the question arose and then it was asked who has the right to say if there can or cannot be a trespass procedure. The Sheriff reached out to Bob Hardy for guidance and they contacted Attorney Kruse as well. Kruse explained that an Elected Official controls their office, but not necessarily, the decision on whether or not someone can or cannot enter the Courthouse as that would be the Commissioners decision, but it also crosses with the Sheriff who controls the entrances. Commissioner Sanderson feels it is a good idea to have a procedure in place, but does not know how complicated he wants to make it. Commissioner Watson expressed the process has to be legal and that it is a good topic to discuss considering the number of workplace violence happening around the Country.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to have Attorney Kruse create a Resolution to be voted on at a future meeting. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF PAINTING THE PUBLIC DEFENDER'S OFFICE

Chief Public Defender Mark Olivero submitted a letter requesting permission to paint the office and that he could pay for the project out of his Supplemental Funds.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the painting of the Public Defender's Office, as he does not see a problem with it. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF THE 2022 COMPLIANCE REVIEW FOR DART

The 2022 Compliance review has been completed for DART. It was determined that although a compliant level of communication and engagement between the county and agency was in place, there was a lack of documentation that confirmed this ongoing monitoring by the county outside of county commissioner meeting minutes of which the Agency Director attends quarterly. All parties agreed the County would implement and complete annually the Pass-Through Oversight and Monitoring Tracking form provided by INDOT to ensure ongoing compliance with proper

documentation and this has been disclosed on the Corrective Action Plan/Recommendation to be signed by DeKalb County Commissioner president and DeKalb County CoA Agency Director.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and for the president to sign the Technical Capacity; Program Management Corrective Action Plan/Recommendation. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF 2024 DART BOARD APPOINTMENT

Michael Watson made a motion to appoint Rod Knox for a 4-year term, beginning January 1, 2024 and ending December 31, 2027. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include-

DCEDP: Proposed Fee for Service for 2024; Sanderson does not have any intention to increase the rate from the already agreed to amount. Hartman feels there are so many expenses coming up and he is not sure the Commissioners can afford the fee. Commissioner Watson feels that the County cannot afford NOT to have the partnership. Hartman feels if the tax rates in the county were lowered then businesses would come without an issue.

Todd Sanderson motioned to keep the pay the same as 2023. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed (2,1) with Hartman voting against.

Generator: Big enough to cover the Courthouse and the Jail and then when the Jail is constructed move the large generator to the new location and get a single generator for just the courthouse since the wiring would already be available.

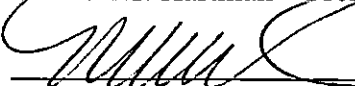
Plan Commission Fees: Chris Gaumer will probably handle through Plan Commission on updating the costs and attorney fees for clarification. Attorney Kruse is willing to work with Chris and come up with a plan or draft something up for approval.

Andrew Provines: On the DCEDP questioned Commissioner Watson's statement on the County not having another source for development. Andrew asked what the difference is between the Auburn Economic Development and the DeKalb County Economic Development and the Partnership. Commissioner Watson explained that the Auburn and DeKalb Economic Development Boards do not have budgets currently to pay out of. The cities and county do not have an individual dedicated for people to contact to get information about the schools, tax rate, etc. In addition, the County benefits because we do not have to employ a full-time dedicated person to do the same job. One difference between DeKalb DCEDP and other counties is that ours have been open to private industry as well. Andrew wanted to be sure that duplication is not happening between the different economic development commissions. Commissioner Sanderson feels it is good for him to be on the board as he can kind of read the room and can help in guidance for what is good for the County. Sanderson feels the DCEDP is good at getting people to come into the County and live here, although he feels they made a mistake getting involved with the solar issue, but beyond that, he states they are very good for our County and community. Commissioner Watson ended with the point that unless there is a single point of

contact many businesses will move past and onto the next County if obtaining information is not easily obtainable. Commissioner Hartman does agree with Commissioner Watson that the single point of contact is a very good piece of the DCEDP. Discussion on abatements was then held.



William L. Hartman – President



Michael Watson – Vice President

Attest:



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Susan Sleeper, Auditor