

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 14, 2023

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

Others Present: Deputy Jody Wiedenhoef
 Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty began with the Veteran Service Officer position, and that Ronda Hunkler has hired for that position, and stated that the new hire will begin in a few weeks, allowing the current employee to do some training prior to leaving. Development Services also hired for their open position of Compliance Deputy. Cheryl Lynch filled the vacancy for the open Health -RN position. Dotty explained that the Health Department is extremely grateful for the background that this candidate will bring to DeKalb County. Sunny Meadows, DCCC, Sheriff's Office, as well as the Highway Department still have vacancies and looking for full-time candidates.

Dotty then moved to the topic of OSHA Training, and has sent updated training information out to all Department Heads/Elected Officials that is covered through IPEP. Dotty then jumped over the harassment training policy that are available via webinars, again with IPEP. They offer it for supervisory roles, as well as line staff training. If she moves forward it would save the County \$100 a year, as that training is included in the IPEP costs.

MATTER OF THE STANDARD INSURANCE COMPANY DISABILITY PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION SERVICES AGREEMENT

Mike Watson made a motion to accept and for the president to sign the Agreement as described above. Todd Seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL SRO POSITION

Currently, the DeKalb County Sheriff's department has an SRO officer at DeKalb Central, DeKalb Eastern and Garrett-Keyser. DeKalb Central would like to hire a 2nd Full Time SRO with the school reimbursing for the SRO wage, as they currently do. The Sheriff's Department would like to provide an experienced officer for the SRO officer to start in August. Sheriff Thomas is requesting to add an additional officer to replace the road officer that will be open by sending a 2nd officer to primarily the DeKalb Middle School, and would only be there when the teachers and school are present. On non-school days, and in the summer, this SRO would be an additional Patrol Deputy at the Sheriff's Office.

Dave Holt -Spoke about the SRO Officer and had an issue with the process of obtaining the new officer. He stated that our Sheriff should not be spending time negotiating with the school regarding terms, and this should be another person.

Rick Ring- Spoke that the lead on any open position within a department is hired by the Elected Official within each department, and that current legislature states the

Mike Watson Made a motion to add an additional SRO to DeKalb Central Schools, using the presented MOU, with \$121,000 paid to DeKalb County for the 23/24 school year. Todd Sanderson seconded and all agreed.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben discussed with the Commissioners the wheel tax topic from the Council meeting.

MATTER OF BRIDGE #132 PROJECT AWARD .

Todd Sanderson made motion to award the Bridge #132 project to RG Zachrich Construction, Inc with a bid proposal of \$449,862.55. Mike Watson seconded and all approved.

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

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

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes as dated August 7, 2023. Mike Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION FOR CY 2023

Mike Watson made a motion for all to sign the Covered Bridge Certification document for calendar year 2023. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF SECURITY AUTOMATION SERVICES

Todd Sanderson made a motion to move forward with the SAS Security System for the Highway Video System Hardware and Labor in the amount of \$83,345. Mike Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF VALUE PAYMENT SYSTEMS

Chris Gaumer has been working with Value Payment Systems regarding their credit card readers as theirs haven't worked since the beginning of the year. Chris had been told multiple times that new readers were being sent and never received them. Kilian Duke, the Project Manager has reached out to Chris and is making our readers a priority and will follow the project to its completion, he just needs the County to sign the agreement.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to accept and for the president to sign the Submitter Merchant Payment Processing Agreement. Mike Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF GENOA PHARMACY AGREEMENT FOR DCCC

Michelle Fosnaugh had previously explained to the Commissioners that she had looked into a company that could provide medication delivery services at no cost to the County and will allow for safer dispensing of medication and ease in auditing & tracking.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and for the president to sign the Genoa Healthcare, LLC Pharmacy Agreement. Mike Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF THE 2024 DEKALB COUNTY GOVERNMENT HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

The 2024 proposed Holiday Schedule was presented to the Commissioners for approval. The Juneteenth Holiday was added it is a Federal Holiday. Todd Sanderson does not consider the Juneteenth a holiday, and doesn't agree with adding it to the holiday list. Bill Hartman agrees, and would like to see Martin Luther King Day combined with Presidents Day. Mike Watson stated he is hesitant to take a holiday away from the employees in terms of recruiting, and isn't sure this is the best time to take holidays away from our current staff.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the 2024 proposed Holiday Schedule with the following changes:

Beginning in 2024, Martin Luther King Jr. day, and President's Day will be combined as one, and both being observed on February 19, 2024. The Commissioners agreed that they will not recognize Juneteenth as an observed holiday.

William Hartman seconded, and motion passed (2,1) with Watson voting against.

MATTER OF WATER OPS

Don Lewis with WATER OPS asked to speak to the Commissioners behalf of his company. They are a local company that was asked by the previous Surveyor's Office to maintain some of the creeks and drains of DeKalb County, and they have provided that service for the last 7 years. Mr. Lewis explained that his company has invested a large amount of time and money into the DeKalb County Community by hiring and supporting local agencies such as the Hearten, and Serenity House. WATER OPS are committed to DeKalb County, but the lack of communication within the Surveyor's Office, Mr. Lewis feels really needs looked at.

Just recently however, Mr. Lewis says that he is having issues with getting information from the current Surveyor. He stated that when asking anything from the Surveyor's Office, they either don't receive a call back, or that other issues are being neglected. There is a lack of communication from the Surveyor's office in general, and multiple vendors are having similar issues. Commissioner Sanderson asked if the jobs Mr. Lewis is speaking about are jobs that have been bid on. Mr. Lewis stated that there is a standard agreement with the county that has been in place for years, and that they are maintaining the water-ways within the county. There is an agreement in place with the state on what needed maintained, and that is what WATER OPS has been doing for years.

Commissioner Hartman asked Commissioner Watson about information spoke about at the last Drainage Board meeting. Discussion took place, and Mr. Lewis then stated that there is conflict internally with the Surveyor's Office, and that he wanted to make the Commissioners aware of the problems that are arising because of the lack of communication and direction.

Rick Ring spoke on behalf of the Surveyor's Office, and stated that the current Surveyor was caucused into an office that was extremely behind on projects, as well as the 2nd person in charge. He encouraged Mr. Lewis to sit down with the Surveyor and hash out these issues. Commissioner Hartman agreed with Mr. Ring, and that he feels we need to continue to support the current Surveyor on these issues. Commissioner Watson asked that Mr. Lewis continue to reach out to the Surveyor and see if these issues could be worked out between them. All Commissioners appreciated Mr. Lewis bringing this all to their attention, and hoped by working together, this situation could be remedied.

MATTER OF WHEEL TAX

Todd Sanderson stated that most, if not all information had been presented and shared with the Council. All three Commissioners agreed that there was somewhat of a lack of communication from anyone on the Council. Todd Sanderson stated on the record, not one of the current County Council liaisons have contacted the Superintendent, Ben Parker with the Highway Department regarding a proposed Wheel Tax, or Mr. Parker's budget for that matter.

Rick Ring agreed that there has been a lack of communication from the Council, but also that the County Commissioners could attend one of the Council meetings to discuss more of this with all of the Council. Commissioner Sanderson stated he feels that the Commissioners have supplied all necessary data to the Council-specifically with a 5-, 10-, and 20-year plan.

Rick Ring went on to ask for a plan for the Council to go off of. Todd Sanderson interjected that again, the Commissioners have supplied all data, and that whatever amount is raised will be used. Sanderson also expressed that going to the maximum wheel tax still would not be enough to do everything that is needed, but if the Council can get the maximum amount the Commissioners definitely have projects that can be done, Hartman agreed. Commissioner Hartman and Commissioner Sanderson both stated that the Council is holding the purse strings, and that they will make the most of the money the Council allots for them. Commissioner

Watson reminded that in 2025 the Council knows there will be a shortfall according to the Financial Advisor.


Further discussion took place.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include- Highway Department Efficiency POKA-BACHE Trail Task Force Funding;
2024 Commissioner Attorney Fees;

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor


William L. Hartman – President


Michael Watson – Vice President


Todd Sanderson – Vice President