

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

September 25, 2023

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

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Deputy Jody Wiedenhoeft
Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty began discussion about the meeting with The Standard and communicating how to get the bills correct to match what payroll is deducting. Recruitment around the County was then discussed.

MATTER OF 2024 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Bill Hartman wanted to make a motion, but Michael Watson explained 'point of order' that the motion on the floor that was tabled had to acted on first before a new motion could be made.

Michael Watson withdrew his motion from last meeting for the sake of discussion. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

William Hartman made a motion to grant the 11 Federal Holidays and an additional 2 optional holidays to be chosen by the employees through a survey. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed.

Discussion took place with Todd Sanderson explaining that he did hear from the Judges and understands why they are closing when business is not taking place. Auditor Sleeper read the federal holidays to be sure the Commissioners are on the same page; the Federal Holidays are listed below. Dotty will take care of a poll being sent to the employees. Commissioner Hartman wanted to comment on the Commissioners having bigger fish to fry and that he feels all topics are of importance.

2024 Federal Holidays: New Year's Day, MLK Jr, Washington's Birthday, Memorial Day, Juneteenth, Independence Day, Labor Day, Columbus Day, Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day.

Commissioners' regular meeting paused to open the Public Hearing advertised at 9:00 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING ON ST. JOE/SPENCERVILLE OCRA SEWER GRANT

Chris Harrison, Common Wealth Engineers announced those in attendance, he then turned the floor over to Mike Kleinpeter.

Mike Kleinpeter, with Kleinpeter Consulting Group provided the logistics and timeframe of when the public hearing was posted, that the County would be lead on the grant application, and what the application is specifically for. OCRA increased the grant from \$650,000 to \$700,000.

Ben Adams with Common Wealth Engineers, the project is to replace failing treatment units at the wastewater plants. The work is all at the plants and no work will be done offsite.

RSD liable for loan, County is just the lead on the grant application. Commissioner Watson asked if there was anything they need, like letters of support? Mr. Kleinpeter explained a letter of support will be needed, a survey monkey will be sent out and by responding adds points.

Plan B, would be seeing where the points were lost and then could potentially re-apply in 2024. Ben also explained a full loan is possible, but grant funds could still be available through SRF funding.

October 20th second advertisement and then a 2nd public hearing will be held.

Public hearing was closed at 9:12 a.m.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ROAD USE AND DECOMMISSIONING AGREEMENT FOR SCULPIN SOLAR: RESOLUTION 2023-R-17

Sculpin Solar, Sarah Massera wanted to thank the Commissioners and their Attorney for engaging on them with solar and to get them this far in the process to be able to submit their Economic Agreement that includes the exhibits for the Road Use Agreement and the Decommissioning Agreement. Sarah wanted to let everyone know, especially those viewing live that this Economic Development Agreement is a bit different as most of the time EDAs are in conjunction with Tax Abatement. The DeKalb County Council had denied the Tax Abatement, but Sculpin is still moving forward with the project paying 100% of the taxes along with paying \$1,000,000 in economic development payments over 10 years (\$1,000,000 per year) to the County.

Chris Gaumer had a couple concerns on 'Exhibit B' Decommissioning Agreement as far as what the project facilities are, and feels it should also include landscaping, internal roads, driveway locations, etc. Chris feels that the County UDO sections should be referenced in the agreement for clarity. Request that surety bond be used in place of performance bond. Request 'gross' removal cost not the 'net' amount. Chris also clarified that Section 1.5 there is NOT a separate 'Solar Ordinance' as it is part of the County UDO. He also requested that the Plan Commission be copied on these agreements, on page 7. Last concern, was giving Ben Parker 10 days to review the road reports and the use of County maps for County regulated drain locations.

Sara confirmed that Sculpin does their own extensive surveying for the regulated drains, but the intent was to give the 'baseline' that is under the County control.

Chris asked also that the language be amended to add clarity on who approved Attachment A: Sculpin Solar Energy Project – Decommissioning Plan. It should be approved by the Plan Commission with the Development Plan Approval, but it's not clarified in this EDA.

Todd Sanderson feels that what Chris Gaumer proposed is clarifying language and can be added/clarified in the agreement. Watson and Hartman agree.

Michael Watson feels they should have the changes updated and brought back to the Commissioners for approval at the next soonest meeting after language has been approved by all parties.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #134648 in the amount of \$88.62, and wire transfer #25858 thru 25988 in the amount of \$854,746.88. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes dated September 18, 2023. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2023-R-16 | DCC 4-1-10 - DEKALB COUNTY NO TRESPASS POLICY

Michael Watson made a motion to approve on SECOND & THIRD Readings and all to sign Resolution 2023-R-16: DCC 4-1-10 | An Ordinance Providing for Procedure for County Office to be able to Issue a No Trespass Order. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DCCC & CHANGE ACADEMY DRUG FREE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and give Michelle Fosnaugh permission to submit the Drug Free DeKalb County Grant application for the following. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

DCCC: Drug Testing Fee Assistance | \$3,000

Change Academy: Substance Abuse Education Courses | \$500

Drug Screening Tests | \$1,000

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include- Jesse Zehr home for onsite buggy registration option,

Sunset Ride @ Covered Bridge: Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow the Sunset Ride for their fundraiser on Friday, September 29th. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

County Manager: Todd would like to get serious on discussions on having a County administrator that is allowed by IC 36-2-2-14, someone who would be in tune with all the departments. Commissioner Watson believes that a County Manager must be done through legislature. Attorney Kruse will investigate the logistics of what needs to take place and report back.

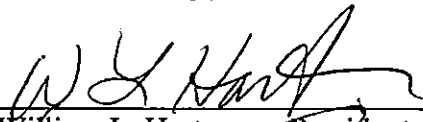
October 30th Commissioner Meeting: Sculpin Solar Overlay set for Public Hearing on October 18th, the majority of the Commissioners would like to keep the meeting at the normal time beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Weights & Measures Truck: Commissioner Hartman talked with Pat Grant, and he would like a new system that would have a self-contained unit in a regular pick up truck that would prevent him from having to carry the buckets individually. The current weights and measurers truck could be used for the new floating maintenance position and a new ½ ton, single cab truck would need purchased for Weights & Measures.

Fiduciary Appointment: At this point Attorney Kruse feels that no response is needed at this time, as there is not a signed agreement on Commissioner Hartman's behalf. All agree to let it lie until something else happens.

NIPSCO Service Agreement:

Todd Sanderson motioned to approve the No Fee Service Agreement for the extension of facilities to supply electric service with NIPSCO for the new Highway Garage that William Hartman signed via DocuSign. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.



William L. Hartman – President

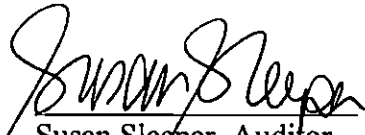


Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor