

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

November 20, 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 gave an update on the SUREST deductible issue for employees. Recruitment around the County was discussed, as well as announcing a separation of employment for the part-time clerical position. Dotty went over the highlights of the Safety Committee meeting that was held on the 17th. The hot topic of the committee was Narcan and drug use. The next Department Head's meeting will be December 6th at 8:00 a.m. in the Annex Building.

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

2nd PUBLIC HEARING ON ST. JOE/SPENCERVILLE OCRA SEWER GRANT

Chris Harrison from Common Wealth Engineering was here for the 2n Public Hearing for the OCRA Application. Michael Kleinpeter gave information on when the publications were given for the Public Hearing as well as what is being requested in the grant. Natalie Shelling then spoke on the need of the project and what is failing or has already failed. The proposed project will be a replication of the existing structure. Todd Sanderson clarified who is responsible for the \$2,829,000 in State Revolving Loan Funds. Robin McCann, clerk for St. Joe explained that they were formed by State of Indiana, are a municipality and governed by the SBOA.

Public Comment Letter, read by Chris Harrison on behalf of Todd Sattison. Chris also talked on a personal level and is very concerned there would be permanent damage and/or personal injury as they try to keep the wastewater plat running. Robin McCann thanked the Commissioners for helping to facilitate the possibility of receiving this grant. Robin works with a very small rural community who works on a daily basis on payment plans to help

Public hearing was closed at 9:11 a.m.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2023-R-21 | LOCAL MATCH COMMITMENT

Willam Hartman said if we do not get this grant this reconstruction will not be able to occur and that is not acceptable. Michael Watson expressed that the support of this funding is crucial.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve on **FIRST** Reading and the president to sign Resolution 2023-R-21 | A Resolution Authorizing Application Submission and Local Match Commitment for the OCRA Wastewater Grant as the pass-through entity to the St. Joe Spencerville Regional Sewer District in the amount of \$2,895,000 in the form of: \$2,829,00 State

Revolving Loan Funds and \$66,000 Wastewater Operating Funds. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to suspend the rules and pass Resolution 2023-R-21 by Title only on 2nd and 3rd Readings. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve on **SECOND & THIRD** Reading and the president to sign Resolution 2023-R-21 | A Resolution Authorizing Application Submission and Local Match Commitment for the OCRA Wastewater Grant as the pass-through entity to the St. Joe Spencerville Regional Sewer District in the amount of \$2,895,000 in the form of: \$2,829,00 State Revolving Loan Funds and \$66,000 Wastewater Operating Funds. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DRUG FREE DEKALB GRANTS-BECKY CALHOUN

Becky Calhoun handed out the Drug Free DeKalb County October 2023 (Calendar) 2023-2024 ICJI Grant Requests. She gave a brief synopsis on what Drug Free DeKalb does and then went on to explain the grant requests received in each category.

Justice Category Grant Requests:

DeKalb County Community Corrections | requested \$3,000 for Drug Testing, the board approved \$2,500.

DeKalb County Community Corrections CHANGE Academy | requested \$1,000 for Drug Testing, the board approved \$1,000.

Auburn Police Department | requested \$5,000 for Undercover Drug Buys, the board approved \$5,000.

DeKalb County Probation Family Court | requested \$2,500 for Drug Testing, the board approved \$1,250.

DeKalb County Probation Addiction Treatment Court | requested \$2,500 for Drug Testing, the board approved \$1,250.

DeKalb County Probation High Risk Incentive | requested \$600 for High Risk Incentive Program, the board approved \$500.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the **Justice Category** in the amount of \$12,500. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Prevention Category Grant Requests:

DeKalb County Community Corrections CHANGE Academy | requested \$500 for Substance Abuse Ed Courses from McMillian Health, the board approved \$500.

McMillian Center | requested \$5,000 for Multiple Substance Abuse Prevention Programs, the board approved \$4,150.

DeKalb County Central Schools | requested \$1,300 for Vape Education Program, the board approved \$1,300.

Garrett Keyser-Butler Schools | requested \$5,000 for Rob Holla HS Program, Random Drug Screens, and Parent Education Backpacks, the board approved \$5,000.

Refuge Community Church | requested \$4,799.25 for Arise for Youth, board approved \$1,550 with a note that the request had \$2,400 for community meals that does not fit any category.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the **Prevention Category** in the amount of \$12,500. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Treatment Category:

Hearten House | requested \$5,000 for Drug Testing, the board approved \$3,000.

Serenity House | requested \$5,000 for Recovery Materials, treatment, assessment and recovery services, the board approved \$3,000.

Inspiration Ministries | requested \$5,000 for Recovery Materials, treatment, assessment and recovery services, the board approved \$3,000.

Monarch Foundation Addiction Court (NEW) | requested \$5,000 for support of recovery home services, the board approved \$1,000.

Fortify Life (NEW) | requested \$4,997.54 for Drug Testing, the board approved \$2,500, with a note that \$2,392 of the request was for Narcan which can be obtained for free.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the **Treatment Category** in the amount of \$12,500. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDRESS SIGNS & PRIVATE ROAD SIGNAGE

Chris Gaumer provided Ordinance 2020-R-2 and explained that the ordinance does not address private road signs or signs that patrons want to install. The issue has come to the forefront as a new subdivision with just shy of million-dollar homes do not want to use the green road signs that are currently in the ordinance. Chris would like to work with Attorney Kruse to clean up the ordinance and clarify signs that are to be posted and the private road signage. Chris asked the Commissioners if they wanted to have a caveat in the ordinance so that sub-divisions can use different signage. Michael Watson would like to have input from EMS and Fire on the topic. Todd Sanderson felt the green signs were sufficient and have been used on the high dollar homes. If an emergency were to occur it is crucial that emergency services can locate an address. The Commissioners are in acceptance of Chris working with Attorney Kruse to revise the ordinance.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Special claims in the amount of \$14,253.61 consisting of warrant #'s 134810 thru 134812 and wire transfer #'s 26383 thru 26386 that were processed on November 14, 2023 and General claims processed on November 20, 2023 in the amount of \$664,400.71 consisting of warrant #'s 134816 thru 134821 and wire transfer #'s 26387 thru 26511. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated November 13, 2023. William Hartman seconded, and all approved, with Todd Sanderson abstaining due to his absence.

MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS ATTORNEY FEE AGREEMENT FOR 2024

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the 2024 Attorney Fee Agreement with Andrew Kruse in the amount of \$50,000. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF 2024 COMMISSIONERS MEETING SCHEDULE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the 2024 Commissioners Meeting Schedule as amended and presented and displayed below. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include-

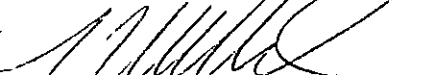
Tri-Share Program Request: Todd Sanderson would like to have more information, as he is not sure how hiring a position will help the situation. But he does feel that childcare is a definite need and Michael Watson suggested Todd meet with Allie Sutherland, Director of Northeast Indiana Early Childhood Development to get a better understanding of the program being proposed. William Hartman is not sure about the Government getting involved with childcare, because once we get involved it is very hard to back out of the extra funding.


Sunny Meadows Building: Michael Watson asked if Bill knew if there was available room in any of the buildings for Soil & Water to store their planter. Discussion took place on the abandoned items in the building.

Sunny Meadows Farm Rent: Attorney Kruse will notify Tom Keller and get info on giving notice for bidding.


Weights & Measures Truck: A new van would not be available for close to 18 months, so we are back to a used Van. Pat Grant and William Hartman found one in Michigan that came in around \$40k. Commissioner Sanderson believes the price is a little high and that a few thousand could be saved by going a different route. The current truck has some rust areas that were not treated and Commissioner Hartman would like it to be looked at and protected.


William L. Hartman – President


Michael Watson – Vice President


Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor