

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

December 4, 2023

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

Others Present:             Auditor Susan Sleeper  
                                    Attorney Andrew Kruse

### **MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Dotty began the morning with recruitment around the County. The Department Head meeting will be held on Wednesday in the annex building and announced one of the topics being the .gov domain project. Drug Free workplace reminder email may be sent as the legalization of marijuana is so close to our area.

### **MATTER OF MOU FOR OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDS**

Judge Squiller presented the Memorandum of Understanding Regarding the Pooling Together of Indiana NextLevel Recovery: Opioid Settlement Dollars for the Betterment of DeKalb County Residents. Judge explained that they would like to pool together for the best use of the monies for all involved. Those involved include City of Auburn, City of Butler, City of Garrett, DeKalb County Commissioners, Hamilton, Waterloo, Ashley, St. Joe, Corunna, and Spencerville. The MOU explains the DeKalb County Communities will be utilizing the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health's five guiding principles to ensure dollars are used most effectively and those include:

- 1) Spend the money to save lives,
- 2) Use evidence to guide spending,
- 3) Invest in youth prevention,
- 4) Focus on racial equality, and
- 5) Develop a fair and transparent process for deciding where to spend the funds.

The MOU also explains the funding will be used to its best uses in one of the twelve approved uses by the Office of Drug Prevention, Treatment, and Enforcement, in partnership with the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration-Division of Mental Health and Addiction and the Indiana Department of Health in one of these areas:

- 1) Treat opioid use disorder,
- 2) Support people in treatment and recover,
- 3) Connect people who need help to the help they need (connection area),
- 4) Address the needs of criminal justice-involved persons,
- 5) Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women and their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome,
- 6) Prevention over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids,

- 7) Prevent misuse of opioids,
- 8) Prevent overdoses deaths and other harms (harm reduction)
- 9) First responders (preparedness)
- 10) Leadership, planning and coordination,
- 11) Training, and
- 12) Research

Commissioner Watson agrees that it makes sense to be in collaboration for the best uses. Attorney Kruse asked if the MOU language that states the municipalities would pool a portion of their Opioid Funds

Michael Watson motioned to approve and sign the MOU with the Cities and Towns to combine the Opioid Funds. Commissioner Hartman does not want to second and would like to bring it back next week to get Commissioner Sandersons comments and do a vote at that time.

#### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve November 2023 Bookkeeper and Payroll claims along with General claims processed on December 4, 2023 in the amount of \$1,620,994.37 consisting of warrant #'s 134835 thru 134866 and wire transfer #'s 26552 thru 26682. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY DISBURSEMENT REQUEST #5**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve releasing the FIFTH draw request to GM Development Companies, LLC in the amount of \$954,376.62. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

Sitework/Utilities: 98.23% complete  
Site Seeding, Lawn & Landscape: 8.36% complete  
Concrete: 68.24% complete  
Pre-Engineered Metal Buildings: 88.57% complete  
General Trades: 35.42% complete  
Wall & ceiling Assemblies, Flooring: 64.92% complete  
Finish and Paint: 5.62% complete  
Pole Building: 9.24% complete  
Salt Storage Structure: 74.21% complete  
Mechanical & Plumbing: 47.99% complete  
Electrical: 30.35% complete  
General Conditions: 33.30% complete  
Overhead: 39.17% complete

#### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated November 27, 2023. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF GRANTWRITING SERVICES WITH MC SQUARED**

Michael Watson moved to approve and the president to sign the Contract for Grant writing Services for 2024 in the amount of \$9,120. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

### **MATTER OF DRUG FREE GRANT AWARD CLAIMS for NOVEMBER 2023-2024**

The Commissioners approved the Drug Free Program on November 20<sup>th</sup> for the following recipients and amounts.

- Refuge Community Church | \$1,500
- Auburn Police Department | \$5,000
- DCCC/Change Academy | \$4,000
- Fortify Life | \$3,000
- Serenity House | \$3,000
- Inspiration Ministries | \$3,000
- Hearten House | \$3,000
- Monarch Foundation | \$1,000
- DeKalb Probation Department | \$4,000
- McMillen Health | \$4,150
- Garrett Keyser Butler School | \$5,000

Michael Watson made a motion to accept and the DeKalb Drug Free Grant Recipient Contracts. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

### **MATTER OF COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT LEASE**

Commissioner Hartman feels the proposal from the Mayor of Auburn is probably doable, however feels the end date should be more open ended as there is not a definite finish date for the Highway build. Commissioner Watson believes the end date was April 30, 2024 and then going month to month as needed. Commissioner Watson clarified with Commissioner Hartman that he is going back to the first amendment proposed from the City that includes: In exchange for a monetary transaction of funds for the Old Iron Bridge the City of Auburn will extend an agreement with the County of DeKalb to utilize the property located at 303 and 306 Ensley Avenue, known as the DeKalb County Highway Department, until April 30, 2024. The agreement also allows for a month-by-month extension of occupancy, if needed, as the DeKalb County Highway Department transfers to its new location at 3942 U.S. Highway 6, Waterloo.

Attorney Kruse will respond and clarify all terms prior to the Commissioners committing by motion.

### **MATTER OF COURTHOUSE GENERATOR**

Larry provided another quote from W.W. Williams for the courthouse generator in the amount of \$131,900 to be placed on the courthouse lawn. Larry has thought about the placement as he just hated to see the generator on the lawn, so he asked if a tree and a couple shrubs were removed would the generator fit, and it will. The first quote from Votaw in the amount of \$148,885 was also for placement on the courthouse lawn. The Commissioners will review and decide in a future meeting.

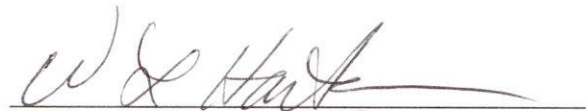
## MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION


Topics include-


**Boat @ Sunny Meadows:** The Sheriff could not find any info from the DNR and feels the best option would be to treat it as abandoned property and initiate a call to Central Dispatch.

**Sunny Meadows:** Larry asked about the old building if there would be a possibility of maintenance taking the area over to make a 'shop' area for repairs and the possibility of parking maintenance vehicles. Larry explained it would take a little bit to make it a workable shop by insulating and Commissioner Hartman suggested some heat as well. Both Commissioner Hartman and Watson feel this is a very good idea and a must as the maintenance department needs a place to work.

**Misc:** complaint on Hillbilly Tire in Corunna

  
William L. Hartman – President

  
Michael Watson – Vice President

  
Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

  
Susan Sleeper, Auditor