

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

December 18, 2023

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

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty covered recruitment around the County, and as of today Sunny Meadows is fully staffed. Dotty explained that Council has asked for a comprehensive compensation review to be able to have the information for Budget 2025. The Safety Committee will be moving to a quarterly meeting schedule and those dates will be announced as soon as possible. A short discussion took place on prescription insurance and whether certain brand-named prescriptions are on or off the formulary.

MATTER OF INSURANCE TRUSTEES- WORK COMP RENEWAL

Kyle Pearson presented the 2024 Work comp insurance proposal. The County is currently with IPEP and are currently at a 1.28 experience modification as compared to 1.24 last year. The proposal included a list of claims for the year 2023, that showed a total of 31 claims which is about a 36% loss ratio. Kyle explained that this number of claims is a little misleading as Dotty's team and employees have done a great job getting the claims reported which is very important. Due to the 5 years history a large loss ratio will fall off next year and the loss ratio will then decrease. Kyle also explained that if there is a soft tissue claim, if the employee can return to work within 7 days, then only 30% of the claim goes against the experience modification, whereas a claim that someone can't return in 7 days, then 100% of the claim will go against the experience modification. The Estimated Annual Workers Compensation Premiums are as follows:

2023-2024: \$186,946 (IPEP) 2024-2025: \$204,255 (IPEP) 2024-2025: \$281,678 (BITCO)

Michael Watson made a motion to renew the Worker's Compensation Coverage through IPEP with Insurance Trustees. Todd Sanderson seconded and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye Watson: aye Hartman: aye

Annex Gym: Dotty and Kyle discussed the gym condition that is primarily used by law enforcement. There is an issue on the floor that could be a potential for a work comp claim. Kyle is also not sure on the safety of the equipment or facility and if third party officers are using the gym as is, the liability increases. The commissioners are going to have Dotty look into possibly offering Planet Fitness membership to law enforcement.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

2024 Road Resurfacing Projects Bid: Ben has the bid set to go out for advertisement with bids being due January 8th, 2024 to the Auditors office by 10:00 a.m. to be opened at 10:30 a.m.

Michael Watson motioned to approve the bid advertisement for 2024 Road Resurfacing Projects. Todd Sanderson seconded and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

Small Structure Inventory: Last done in 2015 and should be done every 6-8 years and we are going on 9 years. Ben has asked BF&S for a proposal to do this for the County and that came in at not to exceed \$128,845 for 365 structures. The Commissioners agree to have Ben send the information for review.

Misc: CCMG has announced that the cap for projects has been moved from \$1M to \$1.5M, and Ben plans to act accordingly to get the full \$1.5M for the project.

Highway Build: not much to report, a little bit of a skeleton crew at the moment and not moving as fast as they were, Bill and Ben plan to be sure they are set to get all hands-on deck come first of the year as there are move in deadlines that need to be met.

MATTER OF 2024 HIGHWAY MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES BIDS

Bids were due today December 18th, 2023, by 10:00 a.m. to be opened at 10:30 a.m. as advertised and Ben Parker opened all bids during the Commissioners' meeting. The following companies submitted bids for the following items: (#1-treated timber, #2-premium fuel, #3-aggregate limestone, #4-aggregate gravel, #5-liquid bituminous, #6-bituminous mixture, #7-liquid calcium, #8-hourly rates, #9-pavement markings, #10-bituminous mixtures, #11-full depth reclamation)

Wayne Asphalt: #6

CM Fritch Enterprise: #3, #8

Great Lakes Chloride: #7

American Timber Bridge and Culvert: #1

Bailey Aggregates: #3, #4, #8

Wolf Lake Gravel: #4

Stafford Gravel: #3, #4

Stone Street: #3

Clifford-Aggregate: #4, #3, #8

3-Rivers Barricade: #9

Seiber Brothers: #8

Ceres Solution: #2 Diesel Fuel: \$3.232 K-1 Winter Blend: \$3.347

Accurate Striping: #9

Asphalt Materials: #5

Pierceton Trucking: #5

Pavement Solutions: #5, #10, #8

Brooks Construction: #3, #6, #8

Pulver & Sons: #6, #8

API Construction: #6

Airmarking: #9

Knott Drainage & Excavating: #8

Hixson Sand & Gravel: #4, #3, #8

Specialties Company: #11

Michael Watson made a motion to award the fuel contract today to Ceres Solutions to lock in the price at \$3.232 for diesel delivered and \$3.347 for winter blend for the period of January 15, 2024, to January 15, 2025. Mr. Parker indicated that he has received very good service from Ceres, and he has received very good fuel from them in the past. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

Michael Watson made a motion to receive all bids for materials and supplies and refer them to Ben Parker to be studied and verified and to be brought back to the Board of Commissioners on Monday, January 8, 2024, with a recommendation. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

MATTER OF UTILITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN ST. JOE-RANDY DRAKE

Randy Drake has been working with Commonwealth and Baker Tilly to look over the sewer lines to remove the remaining asbestos pipes. Randy explained there are two projects they would like to take on and provided estimates from Baker Tilly. According to Baker Tilly in order for the Town of St. Joe to be able to pay for this would mean raising rates to the residents from \$31.00 per month to \$91.76 and that is not possible with a low-income town. The St. Joe board is asking the Commissioners if they have any remaining ARPA monies available that could help bring the cost down and lessen the amount that St. Joe would have to get in the form of a state loan. The total cost of the project is \$1.832M and this involves replacement of AC water mains, includes water main looping north of the railroad tracks on the west side of Town. Water main looping would provide additional benefits for fire flow and pressure in this area. This also includes replacement of any water mains under 6-inches in diameter, as this is now the minimum allowed water main size. Angela Snyder explained what avenues they have pursued to try and only raise the monthly rates to a little over \$50.00 per month. The commissioners agree to look at the plan and see where there may be any additional ARPA funds to put toward the project. Mary Simcox wanted to clarify that the water and sewer projects are 2 completely different projects.

MATTER OF XEROX EQUIPMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2024

Jeff Bassett, Elisabeth Mason, and Shane Turner were in attendance to discuss the Xerox Equipment Proposed Recommendations that include:

- *Replace Xerox C8030H at **Communications Office** with a Xerox C8130T2
(proposed lease \$168.64/mo + black cpc .0073, color cpc .059)
- *Replace Xerox C8055H at **Extension Office** with a Xerox C8155H2
(proposed lease \$196.19/mo + black cpc .0069, color cpc .055)
- *Replace Xerox C8030H at **Health Office** with a Xerox C8130H2
(proposed lease \$158.05/mo + black cpc .0073, color cpc .059)
- *Replace Xerox C7020T at **Information Systems Office** with a Xerox C7120ENGT2
(proposed lease \$123.08/mo + black cpc .0083, color cpc .059)
- *Replace Xerox C8035H at **Plan Commission Office** with a Xerox C8135H2
(proposed lease \$189.83/mo + black cpc .0073, color cpc .059)
- *Replace Xerox C8055H at **Probation Office** with a Xerox C8155H2
(proposed lease \$205.73/mo + black cpc .0069, color cpc .055)
- *Replace Xerox B605SM at **Sheriff Office** with a Xerox B625
(proposed lease \$71.58 + black cpc 0.15)
- *Replace Xerox B605XM at **Sheriff Office** with a Xerox B625
(proposed lease \$71.58 + black cpc .015)

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the proposed recommendations for 2024 from Business Impressions. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

Jeff Bassett wanted to Thank Mike Watson publicly for the recommendation to do work for the Maumee River Basin.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #134883 thru 134926 in the amount of \$35,820.38, and wire transfer #26699 thru 26850 in the amount of \$1,578,706.51. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated December 11, 2023. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

MATTER OF 2024 FIRING RANGE & TRAINING FACILITY AGREEMENT BETWEEN DCCC AND AUBURN POLICE DEPARTMENT

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and president to sign the agreement for Option 1. Todd Sanderson seconded and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

MATTER OF CONTRACTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE COUNTY AND PURDUE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the Extension Contractual Services Agreement and Memorandum of Understanding between Purdue University and the Government of DeKalb County, Indiana for the period of January 1, 2024 to December 31, 2025 for the amount of \$128,805.00. This amount paid to Purdue will provide 3 county educators that will provide local extension services in the following areas: agriculture and natural resources, health and human sciences, and 4-H youth development. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

MATTER OF SHERIFF SALARY CONTRACT FOR 2023

The Sheriff shall be paid a fixed amount of compensation in place of fee compensation in accordance with I.C. 36-2-13-2.8 in the amount of 70% of the full time Prosecutor's salary which calculates to \$124,718 for the calendar year 2024.

Todd Sanderson motioned to approve the 2024 Sheriff Salary Contract in the amount of \$124,718. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Sanderson: aye

Watson: aye

Hartman: aye

MATTER OF 2024 COMMISSIONERS BOARD APPOINTMENT

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the following 2024 Board Appointments as a slate:

Alcohol & Tobacco Commission: Terry Rayle
Drainage Board (Citizen Rep.): Jim Miller
Airport Authority: John Kruse
Auburn ETJ: Chris Lamm
Butler Library Board: Daniel Pugh
BZA: Mary Diehl & Larry Williams & Frank Pulver
Council on Aging: Rod Knox
Eckhart Public Library Board: Barb Morrow & Pete Kempf
Health Officer: Dr. Mark Souder
Redevelopment Commission: Chris Pranger, Shelley Smaltz, & Dr. Doug Norrick
Tourism Commission Board: Anton King
Waterloo Library Board: Susan Sleeper

Plan Commission: Jerry Yoder or Jared Malcolm

Discussion took place on Jared Malcolm, who wants to be more involved, and the Commissioners agree to hold the vote on the Plan Commission until first meeting in January.

Also, the change/vote on the Commissioners representative for the Plan Commission will be voted on at the first meeting in January. Michael Watson gave his response on his position and Todd Sanderson

Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye Watson: aye Hartman: aye

For the **PTABOA Board**, Assessor Stonebraker has done all she could to find qualified candidates who are Democrats to meet the requirements.

Michael Watson motioned to waive the political party requirement. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye Watson: aye Hartman: aye

Michael Watson motioned to waive the level 2 or 3 certification due to the lack of qualified individuals holding the certification. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye Watson: aye Hartman: aye

Michael Watson motioned to appoint Ron Dicke, Char Suntken & Linda Middleton to the PTABOA board for 2024. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (3,0).

Sanderson: aye Watson: aye Hartman: aye

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include-

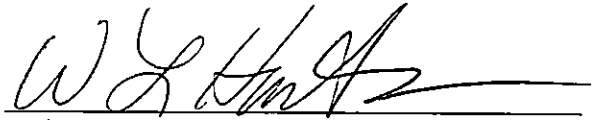
Sunny Meadows and SSA: Andrew has not received a call back and is hoping that everything will be fine after further research.

Political Affiliation: Attorney Kruse provided the Commissioners with the IC Code and his research.

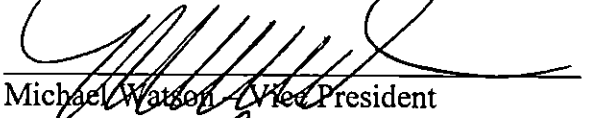
LTD Property Group: Sent a post card in and wants to purchase property from the County that is the Holben Building. Attorney Kruse suggests holding an Executive Session to discuss.

EXECUTIVE SESSION as noticed

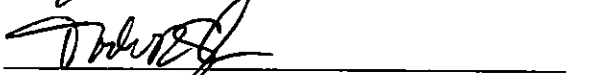
The Commissioners met in Executive Session as noticed beginning at 11:43 a.m., in accordance with IC 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(9). There were no decisions made and no other matters discussed. The Executive Session concluded at 11: a.m.



William L. Hartman – President



Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor