

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

December 11, 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 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 Squiller provided a few changes to the MOU that removed Spencerville as they are not incorporated. The MOU also further clarified the communities involved would be committing all of its OPIOD Settlement funds that have not yet been committed as of the date of the signing of the MOU. Judge Grimm is rather passionate on the OPIOID funds and explained that the money is available to use for drug abuse not a fund to do with whatever the Commissioners would choose such as putting in a sidewalk or the like.

Michael Watson moved to approve and sign the MOU to combine the OPIOID Settlement Funds of the participating Communities. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

### **MATTER OF NEW PROBATION OFFICER POSITION**

Ryan Hull came before the Commissioners to request a new Probation Officer position that will be paid for by the Addiction Treatment Court Grant. This grant also pays for part of two other current positions. The 2024 Problem-Solving Court Grant Award is approved for \$192,709.

Michael Lapham explained that he is often put into a position where people are too humble, but Chief Hull has gone above and beyond and sought out funds that do not directly come from the County. Michael Lapham praised Chief Hull for his ability and understanding of the program.

Commissioner Sanderson asked if it is likely to receive this grant going forward. Mr. Lapham completely understands why the question was asked and assures his department will seek out grants as the highest level.

Judge Grimm commented on the process it takes to get someone through a treatment program. He also explained that it is common knowledge in this process that a grant funded position will not be filled by an experienced Probation Officer as they know the position may only be one year depending on the grant availability. Judge also went on to say that the way to change that and possibly get a more seasoned Probation Officer would be by the County committing to fund the position whether there is grant funds available or not.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the new probation officer position for Addiction Treatment Court. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF PAYROLL**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period of November 19 – December 2, 2023. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve special claims that were processed on December 6, 2023 in the amount of \$10,226.65 consisting of warrant # 134875 and wire transfer #'s 26689 to 26695. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated December 4, 2023. William Hartman seconded, and all approved. Commissioner Sanderson abstained from being ill.

#### **MATTER OF COURTHOUSE GENERATOR**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the quote from W.W. Williams in the amount of \$131,900 excluding the concrete pad and diesel fill up. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

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

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Addendum #1 to the Commercial Lease Agreement for the Old Highway property.

In exchange for a monetary transaction of funds for the Old Iron Bridge the City of Auburn, Indiana will extend an agreement with the County of DeKalb to utilize the property located at 303 & 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, Indiana.

All the terms and conditions of the original lease shall remain in place. This addendum only extends the length of the lease and sets forth the exchange of the Iron Bridge as compensation for an extended timeline.

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF 2024 PUBLIC OFFICIAL BONDS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the 2024 Public Official Bonds as follows: blanket bond for all County employees (\$5,000 each), Clerk Holly Albright (\$120,000), Coroner Jennie Short (\$15,000), Auditor Susan Sleeper (\$30,000), Treasurer Sandra Wilcox (\$300,000), Recorder Leta Hullinger (\$15,000), and Sheriff Brady Thomas (\$30,000), and for all three to sign. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

## **MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

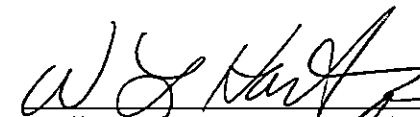
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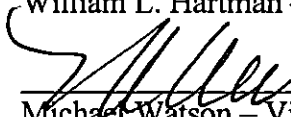
**Innkeepers:** The County has not audited any hotel to the Auditors' knowledge. Commissioner Sanderson feels this issue is theft because they kept the money and used it for their own use and did not pay.


**Todd Sanderson motioned to be 100% up to date in payment by March 31, 2024, and if not, then a lawsuit will be filed. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.**

**Sunny Meadows:** New windows have been installed in the shower rooms and the rest of the project will take place at the beginning of next year.

**2024 Appointments:** The Commissioners discussed those appointments that will be voted on at their next meeting.

  
William L. Hartman – President

  
Michael Watson – Vice President

  
Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

  
Susan Sleeper, Auditor