

## DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

May 18, 2020

Commissioners Present:           President William L. Hartman  
  Vice President Donald D. Grogg  
  Vice President Jacqueline R. Rowan

Others Present:                   Auditor Jan Bauman  
  Attorney James P McCanna

### **MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Chris Gaumer has hired someone for the Building Inspector position and will begin training soon.

County Home Superintendent Don Pierson has made the decision to not allow any of the residents return to their jobs just yet. He is very concerned about COVID-19 being brought back to the other residents. So far the Home has not had any cases.

The Employee Handbook is now out to the Commissioners and the Task Force for review.

Dotty Miller reviewed some of the proposals and potential options for employee health insurance. An employee clinic option and its expected costs had been forwarded to the Commissioners to consider. There was discussion about a clinic and possibly sharing a clinic with another company, as well as some of the health insurance plans offered and what is the best way to go.

The Assessor's Office has counter barriers installed now. The Health Department will get barriers installed this week.

Donald Grogg made a motion to open all County buildings to the public without appointment beginning June 1, 2020, and all visitors must wear masks and use hand sanitizer upon entry into the building. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve the minutes dated May 11, 2020. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #130644 through 130649 in the amount of \$268,944.49, and wire transfer #14902 through 14975 in the amount of \$257,694.94. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF PAYROLL**

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve payroll for the period April 28- May 11, 2020 as presented. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CORUNNA FIRE DEPARTMENT AND ANTICIPATED FINANCIAL NEED**

Corunna Fire Chief Dennis Treesh explained a financial need he anticipates that will be the result of not being able to have fundraisers. There are 19 volunteer firefighters in the fire department. Virtually all of the fire department's operations are funded by fundraisers. Most of the income is raised through their fish fries. However, due to COVID-19, these fundraisers cannot be held. The hit they took is approximately \$20,000-\$30,000 so far this year. He has contacted representatives Sue Glick, Dennis Kruse, Jim Banks, and Ben Smaltz about this problem. He was told that volunteer fire departments were forgotten when legislation was made regarding COVID-19. Although the State is sympathetic with the situation of volunteer fire departments, there is nothing earmarked by the State for situations like this. Mr. Treesh wonders how can a loan be obtained if there is no money to pay the loan back? How can grants be obtained if most of them are matching grants and the fire department has no money for matching? Mr. Treesh is asking the Commissioners to contact State legislators about providing funding to volunteer fire departments. Currently the Corunna Fire Department is standing well financially, but Mr. Treesh sees a financial problem coming. There was a suggestion to bring it up to the media, and Mr. Treesh said he did but hasn't heard anything further on that yet. The Commissioners will be glad to call the legislators and also the local newspaper to stress the importance of this matter.

### **MATTER OF RETIRING BUILDING INSPECTOR**

Retiring building Inspector Bill Walters stopped by to tell the Commissioners "goodbye" and to thank them for the last 20 years.

### **MATTER OF DRUG FREE DEKALB: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN & FUNDING**

Becky Calhoun presented the amended Comprehensive Community Plan for Drug Free DeKalb County. The State has changed the format of the Comprehensive Plans, and they are also now due June 1<sup>st</sup>. All plans had to be re-done due to the changes. The Fund Document shows what dollars are available on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the year, but those dollars do not need to be spent. Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the amended Comprehensive Community Plan presented by Becky Calhoun. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Auditor Bauman explained the utility costs she had sent Tony Vie from Elevatus and that he is supposed to evaluate the information. He should be sending his conclusion this week.

Community Corrections is still having difficulty getting the temperature high enough for the dishwasher. Several possible solutions are being considered.

There is no electrical outlet in the restroom in the place where a mini refrigerator needs to be installed for storing urine samples.

Ms. Knauer made the comment that she doesn't know where the \$200,000 in soft costs has gone.

Attorney Jim McCanna evaluated the W.W.Williams service agreement for the Community Corrections generator. He advises not to approve the agreement due to how one-sided it is against the County. The contract was not approved.

### **MATTER OF FIREEYE AGREEMENT**

Donald Grogg made a motion that since it is a funded mandate from the State, that the Cybersecurity Services Agreement with FireEye, Inc be approved. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF DEVELOPMENTAL SERVICES**

Chris Gaumer's first piece of business was the poor condition of the office and that it needs an overhaul. Furthermore, one of the air conditioning units is not working, and it cannot be repaired due to EPA guidelines and because parts are obsolete. President Hartman's suggestion is to make some temporary repairs to the restroom and to add a window air conditioning unit to cool that side of the office (the other unit is working) until new offices can be built.

Mr. Gaumer received quotes for purchasing a truck for the new Building Inspector. There was discussion about purchasing new versus used. Donald Grogg made a motion to purchase a new Chevrolet Colorado for Chris Gaumer's department for the low bid on a new vehicle at \$29,800. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

The Heron Lake bond for interior roads expires on May 20, 2020. The delay for renewal is completely the fault of the bank due to COVID-19 issues. The bank has extended the current deadline by 60 days to allow enough time to renew the letter of credit for Wayne Asphalt.

### **MATTER OF COUNTY HOME REPORTS**

The Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the March and April 2020 County Home Reports.

### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

Ben Parker distributed the bid results for new trucks. He has a big concern with the International trucks because the Internationals the Highway Department has now have all had engine problems and repair costs have been very high. Even with the new motors offered by International every year, these repair costs have added up and are more than the difference between the cost of the quotes. Western Star has better visibility to enhance safety for drivers.

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the bid from Stoops for the purchase of two, 2021 Western Star 4700 PRL-23T at a cost of \$118,410 each due to the Western Star's enhanced visibility, and due to the poor history of the International engine. Mr. Grogg also recommends not getting the extended warranty, and to not include trade-in's because we will instead aggressively sell those two truck at auction. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the bid from Kalida Truck Equipment for two tandem axle dump truck equipment packages at \$108,600 each. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

Mr. Parker looked at fixing County Road 40 between County Road 55 and State Road 1. That is a 3 mile stretch. He speculates the highest cost would be \$420,000. Would the TIF district be willing to contribute toward the cost?

The Highway Annual Operational Report is ready for the Commissioners to sign. Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the Highway Annual Operational Report and for all three Commissioners to sign. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

**MATTER OF CORONAVIRUS RELIEF FUND ACCEPTANCE CERTIFICATION**

The County has an opportunity to receive \$1,402,414.00 for COVID-19 expenses incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 31, 2020. Townships will not be receiving funding but will need to coordinate with the County if funding is needed. School districts are not eligible. Donald Grogg made a motion to authorize the President to sign the Coronavirus Relief Fund Acceptance Certification. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

**MATTER OF YIELD SIGN FOR BOGER AVENUE AND LUCILLE AVENUE**

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-R-10, the Establishment of Yield on Boger Avenue at Its Intersection with Lucille Avenue on the first reading. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

**MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other discussion topics included: environmental nuisances, code compliance; easement agreement for Bear Creek Section 8; and a couple drainage issues.

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William L. Hartman - President

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Donald D. Grogg – Vice President

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Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

Attest:

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Jan Bauman, Auditor