

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 8, 2021

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

Others Present: First Deputy Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney James P McCanna

Absent: Auditor Jan Bauman

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty Miller reported that the wage study committee meeting was held on February 1, 2021. The committee decided to send all positions that were being discussed to WIS for evaluation, these offices include: Assessor, Auditor, Prosecutor, Treasurer and Code Enforcement Position. The committee has been on board for a year now, but the decisions being made at this point really need to be taken back to the experts.

The Clerk has filled all 3 of her full time openings along with her part-time position. There are open job postings with Central Communications, Sheriff-Merit Deputies, Highway Maintenance, and Community Corrections has multiple openings.

Ms. Miller reported that the Wellness Screening with PHP went very well and she had an employee compliment thanking the Commissioners for agreeing to provide this wellness check for our employees. Last year when insurance benefits were being discussed, she was tasked with researching who has clinics offered to their employees in the area. Ms. Miller reported that Metal Technologies clinic has ceased, Garrett Schools has a clinic, and DeKalb Central has a clinic, as well as DeKalb Eastern is part of a consortium to decrease the costs. To set up a clinic was going to cost quite a bit to set up from the get go, but could possibly benefit on the backside. She feels that IF the claims history proves positive to lean toward Self Insurance that DeKalb County has an Auditor that is stellar and would be 'on it 'and able to pay the claims/invoices as well as put money back for future needs. Jim McCanna expressed the issue of DeKalb County just not having enough employees to benefit the costs of a clinic. William Hartman feels the Commissioners do not have enough time to fully dedicate to researching this project, but feels there is money to be saved and shall work on it next year.

MATTER OF OTIS ELEVATOR CONTRACT RENEWAL

Otis Elevator would like to extend the current contract with 5% discount for and additional five years. Commissioners agree that as long as the contract renews at the current rates WITH a 5% discount they feel it is a good idea.

Todd Sanderson made a motion for the president to sign the contract extension for five years with Otis Elevator. Second by Michael Watson and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period January 17-30, 2021. Second by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve minutes dated February 1, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of February 8, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the following travel request:

- 1) Chase Yoder and Derrick Burgett (Sheriff) to travel to Plainfield February 21-22 for the Entrance Exam to the Law Enforcement Academy. Estimated cost of \$89 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 2) Derrick Burgett and Chase Yoder (Sheriff) to travel to Plainfield March 15-June 25 for the Law Enforcement Academy. Estimated cost of \$1,090 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Second by Michael Watson, and all approved.

MATTER OF KRAFFT CEMETERY IN WILMINGTON TOWNSHIP

There is a cemetery in Wilmington Township that County Attorney Jim McCanna believes should be taken over by the Wilmington Township Trustee. The individual who had been paying the drain taxes on the cemetery is no longer making these payments and is believed to have been the Treasurer for Mt. Pleasant church and has since moved out of state. Mt. Pleasant Church informed the Auditor's Office that they do not own the cemetery and should not be receiving the tax bill. The cemetery is located off the west side of County Road 61 in a wooded area, and there is no drive or pathway to the cemetery from the road. Land owned by another individual must be crossed to access the cemetery. Most of the headstones still standing are overturned and worn. The partial fencing is on the ground due to fallen trees and brush. The cemetery has been neglected for a long time. Indiana Code directs township trustees to assume care or abandoned cemeteries. The Wilmington Township Board agreed they would like to see this cemetery restored and maintained. They are asking for three things:

- 1) Achieve legal easement or access to the cemetery.
- 2) Issue a warranty deed with proper legal description of the cemetery including the legal easement/access from the road to the cemetery. The deed should convey ownership of the cemetery to Wilmington Township.
- 3) Pay all delinquent taxes so that Wilmington Township only incurs taxes from the date of conveyance.

Todd Sanderson made a motion that all delinquent taxes be removed and that Wilmington Township should take over management of the Krafft Cemetery going forward. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DONATION ORDINANCES FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Michael Waston made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-2, DCC 28-9-9, on First Reading, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. This fund is for use by the Health Department in accepting vaccines and related equipment, leasing space for the administration of a program to administer vaccines to the public, which leased space is large enough to ensure social distancing, and to secure persons to assist in administering the inoculations of those vaccines, and actually injecting the vaccines in the public. Todd Sanderson made a motion to suspend the rules to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-2 by Title Only on the Second and Third Readings. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed unanimously. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-2, DCC 28-9-9, on Second and Third Readings, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for the Administration of COVID-19 Vaccines. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-3, DCC 28-9-10, on First Reading, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for the DeKalb County Health Department. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. This fund is for use by the Health Department to purchase supplies, equipment, food and the like, including administration of flu shot, operating clinics, going to schools to administer shots and the like. Todd Sanderson made a motion to suspend the rules to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-3 by Title Only on the Second and Third Readings. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed unanimously. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-3, DCC 28-9-10, on Second and Third Readings, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for DeKalb County Health Department. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO PLAN COMMISSION

Michael Watson made a motion to appoint Taiylor Wineland to the Plan Commission to complete the 4-year term of Tim Griffin, which will expire December 31, 2021. Second by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

MATTER OF CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND ORDINANCE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-1, DCC 16-7-2, on the Second and Third Readings, An Ordinance of Public Nuisance for Properties Located within the Unincorporated Jurisdiction of DeKalb County, Indiana, and for all three to sign. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PROSECUTING ATTORNEY ENTRANCE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve all five Prosecuting Attorneys to enter the South door until their duties as Prosecuting Attorneys are removed. Todd Sanderson seconded, and motion passed (2,1) William Hartman voted nay.

MATTER OF A TRANSFER WITHIN THE LITED FUND

Todd Sanderson motioned to approve the transfer of \$150,000 from LITED #63 Courthouse Light Posts TO LITED #66 New Highway Building Fund. Second by Michael Watson and all approved.

This transfer is to cover the expenses related to the relocation of the Highway Department from its current location on Ensley Avenue in Auburn.

MATTER OF PAYMENT OF APPRAISAL INVOICES

Mike Watson moved to pay the appraisal invoices out of LITED #24. Second by Todd Sanderson and all approved.

MATTER OF COUNTY DEPARTMENT OFFICE MOVEMENT

Prosecutor ClaraMary Winebrenner is seeking State approval for the movement of her Title IV-D Department and should have that approval soon. Todd Sanderson made a motion to swap the Surveyor Department and the Title IV-D Department office spaces. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

The Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology Covenant by the DeKalb County Commissioners for the rehabilitation of the Spencerville Covered Bridge needed to be signed in a different order, with DeKalb County Commissioners signing second. The Covenant is on the covered bridge itself—not to the surrounding property. So, the County does have some safe harbor protection from the ADA requirement in the Covenant. A strict reading of the Covenant is not expected. Todd Sanderson made a motion for the President to re-sign the Covenant pertaining to the rehabilitation of the Covered Bridge. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Ben Parker received a call from the Auburn City Engineer on the Morningstar Bridge #56 on whether the Commissioners had discussed yet, and he told him he would bring it to discussion today. Todd Sanderson would like to see the whole plan, and William Hartman would like the plans proposed both with a walkway and without before making a decision on collaborating with the city on the project. The Commissioners would be willing to move forward if the City paid for the walks on their own, and the County collaborating on the bridge only. Mr. Parker will reach back out to the City for a meeting to be set when the City is ready.

The Commissioners informed Mr. Parker that on March 1, the Commissioners are seeking approval from the Council to both buy and sell the Highway properties. William Hartman proposed a possibility of maybe checking to see if we could lease one of the old Highway Buildings for cold storage until an additional building could be built at the new location.

MATTER OF JAIL

Larry Weigand, CEO and Chris Sosebee, Director of Business Development from Weigand Construction introduced themselves and presented a brief on the company and their experience building jails. Mr. Weigand explained that this is really just an introduction to their firm—not a formal meeting. Mr. Weigand presented a handout to explain what they do and how they line up 'by the numbers'. Weigand employs 100 professional staff and 350 field staff. Weigand was established in 1906, holds four generations of family tradition with over \$250 Million in annual revenues. Weigand has multiple jail contracts underneath their view and delivers the project thru Construction Management at Risk, Agency Construction Management, Design-Build and as the General Contractor with experience of working with county commissioners and the avenues that need to be followed within Government. Sheriff Dave Cserep spoke to the fact that Adams County is more than happy with Weigand Construction as they continue to come back for changes that are requested even 3 years out from the build.

Tony Vie with Elevatus said that the B101 contract that was presented last week would be his preference to be able to get contracted prior to the delivery method and that this contract can be tailored around the scope of work. He expressed that it is really important to get the contract signed and to work on funding. Michael Watson asked what the timeline would be, and Tony said looking it would be about 2 weeks, but

would prefer 4 weeks to give adequate time to update the costs. Todd Sanderson feels that the Jail Study is paramount before anything can go public with an amount. Craig Armstrong with Elevatus handed out 3 conceptual drawings of location of the new jail as a discussion point and discussion took place.

MATTER OF ANNUAL LIABILITY INSURANCE RENEWAL

Mike Shuherk presented what he believes will be the best liability insurance coverage for the coming year. He is proposing Liberty Mutual for the Liability carrier for 2021-2022 at an annual premium of \$337,880.00. Cyber coverage will remain with Travelers Casualty and Surety at an annual premium of \$12,259.00. Rate increases this year across the board are between 10-15%, and Insurance Trustees said we are in a very good place with the numbers that came in.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: security signs no longer need to be put out but the sheriff will still leave one at the main North door; painting and carpeting quotes in the surveyor and recorder's office; red room carpeting; Adam's County tour; instruction to Jim McCanna to write up Henderson closing; and Bowers Engineering.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor