

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

May 9, 2023

The following Council Members were present:

President Richard Ring
Vice President David Yarde
Member William VanWye, arrived at 8:34 a.m.
Member Robert E. Krafft
Member Amy Demske
Member Amy Prosser, via Zoom
Member Rick Collins

Others present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Donald J Stuckey

David Yarde opened the meeting with prayer at 8:32 a.m.

MATTER OF MINUTES

David Yarde made a motion to approve minutes dated April 11, 2023. Rick Collins seconded and motion passed (6,0).

Collins: aye	Krafft: aye
Prosser: aye	VanWye: not here to vote
Demske: aye	Ring: aye
Yarde: aye	

Before starting votes, Rick Ring asked if the Council wanted to vote for all the additional or transfers in one vote. Robert Krafft is fine with taking all as one vote as long as those in question can be pulled out to discuss as long as everyone does their due diligence prior to meeting. The Council has decided to remain in their current practice of approving by department.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Rick Collins made a motion to approve the Courthouse additional in the amount of \$27,100 to account 11408 Maintenance within the General Fund (1001). Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye	Krafft: aye
Prosser: aye	VanWye: aye
Demske: aye	Ring: aye
Yarde: aye	

William VanWye made a motion to approve the Surveyor's additional in the amount of \$8,000 to account 44430 Equipment within the CCD (1138) Fund. Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye
Prosser: aye
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

William VanWye made a motion to approve Central Communications additional in the amount of \$85,990 to the following accounts: \$28,000 to communications 11702, \$28,000 to communications 11703, \$6,280 to perf 12100, \$4,290 to social security 12300, and \$19,420 to insurance 12200 within the LIT Public Safety Fund (1170). Rick Collins seconded and motion passed (5,2)

Collins: aye
Prosser: nay
Demske: aye
Yarde: nay

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

David Yarde made a motion to approve Central Communications additional in the amount of \$106,005.08 to account 44430 Equipment within the Statewide 911 Fund (1222). William VanWye seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye
Prosser: aye
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

Robert Krafft made a motion to approve Probations additional in the amount of \$10,000 to the following accounts: \$5,000 to travel/training/education 34295 and \$5,000 to testing services within the Problem Solving Court Grant-ATC Fund (9157). Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye
Prosser: aye
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

MATTER OF TRANSFERS

Rick Collins made a motion approve the Sheriff's transfer of \$8,000 from Equipment Repair & Maintenance (33620) to Repair & Maintenance (22310) within the General Fund (1001). Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye
Prosser: aye
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

David Yarde made a motion to approve the VA's transfer of \$898.00 from Software Maintenance (34140) to Memorial Day Flags (22460) within the General Fund (1001). William VanWye seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye
Prosser: aye
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

William VanWye made a motion to approve Health's transfer of \$1,000 from Operating Supplies (22130) to Other Service Fees (32780) within the LHD Annual Survey Fund (9119). Rick Collins seconded and all approved.

Collins: aye
Prosser: aye
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORT BY FUND

The Council certified that they have received and reviewed the April 2023 Financial Report by Fund.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2023-RCC-5: PRELIMINARY RESOLUTION FOR THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA

Rick Collins made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-RCC-5 as described above to be advertised for a Public Hearing at the June Meeting. Amy Demske seconded and motion passed (6,1).

Collins: aye
Prosser: nay
Demske: aye
Yarde: aye

Krafft: aye
VanWye: aye
Ring: aye

MATTER OF DR. MARK SOUDER/CHERYL LYNCH ON RECRUITMENT

Cheryl began the discussion by giving an overview of the documents she had provided to the Council prior to meeting. Cheryl went on to discuss how the County is competing with the private sector for nurses, and she is asking that the Council look at the nurses wages for the next budget, and what can be done for the position that she has had posted since December. Cheryl needs a seasoned/experienced nurse and would be nice to find someone that had some administration experience, but that part she feels will take a lot of training. This position will be Cheryl's First Deputy and she is also planning for succession as two of the three employees are already able to retire at any time. Cheryl went over how the Health Department differentiates from a Doctor's office. Dr. Souder spoke on the struggles that we are competing with, and expressed that Cheryl is a gift to the County but does not have time to take off that she hasn't been able to do in the time of about 3 months, and they need someone to have administrative knowledge in order for her to take this time off. Dr. Souder also discussed the bill that was just

passed to bring more money into the County and does not feel the County would have to help fund the Health Department for a long time. Rick Ring also spoke on the great asset that Cheryl is to the County and by increasing the wages for the nurses, those wages cannot be above what the Director is making. Rick Ring feels the HR Committee needs to meet and come back to the Council with recommendations on the wages for this position.

MATTER OF MARK OLIVERO ON BENEFITS AND PAY FOR HIS ATTORNEYS

Mark discussed the trickle-down effect that has happened from COVID and nobody wanting to work. He had discussed this with other counties and found out that others are paying for benefits for their attorneys. Mark has researched and found that service workers were hit the hardest and he lost one of this public defenders to Steuben County because they provide health insurance/benefits. Mark is asking that two Misdemeanor deputy public defenders salary become commensurate with the felony deputy public defenders, or that they at least get a raise to \$40,000 per year. Mark is also asking that all deputy public defenders to be given the option of health insurance and PERF benefits. Mark said out of 7 public defenders that he has there will likely be 4 that would accept health benefits, if these benefits are approved Mark is asking the public defender attorneys to not receive a pay increase for at least the upcoming year. Mark also reminded the Council that they will be able to request 40% reimbursement back to the County from the State for the felony attorneys, not for the one misdemeanor attorney. This request is for his 2024 budget, not immediately.

Mark also discussed the need to increase his travel budget by more than the suggested 5% increase for the 2024 budget, due to the RISE Conference each year that has been added as a result of the specialty courts (Addiction Treatment Court, Family Recovery Court, and Veteran's Court Grant).

Rick Ring questioned the reduction in the Public Defender's state budget would cause a decrease in the 40% reimbursement that is received. Mark was told that the state did not get a certain budget for a specific request but the 40% reimbursement rate is solid.

David Yarde appreciated meeting with Mark Olivero and Kevin Likes and felt he had a fairly good idea of what the Public Defender's office did, but learned at how complex his office actually is and there is a definite issue at having competent employees in order to avoid the County being sued.

Rick is asking the HR Committee to add this to their discussion and come back with a recommendation.

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY AIRPORT UPDATE

Randy Fox distributed a brief of new and old business for the Airport.
Council and Commissioner Brief 5/9/2023

New Business

- The auction of the contents of the Meese Chapel went better than expected. There was some fear that we wouldn't even make enough to pay for the auction, but that was clearly unfounded.
- The fencing for the Paving and Lighting Runway Extension Project is up and the old fence crossing the new runway section is down. We are still on track for paving starting the week of April 25th. The lighting/electrical contractor will be starting this week.
- The Self-Serve Fuel system site work is starting early. They began cutting concrete for the footers Monday the 8th and the electrical contractor will be in later this week. The tank is still sitting in the builder's yard. We will have it shipped in approximately 2-weeks.
- We are working on reestablishing our Cumulative Airport Building Fund as the state recommends we do on occasion. I messed up on advertising so we are starting again on this process.
- Please see the attached closure notice that is on our website, Twitter feed, Facebook and also went out to all of our tenants.
- The Board voted to abate rent for Sweet Aviation during the current 4-month construction process and they voted to abate rent for T-hangars, box hangars and Paratus Air during our closure for the month of August.
- As previously stated we have updated our T-hangar lease as most of our leases are expiring in August. The Board voted to increase rent on all T-hangars by 10% rounded up to the nearest whole dollar.
- The Board voted to appropriate \$750,000.00 to the Rainy Day Fund in furtherance of current projects on the Airport. That appropriation will be in front of you next month.

Old Business

- None.

MATTER OF AUDITOR SIGNATURE AS SECRETARY FOR COUNCIL

David Yarde motioned to approve the Auditor or designee to sign meeting documents for a member who is attending the meeting remotely and note the member is remote. Amy Demske seconded and motion passed (5, 1).

Collins: aye

Krafft: not in attendance

Prosser: aye

VanWye: nay

Demske: aye

Ring: aye

Yarde: aye

MATTER OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Budgets: Wages will be the place the Council will spend most of their time. This year HR is collecting data to utilize in making a decision on wages. Jeff Peters is updating the Financial Plan and he will be here at the June meeting to make a presentation. The one department that Council is aware of is the Highway Department will be unfunded by 2025, which brings up the Wheel Tax discussion.

Wheel Tax: Rick has asked Jeff to update the information provided from last August. Anything that is enacted would be shared with the cities and town according to mileage. The Wheel Tax can ONLY be used for construction and maintenance of roads, it cannot be used for salaries, and has nothing to do with moving the Highway Department. Of the four surrounding counties, DeKalb is the only county that has not enacted a Wheel Tax. If we go with a wheel tax to be effective in 2024, the vote has to take place and DLGF notified by September 1. David Yarde's concern is that those counties that have enacted the Wheel Tax are already running short so he is not sure the Wheel Tax is the complete answer for highway funding.

Highway Restricted: The county Council was trying to change the % of money that went to MVH restricted and unrestricted was denied, as well as trying to get salt and sand added as being covered under restricted parameters was denied.

Average Growth Quotient: There was normally a growth formula that would figure the growth quotient from year to year, but going forward the AVGQ is restricted to 5% for the next two years from legislation that was passed this session.

Live Stream Bill: The bill passed and will be effective July 2025, and the recordings are to be made available if requested. When 2025 comes and a meeting is held in this room where the capabilities are available those meetings will have to be live streamed as well.

Fund 1217 County Elected Officials Fund: The AIC and State called meetings and expenses can be utilized for Council Members after July 1, 2023.

County Jail Funds: The max Correctional Facility rate could be .2 and we are currently at .13, and Rick proposes that we move from .13 to .2 and bring the Public Safety rate down by the same amount so there would not be any effect on the tax payers to allow the County to put money aside for the impending jail in the horizon. This decision has to be decided by August 1st, and the cities and towns will need notified as the public safety rate would affect the amount of money going to the city and towns.

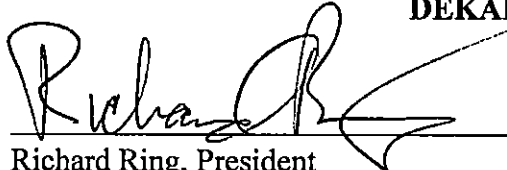
Possible Evening Meetings: Amy Prosser asked if there was a possibility of moving some of the budget meetings to the evenings for those members that have a 40 hour workweek job. As of right now thing will remain the same. Rick Collins feels that is a legitimate question but does not know what will fit for everyone.


Health Ins: Amy Demske asked if the County knew where they were going with health insurance as that may also affect what is done for wages.

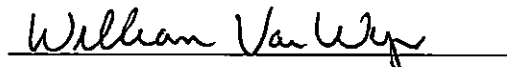
MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

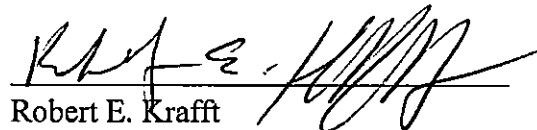
Rick Collins made a motion to adjourn at 11:52 a.m. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:

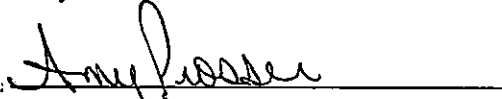

Richard Ring, President


David Yarde, Vice President


William VanWye



Robert E. Krafft


Amy Demske


Amy Prosser


Rick Collins

ATTEST:


Susan Sleeper
DeKalb County Auditor