

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 22, 2024

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

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY ON AGING

Tracy Bell went over the 1st Quarter DART Report that included the following highlights:

1) **Review of Past Quarter DCCOA**

- 16 part-time drivers currently employed.
- Began 2025 funding process: The 5311 grant application & budget is due May 17th
- Sold transit #15, 2014 Chevrolet with 161,000 miles for \$5,000 last week
- Submitted 2024 Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan to INDOT for the 4-year update
- 1 minivan and 1 transit expected this summer for 2024

2) **Quarterly Invoice to INDOT for 1st Quarter**

- Expense Report: 1st Quarter Transportation \$154,779.17
 - FARE totals: Income Report \$22,407.99
 - Passenger Trips: 1st Quarter 2024 had a total of 3,965 compared to 1st Quarter 2023 of 4,790
- Annual passenger trips: 2022 had 18,119 and 2023 had 17,024.

Michael Watson made a motion for the president to sign the 2024 1st quarter invoice in the amount of \$31,908. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF FIREARM DISCUSSION

Kyle Pearson was in to discuss whether the Building Inspector and Code Compliance Official are allowed to carry firearms while on duty. Kyle has spoken with the liability insurance and the concern is on what would happen if the firearm were used and whether it was a correct situation to use them in. The insurance would have no issue if the employee was a sheriff deputy. The reason that Kyle hears from insurance is that carrying a firearm is 'Not part of their scope of duties' on the job. Todd Sanderson suggested as a compromise taking a sheriff deputy with them in situations where the Building Inspector or Code Compliance Official does not feel comfortable without protection. All agree that they cannot allow the Building Inspector or Code Compliance Official to carry on the job due to liability insurance reasons.

MATTER OF AUBURN BZA VARIANCE

Chris explained that the Variance application is for the generator to be located in the front yard setback. A generator is considered a support-based structure and cannot be located in the front yard setback. Because the courthouse is bound by 4 streets there are 4 front yards. Thus, cannot go on the property without a variance. Chris needs Bill to sign the application and the owner's consent for Chris to represent the project at the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Todd Sanderson made motion to allow the president to sign the application for variance and affidavit of property ownership. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ALLIANCE INDUSTRIES UPDATE

Erin Potter, Director of Alliance Industries gave the Commissioners an update on what has been going on at Alliance Industries over the past year. Last year at this time Alliance was getting ready for their open house to their new space. Sales increased by 73% from 2022 to 2023. With the funding support from the County Alliance was able to do the following:

- ~Upgrade air compressor and the compressed air system
- ~Hired 12 new employees (5 being Sunny Meadows Residents: total of 9 Sunny Meadows Residents employed)
- ~Increase staff by 2 new supervisors plus an assistant executive director, along with the tools and technology to do their jobs more efficiently.

Erin expressed that all these incredible achievements could not have been possible without the Commissioners support. Erin is grateful to all for helping Alliance grow by leaps and bounds over this past year. Erin also invited everyone to stop by for a tour to see the progress that has been made over the last year and to see the exciting projects they are currently working on.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Surveyor ATV: Posted on govdeals.com until April 25, 2024, currently at \$1,200 and the Commissioners are fine with selling for whatever is bid at the end of sale.

API Quote for CR 52: Ben provided the quote on CR 52 from CR 7, 2,680' east to City of Garrett Corporate Limits from API in the amount of \$87,646.10. The City of Garrett is completing their portion this year and Ben would like to complete the County portion as well. *Michael Watson made a motion to approve the API Quote in the amount of \$87,646.10 for CR 52 paving. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.*

Misc: General discussion took place on the New Highway Build,

Lynn Reinhart 4224 CR 71: He had sent emails prior to coming into the meeting on a damaged culvert on CR 24 to show the water at the intersection of CR 65. Todd Sanderson asked who was responsible for the culverts under the driveways, Ben stated the landowner is responsible and a letter will be sent to the homeowner. Ben believes that the CR 65 section was abandoned by the County, and Lynn wanted to know if the landowners were given notice when it was abandoned.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period of March 24- April 6, 2024, that processed on April 19, 2024, and was pre-approved by Commissioner Watson. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Special claims in the amount of \$67,987.82 consisting of warrant #'s 135272 thru 135281 and wire transfer #'s (none) that were processed on April 17, 2024, and General claims processed on April 22, 2024, in the amount of \$570,893.40 consisting of warrant #'s (none) and wire transfer #'s 28037 thru 28154. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated April 8, 2024. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics Include:

Dutch Heritage Gift Certificates: There were two remaining gift certificates from the 2023 Holiday Gift, Auditor Sleeper suggested the Commissioners give them to the Commissioner and Council Attorney's and all the Commissioners agreed.

Highway Disbursement #10:

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve releasing the TENTH draw request to GM Development Companies, LLC in the amount of \$317,394.40. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Sitework/Utilities: 100% complete
Site Seeding, Lawn & Landscape: 54.17% complete
Concrete: 100% complete
Pre-Engineered Metal Buildings: 100% complete
General Trades: 90% complete
Existing Roof Replacement: 59.86% complete
Wall & ceiling Assemblies, Flooring: 100% complete
Finish and Paint: 95% complete
Pole Building: 85% complete
Salt Storage Structure: 94.68% complete
Fuel Station: 85% complete
Fire Protection: 75.04% complete
Mechanical & Plumbing: 86.01% complete
Electrical: 60.01% complete
General Conditions: 85% complete
Overhead: 75.73% complete

Farmer's Market:

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Auburn Main Street to use the County parking lot for The Farmer's Market on Saturdays from May 4th to October 26th. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Mettert's Watercare: Michael Watson will work on getting an invoice from Mettert's to pay.

Williams Electric: Todd Sanderson checked with Don Bly on the cabling for the New Highway Department and is fine with the quote from Williams that was previously voted on at the April 8th meeting.

Weights & Measures:

Seraphin (testing unit): Invoice should be coming; President Hartman will make contact to get an invoice from the company.

H&H Sales Company: Discussion took place among the Commissioners on what is needed from the H&H Sales Quote, Todd Sanderson will contact Patrick to discuss the final plan on what is needed.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve \$1,765 for the composite partition with window, labor, and material from H&H Sales Company to be purchased and installed. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Baker Tilly Signature:

Todd Sanderson made a motion for the president to sign the agreement to acknowledge the restructuring. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Sheriff Vehicle Titles:

Todd Sanderson made motion for the president to sign the titles for the vehicles below for decommissioning. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

2018 Dodge Charger: VIN#2C3CDXKT3JH210952

2017 Dodge Charger: VIN#2C3CDXKT3HH560964

Cookie's Auto Repair: There have been complaints from both side neighbors. Chris said the issue went to the BZA in 2006 and at that time the only thing they were not in compliance with was bull pen storage. Commissioner Sanderson feels in order for the owner to defend their property they should get a survey for proof. Chris will respond to Mr. Compton on the situation at hand and copy the Commissioners, Attorney and Auditor.


ARPA Annual Compliance:

Todd Sanderson made a motion for Auditor Sleeper to submit the annual report for the period of April 1, 2023, to March 31, 2024 in the total expenditure amount of \$1,285,152.30. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

ARPA/TIF:

Discussion took place on ARPA balances and plans for upcoming expenditures.

AJ Gallagher-Tim Petre: Mr. Petre spoke regarding a newspaper article that indicated they took over our insurance coverage, he had a conversation with Bill Hartman and said the article is further from the truth. Tim provided the Agent of Record Letter to take over the Traveler's coverage. Attorney Kruse asked who drafted the letter, Tim responded with "their company" the Fort Wayne office. How did they know to put the language in the letter, Josh did the communication and is no longer with AJ Gallagher's Company stated Mr. Petre. Kruse knew that Hilb was in lengthy deliberations and the changing of the agent of record letter that completely cut off Hilb from being able to quote. Michael Watson said that the intent of AJ Gallagher is not in question, the issue is the action to change Agent of Record must be done in a public meeting by all Commissioners and that process was not followed. Michael Watson clarified again that the intentions of Bill or AJ Gallagher is not the issue, but he does know that Hilb sat in a public meeting and told the 3 Commissioners they were working on a quote from Traveler's to compare to Liberty Mutual and that both Michael Watson and Todd Sanderson agreed that they are happy with Hilb Insurance and were not interested in changing brokers at this time even in light of the AJ Gallagher presentation. Therefore, the actions taken by changing agent of record and AJ Gallagher were not proper considering the discussion that took place at the meeting. Todd Sanderson asked Attorney Kruse how to move forward and what are the ramifications for President Hartman, at this time Attorney Kruse does not feel there is any further ramifications as this is not a criminal action and Bill acknowledged he made a mistake. Todd Sanderson is asking that the issue be dropped, move on, and work together. Michael Watson agreed and wasn't planning on taking the issue any further. President Hartman wants to be sure that next year there are some competitive quotes, but that Mike was against getting competitive quotes. Michael Watson responded that was not accurate and explained there are limited companies that even quote municipalities. Todd Sanderson shook hands with Michael Watson and asked him to move forward and to no longer ride the train.



William L. Hartman – President

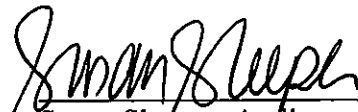


Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor