

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 3, 2025

Commissioners Present: President William L Hartman
Vice President James Miller
Vice President Kellen Dooley

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

IPEP 2024 Claims: Dotty Miller provided an IPEP Claim packet that shows the County had 29 claims, and out of those claims not all were charged to the County. The 2024 Grand Total Policy Period is \$19,613.74.

Annex Building Code Compliance: Auburn Fire Chief made a walk through the Annex Building and provided updated totals for the conference room, as well as other rooms, with new configuration on how the room can be used as well as the capacity of each. The Maintenance Director also walked the building and gave a few needed updates to verify that the County is following the new standards.

Recruitment: Dotty went over the openings available, as well as filled positions among the County Departments.

The Department Head Meeting is set for Wednesday, February 5th at 8:00 a.m.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Professional Services Bid AWARD for Item #8:

Kellen Dooley made a motion to award all bidders for Professional Services bid for 2025. James Miller seconded and all approved.

2024-2 CCMG Road Resurfacing Project AWARD:

James Miller made a motion to award API Construction Corporation for the 2024-2 CCMG Road Resurfacing Project that will be completed in 2025. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

INDOT Bid Process:

Kellen Dooley made a motion for Bill to sign the DocuSign for the INDOT LPA Contract for 2024 CCMG. James Miller seconded and all approved.

R.G. Zachrich Quote: A brief discussion took place regarding a Small Box Structure, Bridge #49 that needs maintenance work. The quote amount came in at total of \$49,950.

James Miller made a motion to accept the Quote from Zachrich as amended for Bridge-Structure #49 on County Road 39, in the amount of \$49,950. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

State Road 1 and County Road 40: Kellen asked Ben for his input regarding the State Road 1 and County Road 40 intersection. Kellen stated that we submitted a request back in 2023, and this intersection continues to be an issue, and recently there was another fatal accident. Ben agreed but is looking for the State's input to not put the County under any liability. Ben forwarded the packet of information of what he received from the State with the guidelines and how they updated that intersection with updated signage. Additional discussion took place.

James Miller made a motion for Ben Parker to request a study from INDOT regarding the intersection of State Road 1 and County Road 40, Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.

Andrew Provines asked about the intersection accidents and is collecting data to inquire about the number of accidents and fatalities at that intersection.

MATTER OF CODE ENFORCEMENT UPDATE ON PROPERTY

Jhace Sleeper returned to provide an update on the Albright property located at 3593 County Rd 427, Auburn. At the December 30th, 2024, meeting, the Commissioners had requested Jhace to set a time with Mr. Albright to meet at the property and show him exactly what needed to be cleaned up. Mr. Sleeper and Mr. Albright had set a meeting at the property to take place on January 8th, 2025. Mr. Sleeper arrived and met one of Mr. Albright's workers who informed Sleeper that Mr. Albright would not be able to make it, but that Sleeper could speak with him about the property. Mr. Sleeper was informed by the employee that they try to keep the property clean, but Mr. Albright would allow people to drop off things they did not want. Mr. Sleeper told the employee that he would come back on January 22nd to inspect. On January 22nd when Jhace revisited the property there was very little that had been done and looked a bit worse because more things had been added onto the property. Jhace then visited the property on February 3rd, and it looked as if they were making slight updates. Jim Miller asked what the previous action was on properties such as this, and Andrew stated that if folks are acting and cleaning the properties, the County, as well as Development services want to be kind to its constituents in good faith. Jim, Kellen, and Andrew all agreed and recommended that Jhace send a letter to Mr. Albright stating Jhace would be back in two weeks and needs to show significant infractions cleaned up in the next 2-4 weeks.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve payroll for the period of January 12-25, 2025, that will be processed on February 7, 2025. James Miller seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the January 2025 Bookkeeper Claims, Special Claims that processed on January 22, 2025, in the amount of \$66,576.18, and General Claims processed on February 3rd the amount of \$746,622.91 consisting of warrant #'s 135779 thru 135840 and wire transfer #'s 31179 thru 31320. James Miller seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

James Miller made a motion to approve the minutes dated January 21, 2025, with the following statement: "Concerning the appointment to the County RDC Appointment." "Due to a misunderstanding I need to correct an answer I made at the last meeting. When asked about Mr. Steury after I made the nomination to move him from a non-voting member to a voting member on the County Economic Board, I said that I had contacted him. I miss Understood the question and I should have answered I had no contact with Mr. Steury prior to the meeting." "I'm sorry for the misunderstanding and will do my best to make sure this type of incident does not happen again." Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

2024 County Receipts & Expenditures and Total Compensation: Auditor Sleeper explained the date range and other information of the Receipts/Expenditures/Compensation packet that she provided to the Commissioners packet.

James Miller made a motion to approve and sign the 2024 County Receipts & Expenditures and Total Compensation Report. Kelley Dooley seconded and all approved.

AES Letter of Support for the BEAD application:

Kellen Dooley made a motion for all to sign a letter of support to be sent to the Indiana Broadband Office. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Generator Service Agreement with W.W. Williams:

At the last meeting, Larry Lane presented the proposal and explained that a few of the generators would not need the 'load testing' done because it was just performed during installation. The original proposal also had the maintenance being done 4 times a year, which Larry felt that 2 visits a year would be sufficient as he and the maintenance team do regular checks currently. The Commissioners asked Larry to get a new proposal and return it for approval. Additional discussion took place. *James Miller made a motion to accept and for the president to sign the service agreement with W. W. Williams in the amount of \$10,656.00 for a one-year term and would service the generators located at the Courthouse, DCCC, Jail, Sunny Meadows, Health, Annex, Dispatch and Highway departments. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.*

Sunny Meadows Dryer Quote: Susan Sleeper received a quote from Angela Brown from Sunny Meadows for a Heavy Duty Dryer from CSC Service Works in the amount of \$6,178.00. Additional discussion took place, and all agreed that this needs to be investigated further and discussed at the next meeting. Bill Hartman agreed that

Baymont Hotel: Andrew Kruse gave a brief update on the lawsuit that has been filed with the Baymont Hotel, and that we have received service. Currently, there has been no response, and they have 23 days to respond.

Heron Lake Development: Wayne Asphalt Letter: Discussion took place. *Kellen Dooley made a motion to follow Andrew Kruse's advice to not move forward on the lawsuit and will not be taking over the road. James Miller seconded, and all approved.*

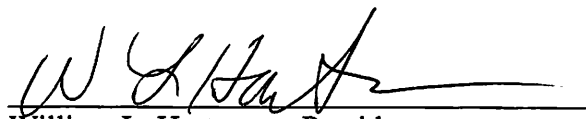
Dave Clark – Mayor of Auburn – Appointments: Mr. Clark asked who the County appointed for the Auburn Extra-Territory Jurisdiction. The information was provided to Dave that the Commissioners had appointed Susan Maag on January 21, 2025.

Dave then asked about the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership, and the appointment that previous Commissioner Todd Sanderson held. Discussion took place between the Commissioners.

Kellen Dooley motioned to have James Miller serve on the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

BZA Board Appointment Discussion: Richard Ring asked what the update was on the appointment regarding Andrew Provines and said that after the last meeting he had sent an email including Mr. Provines and stated that he had no problem with Mr. Provines on the BZA board as long as it does not go against statute. IC 36-7-4-4.02

Andrew Provines: BZA according to statute there is a series of exceptions. According to statute someone on the board cannot hold an elected position, and when he was put on the board he resigned as the township trustee. Also, cannot hold any other appointed office in city, county or state, so it ultimately comes down to whether he is hired or appointed by the mayor to the City of Butler Planner position. Mr. Provines explained that he does not get paid for any additional duties to serve on the boards he is on, and he does not have a voting seat on the boards as he did not feel that he should do the research on a topic and be able to make a vote as part of a board that hears the topic, he did not the prior City Planner was the hearings officer but he is not. Provines went on to discuss IC 36-4-9-8 and Todd Rokita's dual office holding guide. Attorney Kruse understands the argument but what he looks at and he would go on is that according to the Mayor he was not appointed, and since he is not making sovereign decisions then he would be qualified to serve on the BZA board. Kellen Dooley will follow what their attorney feels is correct and will be abstaining from any vote as he has both a personal and political relationship with Mr. Provines. James Miller personally wants to do some more research and is on hold currently. William Hartman feels if the Mayor acted outside of his authority, and someone decides that then they will have to make a correction at that point.


William L. Hartman – President


James Miller – Vice President


Kellen Dooley – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor