

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

March 31, 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**

Morgan began covering recruitment around the County Departments. Dotty gave an update on how the Wellness Program went on March 28<sup>th</sup>, there were 50 participants signed up and 1 walk in. APEX has informed Dotty they have sent our info out to the market for renewal options.

*James Miller motioned to approve and the president to sign the Agent of Record letter to name APEX, for them to communicate with Trustmark and be able to assist our employees. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.*

Dotty briefly brought up the travel policy discussion. Kellen then briefly covered the award plaques.

### **MATTER OF TOM KELLER-COUNTY FARM**

Tom Keller attended to discuss issues with the Soil & Water test plot at Sunny Meadows. Tom handed out pictures showing water standing in his beans. Tom would like to know who is spraying and who is in control of this plot, he believes Brechbill is spraying, and he does not believe he has a commercial license to do so.

James Miller feels there is obviously damage, and that Soil & Water should be responsible for making it right with Mr. Keller.

The topic will be revisited at the next meeting with Soil & Water in attendance.

### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

**New Truck Purchase:** Ben went online looking for a used truck for Mark. Ben has provided two quotes for the following:

Kelley's Chevrolet: 2024 Silverado 2500 Crew Cab WT 4WD for \$47,795

Max Platt: 2025 F250 W2B 4x4 Crew Cab SRW for \$59,365

Ben would like to purchase the Silverado and then sell Mark's old truck on Govdeals.com.

*James Miller made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2024 Silverado 2500 Crew Cab WT 4WD for \$47,795 from Kelley's and for Ben to sell the old truck on govdeals.com. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.*

**MISC:** Fascia for covered bridge, US 6 closure and unofficial detour causing damage on the county roads, various other roads with no truck signs and trucks still traveling, etc. Discussion took place on charging for permit fees and will be reviewed to institute.

Wayne Sponhower: feels everyone in the County sees the shortcuts and the damages to the County roads and feels that if the violators are pestered enough with tickets that maybe the behavior will be changed and hopefully see less damage to our roads.

#### **MATTER OF PAYROLL**

*James Miller made a motion to approve payroll for the period of March 9-22, 2025. Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.*

#### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

*James Miller made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #135913 thru 135916 in the amount of \$3,860.88, and wire transfer #31816 thru 31948 in the amount of \$504,355.18. Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.*

#### **MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

##### **Commissioner Appointment Changes:**

**Poka-Bache Trail:** *James Miller made a motion to appoint Richard Ring to the Poka-Bache Trail Board for the term ending 12/31/2026. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.*

**Maumee River Basin:** *Kellen Dooley made a motion to appoint Jim Miller to the Maumee River Basin Board for the term 12/31/2028. Bill Hartman seconded and all approved.*

**Community Corrections Board:** *Kellen Dooley made a motion to appoint Tim Swager to replace Karla Benitez-Estrada as the Mental Health Administrator on the Community Corrections Board for the term ending June 30, 2026. James Miller seconded and all approved.*

##### **Capital Asset Policy:**

*Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the updated Capital Asset Policy for DeKalb County as presented by Government Fixed Assets to be effective January 1, 2025. James Miller seconded and all approved.*

##### **Highway Disbursement #14:**

*James Miller made a motion to approve releasing the THIRTEENTH draw request to GM Development Companies, LLC in the amount of \$263,685. Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.*

Sitework/Utilities: 100% complete

Site Seeding, Lawn & Landscape: 100% complete

Concrete: 100% complete

Pre-Engineered Metal Buildings: 100% complete

General Trades: 100% complete

Existing Roof Replacement: 100% complete

Wall & ceiling Assemblies, Flooring: 100% complete

Finish and Paint: 100% complete

Pole Building: 100% complete  
Salt Storage Structure: 100% complete  
Fuel Station: 100% complete  
Fire Protection: 100% complete  
Mechanical & Plumbing: 100% complete  
Electrical: 100% complete  
General Conditions: 100% complete  
Overhead: 100% complete  
Profit: 100% complete

**DART Title Signature:**

*James Miller motioned to accept the sale of the vehicle as presented and for the president to sign the title for VIN#1FDEE3FS4FDA09623 so DART can sell the van. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.*

**Master Service Agreement between City of Auburn and DeKalb County:**

*Kellen Dooley motioned to approve the master agreement with the term changes as discussed. James Miller seconded and all approved.*

*Kellen Dooley made a motion to add the language that any 3<sup>rd</sup> party vendor needs to list the City and County as additionally insured on their policies. James Miller seconded and all approved.*

**County Home February Combined Report:**

*Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the report as presented. James Miller seconded and all approved.*

**Central Dispatch Driveway:** Discussion took place on the driveway and who maintains and plows the drive. Attorney Kruse will reach out to Attorney Lightner for an easement between the city and the County to have the verbiage in writing for the future.

**Weights & Measures Van Damage:** The rear door has some damage to the new van, and Pat Grant had asked who he should go to for an estimate. William Hartman suggested Hartman's. Attorney Kruse and Auditor Sleeper asked if Insurance Trustees had been contacted.

**Schiffli Cemetery:** Diana Miller, representing Smithfield Township Mandy Thomas the current Trustee, as a former Trustee and is attending to discuss the cemetery known as the Schiffli Cemetery. Diana said she started the process but was unable to complete the process prior to leaving the role of Township Trustee and being the owner of record for that parcel and explained what has occurred recently with that parcel.

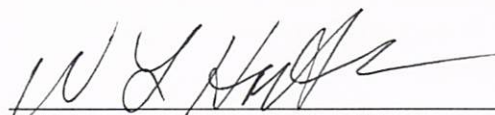
Tom Miller is very passionate about the cemetery and would like to get this back into the Township's ownership. He and his wife have hired their own personal attorney to do the title search and would like to do anything possible to rectify the situation. The Trustee will be back to redeem the parcel to take the tax sale purchaser out of the mix and then figure out how to proceed.

**St. Joe/Spencerville Sewer District:** Donald Martin: Spencerville | Rate increases have gone out and can be protested until April 19<sup>th</sup>, He is asking what the Plan B is to get the sewer upgraded. Andrew Kruse explained that the Commissioners role is to vote on an objection and then the Commissioners can vote on if the rate increase is fair and equitable and did, they follow the procedures by law.

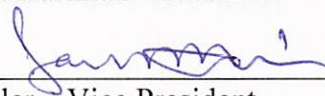
**Baymont:** Another over \$2,000 payment has come in but there is still not any payment of the fines and late fees. Baymont filed a request themselves without hiring an attorney and in court cases a corporation is required to have an attorney, therefore Attorney Kruse filed an objection for their motion for more time.

**Meeting with Commissioner & Mayor:** At the meeting they had safety personnel there and so James Miller asked them about charging inmates for their care while incarcerated and those in attendance all agreed that it would be a waste of time and would cost the county more to try to get the fees paid as most are trying to get on their feet.

**Sunny Meadows:** Kellen provided an update on the County home. There has been a suggestion that cameras need to be installed as there is illegal dumping of things on the burn pile. Kellen has a few people to call about being on the committee and then they will meet again. He is in the process of talking with Larry and IT on the logistics of the cameras and will come back to the next meeting with prices and approval.



William L. Hartman – President

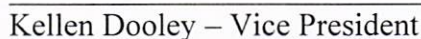


James Miller – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor



Kellen Dooley – Vice President