

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

May 12, 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 HUMANE SHELTER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Hartman had a discussion with Dave Rodecap and Mr. Rodecap has expressed that he cannot fulfill the contract between DeKalb Humane Shelter and DeKalb County. Hartman suggested that the contract be re-written and remove the items that cannot be fulfilled as well as decrease the dollar amount that was originally agreed to by the Commissioners. Kellen Dooley asked what part of the contract could not be fulfilled, which was to investigate within the unincorporated parts of the County complaints of cruelty, abuse mistreatment, and neglect of animals as referred by County.

Sheriff Thomas said that he has someone in mind from Allen County that has experience with animal control and to have her come on board on a part-time basis. Sheriff also explained that the officers are not trained or equipped to deal with some of the animals they come across. There are a few obstacles to figure out such as this person being able to enforce city and town ordinances and a vehicle. The sheriff would like to make the person available to all of the cities and towns for the first year and then collect stats to see if there can be a cost-sharing process put in place after the first year between the cities/towns and county. The sheriff would like to maintain a good working relationship with the DeKalb Humane Shelter.

Brian Humbarger agrees with the Sheriff's plans, but he would also like to see the other 501© 3 rescues that are available. Brian would like to see an agreement in place and possible funding so that not all avenues are overwhelmed with the needs. Sheriff Thomas expressed that the person in mind is knowledgeable on these other rescues.

William Hartman would like to give TNR additional funds for the remainder of 2025. Discussion took place and Hartman would like to give an additional \$2,500 for the rest of the year and will plan accordingly in the 2026 Budget for all the organizations.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve an additional \$2,500 to the TNR program with the Animal Welfare Alliance. James Miller seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

2024 Annual Operational Report: Ben provided the report ahead of the meeting and would like to have the report approved today, he said that his bookkeeper and office manager went over the numbers with the Auditor.

James Miller motioned to approve the 2024 Annual Operational Report as submitted and for all to sign. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Ordinance 2025-O-3: DCCC 9-1-1-11: Amending Ordinance 92-7: DCCC 9-1-1-11 on Speed Limit for CR 35:

James Miller made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-3: DCC 9-1-1-11 Amending Ordinance 92-7 on the speed limit on County Road 35 on the FIRST Reading. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

James Miller made a motion to suspend the rules to pass Ordinance 2025-O-3: DCC 9-1-1-11 Amending Ordinance 92-7 on the speed limit on County Road 35 on the 2nd and 3rd Readings. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-3: DCC 9-1-1-11 Amending Ordinance 92-7 on the speed limit on County Road 35 on the SECOND and THIRD Readings, James Miller seconded and all approved.

Misc. Ben has been working on the Countywide Bridge Inspections RFP to be posted June 2nd and due July 2nd in the Auditors office, unofficial detour on US 6, and CR56 peat area.

USI Agreement with USI for CR 60:

CR 60 small structure and flooding discussion between SR427 and 11A, this will complete CR60 from CR35 to SR205.

James Miller made a motion to move forward with contractual work with USI for CR 60 design not to exceed \$228,800, contingent on funding. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Potter Drive:

The county did maintenance until last year when the city annexed the area, which was all but the cul-de-sac. Discussion took place.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2025-R-7: UDO-100 ZONE MAP AMENDMENT | SE CORNER OF CR 327 AND CR 68, GARRETT

Chris Gaumer gave a brief synopsis of the requests in front of the Commissioners. Hartman brought up confined feeding operations and the effects they have on the roads, etc. Miller verified whether a confined feeding operation permit would come before the Commissioners for approval, and that would be true depending on the size of the operation.

The DeKalb County Plan Commission held a public hearing on February 19, 2025, on the proposed zoning change from R1, Low Density Residential to A2, Agricultural. The DeKalb County Plan Commission sent a *favorable* recommendation for the zoning change to the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners. Discussion took place.

James Miller made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-R-7, UDO-100; A Resolution amending the zone map located at the SE Corner of CR 327 and CR 68, Garrett. Kellen Dooley seconded, and motion passed (2,1) with Hartman voting against.

MATTER OF PERMITTING SOFTWARE

Andrew Provines had investigated how the City of Butler would do their permits. There is currently an agreement between the County and Cities (except Auburn) for permitting and he has worked up an addendum for the City of Butler and wanted the Commissioners to know the key points before he sent it on to Attorney Kruse. Currently, the City of Butler charges between \$10-\$15 per permit and they do about 60-80 permits per year, and Andrew is suggesting paying \$1,500 and increase yearly according to the ratio that the County must increase per their agreement. Chris Gaumer is fine with the proposal and feels it would help the City of Butler residents.

MATTER OF BENEFIT RENEWAL REPORT

APEX provided the Benefit Renewal Report and discussed the different companies that sent back quotes along with the options available. Discussion took place.

Ancillary Products: Lauren suggests moving to Lincoln.

James Miller made a motion to change ancillary products to Lincoln. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Medical Insurance: Lauren suggests moving to PHP, proposal #2.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve Medical Insurance with PHP – Companion Life with a specific deductible going to \$150,000, with an overall renewal increase from prior year of 5.4%.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve payroll for the period of April 20-May 3, 2025. James Miller seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

James Miller made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #135960 thru 135993 in the amount of \$47,719.90, and wire transfer #32242 thru 32372 in the amount of \$1,284,581.89. Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 28th, as amended. James Miller seconded, and all approved.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the minutes dates May 1, 2025. James Miller seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Ingress Egress Easement Agreement: Chris Gaumer explained what the current situation with no current easement

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the Ingress-Egress Agreement with the City of Auburn, that assigns 50% responsibility to the City and the County for all future maintenance obligations and costs for easement area, except the County is responsible for snow removal. James Miller seconded and all approves.

Dossett Consulting Agreement for 2026-2028:

James Miller made a motion to approve the Dossett Consulting Agreement in the amount of \$19,500 (\$6,500 per year) to cover the years of 2026-2028. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Elevator Maintenance Decision:

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve the Executive Elevator maintenance agreement based on Larry's recommendation, in the amount of \$350 per quarter. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Space Study RFP:

James Miller provided the RFP to all Commissioners and Attorney Kruse ahead of the meeting. Kellen Dooley was under the impression the space study was to look at all the current County buildings and land, this would allow for nothing to be missed in the future. Hartman suggested including the Highway, Community Corrections, and Central Dispatch as an alternate in the proposal. Dooley asked why 6 hard copies were requested, and those would be for the three commissioners, their attorney and the auditor, and one extra. Further Discussion took place among the Commissioners.

Kellen Dooley made a motion for the RFP to be sent out with the changes discussed during the meeting. James Miller seconded and all approved.

County Home April Report:

James Miller made a motion acknowledging receipt of the April County Home Report. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Maumee River Basin Commission:


James Miller brought to the attention that DeKalb County needs to approve a Mitigation Plan, apparently there is \$5,000 that needs to be moved. Miller is new on the board but was told the Commissioners need to do a plan every 3-5 years. Auditor Sleeper believes Jason Meek is on top of this and it is already in process but will verify.

Sunny Meadows:

Cameras have been installed and recording, Brenda on board and works with the Auditor quite often, Matron has been hired, head cook left, faucets have been fixed, one resident has left with another leaving in July.

Plan Commission Appointment:

Bill Hartman would like to hold an executive session for discussion after Memorial Day.


William L. Hartman – President


James Miller – Vice President


Kellen Dooley – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor