

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

February 4, 2019

Commissioners Present: President Donald D Grogg
Vice President Jacqueline Rowan
Vice President William Hartman

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman
Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF PROPOSED HERON LAKE ROUNDABOUT

A roundabout is being proposed at the intersection of County Road 427 and County Road 11-A. The Commissioners have made this informational meeting possible so that the public's ideas and concerns can be brought up for consideration. No decisions are being made today. This is to help the Commissioners as they begin discussing a possible roundabout.

Engineer and developer Steve Brown explained how the idea of a roundabout came to be. He projected a drawing of the proposed roundabout and explained various features. Options such as signalization and other treatments were considered, but were determined not to be as desirable as a roundabout. Mr. Brown contends that a roundabout allows safer traffic flows during higher traffic events.

This proposed roundabout has a larger radius than that of Union Chapel Road on the north side of Fort Wayne. Paving could be added during construction to allow traffic to continue to flow. The development team is willing to donate the engineering services as well as the right-of-way.

When County Road 11-A was improved several years ago, it was for a particular purpose. Current traffic count by NIRCC shows 6,000 vehicles per day approach County Road 11-A traveling away from CR 427, 7,570 vehicles travel to the Northeast of the intersection, and 5,010 vehicles travel to the Southwest of the intersection.

Truck driver Roy Saucedo of County Road 56 asked what kind of counts NIRCC has for truck traffic. Dan Avery from NIRCC said on 427 the heavy truck traffic is 1.2%, while North on 427 is 3%, and on County Road 11-A it is 4.6%. Mr. Saucedo added that when that route is being used as an emergency route, traffic will be even more congested with large trucks. Also, a law was passed in 2016 that gives right-of-way to truck drivers, but how many people know this?

Mr. Brown said a roundabout clears more traffic than a signalized stop.

Concern by the County is the cost of installing and maintaining of a traffic signal. They are very expensive.

Steve Klein represented the Mayor of Auburn, and he said the Mayor is definitely for the roundabout. It makes most economic sense.

Kevin Webb was present and represented the DeKalb County Economic Development Commission. The Commission unanimously approved moving forward with a roundabout, and the members are committed to assisting with \$225,000 toward the project. Added financial assistance, if needed, would most likely be available.

Diane Wilson of Salmon Run is for the roundabout. She knows there is concern about headlights shining on the homes in that area. Ms. Wilson's daughter lives in Hamilton County which has many roundabouts. Her daughter is not aware of complaints about headlights in Hamilton County.

Nancy Colby lives on County Road 427 near where the roundabout would be located, and she, her husband, and her neighbor are for it.

Cam Moore of County Road 427 does not like the idea of the roundabout. There have been 43 accidents and one fatality at the Union Chapel roundabout. States on the east coast are taking out roundabouts, but Indiana is adding to them. Commissioner Hartman believes it is because of the aggressive drivers on the east coast and the small size of the roundabouts.

Art Hunter of CR 11-A is not in favor of it. The roundabout at Union Chapel cost \$1,396,000. Another one in Fort Wayne cost \$2,050,000. Also, trucks and cars compete for space in the roundabout and are not a good mix. Other concerns are property devaluations, drainage issues, safety for pedestrians, and headlights flashing in the house at all hours of the night. Since 2009, there have been 10 accidents at the 427/11-A intersection, one of which resulted in an injury. He believes, too, that it will make the intersection at County Road 23 and County Road 11-A more dangerous.

President Grogg mentioned that Sid & Belva Meyer cannot be here today but wanted their opinions again it be known also because of the headlights.

Roy Saucedo added that sometimes it is worth a little money to ensure safety.

President Grogg said that Sidewalks will need to be at least 8-10 feet wide because of the trailway.

Sue Shankle of Gates Cove asked if anyone has considered the roundabout that is in the middle of Angola. They have pedestrians as well as trucks and cars.

Blake Baughman of Midway Drive in Auburn drives a semi. He says the reason the roundabout works in Angola is because it is at the top of a hill, and traffic is slowing down because of that and because it is in the middle of town. Outside of town vehicles are going fast. The wear and tear on a semi tires and chassis could add up to \$500 per year for a truck driver in the area.

Theresa Bonkoski of West Ensley says the traffic is very heavy and backed up in the area. Loads shift in the truck trailers. Something needs to be done but a roundabout may not be the best thing. Where is the research? How is County Road 23 going to be affected? When does a private entity build a road and turn it over to the County? President Grogg said that this would be a county road project which would need to be a bid project. The County's contracted engineering firm would have to review the developer/engineer's plans, and the project would have to be overseen by the County.

Larry Hook of County Road 427 said if you can keep traffic flowing instead of stopping, more cars will move through the intersection. Perhaps the speed limit should be slowed down dramatically so it will move safely.

Jennifer Schaffer lives north of the intersection on County Road 427. She does not believe a roundabout is going to help the excessive traffic that comes from the auction park. She believes County Road 23 should be opened back up. The people who don't follow traffic rules now will not follow the traffic rules of the roundabout. Combines go through that area as well, and they are more than one lane wide. Have they been considered?

Art Hunter added that roundabouts can be bad for the businesses located around them because people don't want to have to get back into the confusion upon leaving the businesses. When people stop at

stop signs and traffic lights, they also tend to look around at the area businesses while stopped, and often visit those business that caught their eye.

Brittanie Patrick from Waterloo drives a school bus. It can cost a lot of money to pay for school transportation; how many more tires will need to be replaced on the area buses? When buses get into accidents, children can be late for school because an officer has to come to the accident to file a report, and the parents of each child need to be called.

Mike Walter of 17th Street asked what will go in the middle of the roundabout—asphalt, gravel, drainage collection? Steve Brown said the center of the roundabout would be dictated by the City of Auburn. Any proposed lighting would be run through DeKalb County and the City of Auburn. Mr. Walter would like to see a lighting source be used that reduces glare.

Fred Feitler of County Road 68 is concerned about the truck traffic and how that is going to be handled.

Theresa Bonkoski asked whether snow removal has been discussed.

President Grogg and Jacqueline Rowan thanked everyone for participating in the discussion.

MATTER OF MINUTES

William Hartman made a motion to approve minutes dated January 28, 2019. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve Bookkeeper and Payroll Claims for the month of January 2019, Special Claims for the week of February 4, 2019, and General Claims consisting of warrant #128197 through 128300 in the amount of \$116,941.02, and wire transfer #11150 through 11228 in the amount of \$711,961.74. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Todd McCormick (Sheriff's Dept) to travel to Plainfield March 25-28 for a STOPs Instructor certification class. Estimated cost of \$432 to be paid from the Commissioners' budget.
- 2) Kellie Knauer and Bonnie Emerson (Community Corrections) to travel to Indianapolis on February 13 for a Juvenile Grant Review Hearing. Estimated cost of \$30 to be paid from department travel.
- 3) Travel for Mick Cseri which was previously approved had to be rescheduled from January 31 to February 7 due to weather.

William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF QUOTE FOR BENEFIT ACCRUALS SOFTWARE FOR AUDITOR'S OFFICE

William Hartman made a motion for President Grogg to sign the quote for benefit accruals software in the amount of \$1,500. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF 2018 RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES AND TOTAL COMPENSATION

Auditor Jan Bauman presented the 2018 County Receipts and Expenditures and 2018 Total Compensation for County Officers, Deputies, and Employees report that was posted on Gateway, on the courthouse bulletin board, as well as at Auburn Eckhart and Waterloo-Grant Public Libraries. Jacqueline Rowan made the motion to approve. Second by William Hartman, and all approved.

MATTER OF LPA INVOICE VOUCHER FOR HIGHWAY BRIDGE INSPECTIONS

William Hartman made a motion to approve the LPA Invoice Voucher for countywide bridge inspections for cycle years 2018-2021 in the amount of \$28,532. Jacqueline Rowan seconded the motion, and all approved. This is for the 4th quarter 2018.

MATTER OF BRIDGE INSPECTION PHASE 1 FINAL REPORT – 2018

William Hartman motioned to approve the Bridge Inspection Report and for all three to sign. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CROSSINGS BID DOCUMENT

Ben Parker indicated that the Community Crossings bid document is ready for Commissioners' approval. He wanted the Commissioners to know that he still has not received the contract from INDOT for the Community Crossings project. He has received a verbal ok, however. Other communities are experiencing the same delay but are moving forward with the bid process. Contractors are getting very busy, and there is a timeline that has to be followed to stay compliant with the grant. Mr. Parker has made several attempts to get a response with INDOT to have the contract sent to him. Do the Commissioners want to proceed? Deadlines can still be met if Commissioners wait another week. President Grogg would like to wait until next Monday to approve the bid document. In the meantime, he is going to try reaching out to INDOT to see if the contract can be expedited. No action was taken.

Donald D. Grogg - President

Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

William L. Hartman – Vice President

Attest: _____

Jan Bauman, Auditor