

**DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
September 16, 2019

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

Others Present:               Acting Auditor Susan Sleeper  
  Attorney James P McCanna

**MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Dotty discussed with the Commissioner on whether or not companies like Boston Mutual and AFLAC are able to perform maintenance on current employee's policies, but not add new employees due to the moratorium. The Commissioners agree that Boston Mutual and AFLAC companies can service their current customers but not sell to obtain new customers. Dotty had forwarded the few comments regarding the PTO policy from the Department Heads to the Commissioners and discussion took place. Discussion also took place on the Compensatory Leave Policy that the Commissioners still have under review. The Commissioners will have Dotty send the Compensatory Leave Policy out to the Elected Officials/Department heads for review. Jason Meek has five interviews being held in the Human Resources office this week and all candidates are very qualified. Dotty will be interviewing with the Health Department to fill the Environmentalist position. The job study was received and presented to the Council who is frantically working through to make some changes for 2020 budget.

**MATTER OF VSO SALARY**

William Hartman made a motion to pay the new Veteran Service Officer \$41,000.00 starting salary. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

**MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTION OUT-BUILDING**

William Hartman made a motion to purchase a 14' X 40' storage building for Community Corrections and have electricity ran from the Community Corrections facility out to the building. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

**MATTER OF UPDATE ON COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Building Progress meeting next Thursday at 10:00 a.m. The furniture process is moving along and Don feels they need to put a drop dead date of 9/20/2019 on the Vendor getting their information to Tony so this process can move forward. Kellie said the hiring events are still planned to take place and asked for permission that they could take some furniture from the basement of their office to the facility for the events, the Commissioners approved. They have some great applicants for the part time maintenance position. Kellie discussed that she is in the process of getting training put together and have the trainers actually come to our county to do onsite training and will offer to other entities to offset some of the cost. The Department of Corrections emailed Kellie today to work on a training to come to us as well.

## **MATTER OF CORRISOFT MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT**

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to stop paying Corrisoft for maintenance on the Case Management system that was previously used by Community Corrections with the ability to still access historical data when needed. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

## **MATTER OF EASEMENT AT CR 61 & CR 40: AEP-DELONZA HALL** AEP-Delonza Hall- NO SHOW

Discussion took place between Mike Kline, Ben Parker and the Commissioners. Mike said AEP submitted their standard agreement and he feels there are some strong reservations the Commissioners should take due to the traffic flow in the area and the future needs. Mike wants the Commissioners to be very careful with what rights they would be signing away. The Commissioners agree to get in contact with AEP and let them know that the County cannot accept their request, and then can decide if they want Jim to draw up an agreement and submit it to AEP.

AEP-Delonza Hall arrived at 11:02 a.m.

Don Grogg informed Delonza Hall that the County will not accept their agreement and Delonza wanted to know what items should be red-lined and Delonza could have his writers re-do the agreement and resubmit. Ben questioned if the easement is even needed since no structure will be in our right of way, Mr. Hall stepped out to make a call for clarification.

(prior meeting)

*Delonza Hall and Justin Buchs came in requesting an easement and right of way at County Road 40 and County Road 61. Jim McCanna explained there are some items that AEP is wanting to do that may impede traffic control in the area. Also contained in the proposal is language that would not allow for signs or traffic lights to be added in the right of way, but at this intersection the need may arise for these items. The Commissioners would like them to come back on September 16<sup>th</sup> to speak with the Surveyor and the Highway Department.*

## **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

Ben Parker has an Eagle Scout, Ivan Hullinger working on a project at an old cemetery on CR 52 between CR 3 & CR 7 to re-do the driveways, Ben would like to donate a couple loads of the donated gravel we received and have Ivan get a load of nicer material to put on top and the Commissioners agree for Ben to donate the two truckloads.

Ben received the Maintenance Bond for Fawn Creek and it has been reviewed by Jim McCanna and passed approval. Ben has sent a follow-up email to have the small Fawn Creek signage moved and has not heard back as of now. The Commissioners agree to accept the Maintenance Bond as long as the sign is moved in a timely manner.

Ben brought forward an approval for a driveway on CR 29 with some stipulations and agreements of neighboring land owners that Eric Patton approved in 2008. Ben states there is still a site issue on the current request from Samuel Peterson. The question was raised if we could go against the decision that was made by Eric Patton. Jim McCanna said since the prior approval did not have an expiration date and was given by a former County representative that Samuel would have a case if it is denied and he chose to pursue the case. The Commissioners agree to accept the request and have a 'hidden driveway' sign posted.

Performance Bond with Diamond Lakes was released on 7/11/2016, and should have went into a Maintenance Bond. Ben met with Stuart Stier and Kirk Braun (AEP) and informed them to follow up with Building & Planning on a Maintenance bond, and that did not happen. There are multiple cracks that Ben feels can be fixed with crack fill but we need official paperwork showing ownership of the addition. Jim McCanna suggests getting a letter from Diamond Lakes stating the County has ownership since the correct process was not followed.

Impaired driver damaged guardrail on CR 39 between CR 28 and CR 32, and Ben will get a quote on the cost of repair.

Discussion took place on the Kruse Plaza road, Ben said the road has a good base, the entrance is huge, and he didn't see any water issues at this point. Ben said that the road is over and beyond what the County would require, but there are some things that should be corrected but the County could take ownership. Ben expressed his concern of the more roads we take in our ownership, the more it will cost to the County. The Commissioners will table this issue until a later date in order to have more discussion.

#### **MATTER OF FAWN CREEK MAINTENANCE BOND**

William Hartman made a motion to accept the maintenance bond for Fawn Creek in the amount of \$15,000.00. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF LICENSE TO ENCROACH ON RIGHT OF WAY**

William Hartman made a motion to accept the Fawn Creek's license to encroach on County property for their signage that was constructed. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF AUBURN-WATERLOO TRAIL**

Dick Schenkle was in with several others that are on the Trail Committee to discuss the Auburn-Waterloo trail. Dick wanted to express his appreciation for the Commissioners support on the project so far. Dick Schenkle's request today is for a fence to separate the trail from the new housing addition: Fawn Creek and for the County to pay half of the funds in the amount of \$5,750 to put in the new vinyl fence. Dick would also like the County to remove the old barbed wire fence that is currently installed. Their proposal is to put in a vinyl fencing with concreted poles. The lowest bid was \$11,500 from R&C Fence. Jeff Thomas agreed to pay 1/3 of the price upfront but Dick feels he could get him up to 1/2 of the amount of money needed. Don Grogg asked who would be responsible for the liability and maintenance of the fence, Dick feels it is on the County's property and Jim McCanna is not totally sure it is 100% the counties ownership. Discussion took place.

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to pay 1/2 of the cost of the fence in the amount of \$5,750.00 from LITED #24 but the County will NOT remove the existing fence and the Trail Committee will either maintain or find someone to assist in the maintenance of the fence. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

### **MATTER OF KAREN SPONHOWER**

Karen Sponhower was in to plead for someone to acknowledge her need to be heard from being abused, attorney fraud, and sister-in-law Jill Hoard fraud. Karen wants Don Stuckey removed from the Council and Don Grogg explained that she has a private case that the Commissioners cannot help her with. Karen continued on with her complaint. Don Grogg explained she has a civil issue that the Commissioners cannot help her with.

### **MATTER OF SEPTIC ORDINANCE PRESENTATION WITH STATE HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Alice Quinn from the Indiana State Department of Health attended the meeting to answer any type of questions that the Commissioners may have on the Septic Ordinance. Alan met individually with each of the Commissioners to find out how the meeting topics would flow for today. When he spoke with Jackie, her concern was how the infrastructure would get to the area and if the funding would be fair. Bill's concern was with the small lots of less than 2 acres and funding. Alice explained that the State is to follow the code 410 IAC 6-8.3. The State code does NOT specify a lot size that is left up to the local authority. Alice went on to explain what their rule requires and how it is to be followed. Discussion continued. Alice Quinn stated that she was very impressed with our ordinance and the design of it in relation to the size of our County.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

William Hartman made a motion to approve minutes as written dated September 5, 2019. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

William Hartman made a motion to approve Special Claims consisting of warrant #'s 129362 thru 129364 in the amount of \$4,221.09 and wire transfer #'s 12933 in the amount of \$59.48 for the week of September 11<sup>th</sup> and Special claims as written for the week of September 18<sup>th</sup>. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

William Hartman made a motion to approve travel request for the following:

- 1) Kevin Wallace to travel to French Lick Springs Resort on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> to attend the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. Estimated cost of \$477.72 to be paid for from the State Called Meeting account.
- 2) Kurt Grimm to travel to French Lick Springs on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> to attend the Annual Meeting of the Judicial Conference of Indiana. Estimated cost of \$136.00 to be paid for from the State Called Meeting account.
- 3) Dave Myers, Brad Johnson, Rikki Dold, and Scott Lung to travel to Crown Point on Sept. 19<sup>th</sup> to attend "How to lead from the front line" seminar. Estimated cost of \$163.36 to be paid for by department travel.
- 4) Cheryl Lynch and Debra Krafft to travel to Jay County on Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup> to attend the PHN meeting. Estimated cost of \$0.00 to be paid for from department travel.
- 5) David Bundy to travel to Columbus, OH on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> to attend Dark Web Investigations. Estimated cost of \$224.00 to be paid for by Commissioners travel.

- 6) Johanna Scott to travel to Indianapolis on Aug. 29<sup>th</sup> to attend AD Orientation. Estimated cost of \$148.28 to be paid for by Commissioners travel.
  - 7) Cheryl Lynch, Debra Krafft & New RN to travel to Noble County on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> to attend the PHN meeting. Estimated cost of \$0.00 to be paid for by department travel.
  - 8) Kurt Grimm to travel to Indianapolis on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> to attend the Domestic Relations Workshop. Estimated cost of \$290.08 to be paid for by Commissioners Travel.
- Seconded by Jacqueline Rowan and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF PAYROLL**

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve payroll for the period August 20 – September 2, 2019 that Don Grogg came in to approve on 9/10/19. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF COUNTY HOME REPORT FOR JULY 2019**

The Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the July 2019 County Home Report.

#### **MATTER OF COUNTY HOME REPORT FOR AUGUST 2019**

The Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the August 2019 County Home Report.

#### **MATTER OF COMMISSIONER CHANGE ORDER #1**

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to pay the \$3,388.55 invoice for the ADA compliance in the sidewalk at the Community Corrections Facility from the contingency monies remaining on the project. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

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

Other discussion included the following topics: Covered Bridge, property sales with two appraisals, election board candidate decision and CR 34 & 427 property.

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Donald D. Grogg - President

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Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

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William L. Hartman – Vice President

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Bauman, Auditor  
Susan Sleeper, Acting Auditor