

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

June 29, 2020

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

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman
 Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty Miller continues to fine tune the draft Employee Handbook by collecting others' comments.

Ms. Miller is reviewing the wage study to come up with recommendations to assist Council with setting employee wages for 2021.

Open positions were discussed.

Allen Haynes is retiring at the end of the year from Soil & Water. Sarah Delbeq and the Board is working on reorganizing that department.

Dotty Miller, along with PHP, are evaluating some of the larger costs of employee health insurance, and they have found that many of the pharmaceuticals are targeting diabetes. Employee education can be focused on things like this—how to be a better consumer, speaking to your doctor about options, generic versus brand name, etc.

The Commissioners will look at Weights & Measures positions candidates next Monday and then set up interviews for the following Monday.

A Code Enforcement Officer position is going to be created. Where should it be paid from? If it were to be paid from the LITED fund, it would have to be tied to the capital improvement plan.

Later in the meeting, Chris Gaumer was invited to talk about this Code Enforcement Officer position. There are things in the County Code that should be changed prior to adding a Code Enforcement Officer. Trash dumping is the Health Department's responsibility. Do they have the budget to fund clean-up? Trustees are responsible for tall weeds. Jim McCanna would like to adopt a new Public Environmental Nuisance Ordinance to cover things that Indiana Law doesn't govern. Mr. Gaumer said the new ordinance will need to be extremely clear because "trash" to one person is not "trash" to another. What is "trash"?

And wages are not going to be the only necessary expense involved in this position. Who will be the enforcement authority? Separate companies will need to be contracted out for such things as actual debris clean-up. There need to be office space, a computer, etc. for this person. What about code enforcement for debris dumped on a road which cannot be tied and charged back to a particular homeowner? What if environmental hazards such as meth labs are encountered? There will be a meeting between Dotty Miller, Chris Gaumer, Bill Hartman and Jim McCanna to discuss all of these issues.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of June 29, 2020. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve payroll for the period June 9-22, 2020 as presented. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 22, 2020. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CORRECTION TO JUNE 15, 2020 MINUTES

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to correct the motion to approve June 15, 2020 minutes as follows:

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve the Motorola MCC 7500E Console and Console Upgrade contract contingent upon the Council's support for funding it. William Hartman seconded, and all approved. The contract will be signed at a later date after a formal approval by Council for an additional appropriation.

William Hartman seconded. Donald Grogg abstained due to having been absent on June 15, 2020. A vote was taken, and all approved.

MATTER OF CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS' MOTOROLA RADIO CONTRACT

Ted Hurley from J&K Communications returned so the proposed contract could be discussed. Attorney Jim McCanna said part of satisfying the Commissioners is the review and legality of the contract, and the document J&K produced for approval did not include many things that need to be included in a contract. The Motorola contract covered everything. Mr. Hurley replied that they would do whatever they need to do to satisfy the Commissioners.

President Hartman said the Commissioners will not sign anything today. He is allowing additional comments because of the short time frame the Commissioners were dealing with when presented with the need for new radios.

Fire Chief Michael VanZile was present and said he is an end user, not a direct user of the radios. He reviewed both contracts and said "something seems off." It appears as though apples and oranges are being compared. He would like the Governance Board to have more time to review both radio systems and contracts.

Director Brian Humbarger apologized for letting his emotions get the better of him last week. No matter which way the project goes, he and his staff will be professional and will work with J&K Communications. He continued by telling the Commissioners that Motorola has come back to say they would pick up the monthly connectivity fee to the State for 15 years at \$1,000 per month. The Commissioners said that is a moot point because Motorola's prior offer was their offer.

I.T. Director Jack Smith said there are a couple of subtle differences that he can see between the systems. Motorola has an advantage regarding redundancy. First, if something were to happen to Central, they could pick up and move to Steuben County (now) and Noble County (as soon as they have completed the switchover to Motorola). This would work conversely as well. With the J&K system, if the building goes down, the building goes down and there is no recourse. Second, there is an integration of Motorola and the Spillman system. If there is an issue with one of them, it will probably be more easily addressed with Motorola. J&K could work on its own, but you need to keep in mind the integration.

The question was also asked whether this be submitted as a COVID expense? It may be able to as infrastructure. All agreed it would be worth trying to claim and see what happens.

President Hartman has talked to the Whitley County Commissioner who said they have had J&K for 30 years and are happy with it. And Grant County told him the setup has gone very well with J&K.

Mr. Hurley said there are not a lot of J&K counties around here. They are not married to one vendor but do work with Spillman.

Mr. Hurley will create a contract document that encompasses more points that the Commissioners feel should be in a contract. No action was taken by the Commissioners.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Revised from June 22 meeting: Roger Powers (Sheriff) to travel to French Lick August 4-7 for the Indiana Sheriff's Association Annual Conference. Estimated cost of \$575 to be paid from Commissioners' travel. (meals totaling \$128 added)
- 2) Sheriff Cserep and Matron Cserep (Sheriff) to travel to French Lick August 4-7 for the Indiana Sheriff's Association Annual Conference. Estimated cost of \$629 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Seconded by Jacqueline Rowan, and all approved.

MATTER OF REQUEST TO USE COURTHOUSE ROTUNDA FOR RETIREMENT PARTY

Jeff Turned from the DeKalb County Bar Association asked the Commissioners for permission to use the Courthouse Rotunda for Judge Wallace's retirement party on Saturday, November 21st. They thought it would be a fitting venue. It would be a catered event, and no alcoholic beverages would be served since it is not allowed here. Years ago Harold Stump's retirement party was held at the courthouse.

Arrangements would need to make arrangements with security and maintenance. Donald Grogg made a motion to grant the bar association permission to use the courthouse for Judge Wallace's retirement party if they so choose, with no alcohol served, and to work out the needs with A-1 Janitorial for setting up, etc. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF NEW SHREDDER FOR COURTHOUSE

Auditor Bauman had obtained two quotes for a commercial shredder to replace the current one. Donald Grogg made a motion to purchase the MBM 4005 cross cut shredder with a P5 shred security level from Mid-City Office Systems at the low cost quote of \$4,985.50 which includes installation of the new shredder and removal of the old shredder. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACT WITH SCHOOLS

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the three contracts with DeKalb Central, DeKalb Eastern, and Garrett-Keyser-Butler schools for the SRO contracts, contingent upon legal review and approval, and for the President to sign. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF WEAPONS FOR CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS' EMPLOYEES

Brian Humbarger emphasized that not everyone at Central Communications carries a gun. The employee would have to go through a certification procedure.

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to allow two people in the dispatch room per shift to carry firearms at Central Communications as long as they meet all of the qualifications by the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and as long as they are on the Director's approved list. Director Brian Humbarger and Assistant Director Tiffany Weimer may carry at any time and are in addition to the two in the dispatch room allowed to carry. And, this does not give permission to carry firearms in any other County building. William Hartman seconded. A vote was taken. With two ayes and one nay, motion passed.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Bids were due by 10:00 today for the County Road 40 resurfacing project between County Road 55 and State Road 1 near SDI.

API Construction Corp:	\$493,293.00
Brooks Construction:	\$467,389.00
E&B Paving:	\$533,899.58

Donald Grogg made a motion to have the Highway Superintendent take these under review until July 13, 2020, to make sure they meet all of the proper specifications and to come back with his recommendation. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

The County Road 60 project is now supposed to start on July 1st and then after that, the County Road 40 resurfacing project will begin (between County Road 36A and County Road 5). Microsurfacing of County Road 11A should also begin this week.

Other Highway topics touched on are the Bear Creek construction easement; seeking law enforcement's assistance is the next step to control speed in Bear Creek; dust control spraying costing approximately \$230,000; request by homeowner to chip and seal County Road 17 between US 6 and US 20;

Donald Grogg made a motion to contract with Asphalt Care Inc. to crack fill, seal coat and re-stripe the 220 East 7th Street parking lot for \$5,285, and to restripe the main concrete lot between Cedar and Union on 7th Street for \$595, and to pay for it out of LITED #48. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF LETTER OF INTENT TO SELL 208 EAST 8th STREET TO CITY OF AUBURN

Donald Grogg made a motion for all three to sign the Letter of Intent to sell the property at 208 East 7th Street. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF WEIGHTS & MEASURES LOST TITLE FOR TRAILER

Donald Grogg made a motion to complete the paperwork to get a duplicate title for the Weights and Measure's 1000320779 2000 Moody Prover trailer and to authorize President Hartman to sign the odometer disclosure statement. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: Council-Commissioners' discussion topics for July 6 Council meeting; farm cash rental agreement to be renewed November 2020 with notice given to current lessee 3 months prior; declining offer from Stop and Shred; public records request that Jim is reviewing; construction easement for Bear Creek; (not) advertising on County's Beacon site for added revenue; and 2021 budget.

William L. Hartman – President

Donald D. Grogg – Vice President

Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor