

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

February 1, 2021

The following Council Members were present:

President Richard Ring
Vice President William VanWye
Member Eldonna King – ATTENDED ELECTRONICALLY
Member Robert E. Krafft – ATTENDED ELECTRONICALLY
Member David Yarde
Member Amy Demske – ATTENDED ELECTRONICALLY
Member Amy Prosser

Others present:

Auditor Jan Bauman
First Deputy Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Donald J Stuckey

Donna King opened the meeting with prayer at 8:33 a.m.

MATTER OF MINUTES

David Yarde made a motion to approve minutes dated January 4, 2021. Amy Prosser seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

William VanWye made a motion to approve the Recorder's \$5,807 additional appropriation request to First Deputy (11202) within the County General Fund (1001). Second by Amy Prosser, and all approved.

Chris Gaumer said that he could not encumber the remaining appropriation from 2020 because he did not have an invoice yet. The program is working well. David Yarde made a motion to approve Development Service's \$6,015.72 additional appropriation request to Software Maintenance (34140) within the County General Fund (1001). Second by William VanWye, and all approved.

Eldonna King made a motion to approve the Veterans Service Office's \$10,000 additional appropriation request to Part Time (10750) within the County General Fund (1001). Second by William VanWye, and all approved.

William VanWye made a motion to approve the Health Department's \$5,500 additional appropriation request to Stipends (11995) within the County General Fund (1001). Second by Eldonna King, and all approved. Councilman VanWye stated that this might need to be addressed again in 2021 due to the ongoing hours worked due to the continuing COVID-19 situation.

This is the "Drug Free" grant received annually. Eldonna King made a motion to approve Community Correction's \$3,200 additional appropriation request to Testing Services (33900) within the Community Corrections Donation Fund (4113). Second by David Yarde, and all approved.

William VanWye made a motion to approve the Auditor's \$110,000 additional appropriation request to Purchase of Vehicles (44610) within the Transit-COVID (CARES ACT) Fund (8905). Second by David Yarde, and all approved.

The clinic is running four days per week. Cheryl Lynch has been asked to increase doses from 600 to 1,000. William VanWye made a motion to approve the Health Department's \$40,320 additional appropriation request to: Part Time (10750), \$14,000; Overtime (11050), \$7,820; Operating Supplies (22130), \$8,000; Other Service Fees (32780), \$2,500; Lease (34080), \$6,000; and Equipment (44430), \$2,000. Second by David Yarde, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRANSFERS

Amy Prosser made a motion to approve Weights & Measures' request to transfer \$400 from Printing Services (33310) to Operating Supplies (22130) within County General Fund (1001). William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORT BY FUND

The Council certified that they have received and reviewed the January 2021 Financial Report by Fund.

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY AIRPORT UPDATE

Randy Fox distributed a brief of new and old business for the Airport.

DeKalb County Councilwoman Amy Prosser attended the January meeting.

The Airport Board elected officers at the January board meeting: Myers – President; Korchyk – Vice President; Starkey – Secretary; Couchman – Treasurer.

The box structure at the ditch along County Road 31 is set and the pilings are complete on the small bridge for the County Road 62 project. Concrete approaches for the bridge will be poured soon. They are still working on removing all the waste wood. They will soon stop work for the rest of the winter season and plan to pick up in the spring.

The Board directed Attorney Tribbett to make an offer on the last home required for the runway extension project.

Quotes were received and a contractor chosen on the razing of the home on the corner of County Road 60 and County Road 31. The demolition will begin in the coming weeks.

Work has begun on the old Hoosier Air Museum to make it an acceptable airport equipment maintenance facility to include adding an overhead door to the east end and additional pavement. The Board will consider additional vehicle parking options at the east-end t-hangars at the January meeting.

Twelve parking spaces will be added at the east-end hangars in the spring. Quotes for this work along with the additional asphalt at the new maintenance building are being sought.

Concrete repairs were pushed to spring of 2021 due to weather/temperature concerns. The Airport will be performing significant repairs to the concrete on the main ramp and joint sealing on the east ramp.

MATTER OF ACKNOWLEDGING RECEIPT OF REPORTS

David Yarde made a motion that Council has received the July-December 2020 Sheriff's Commissary Report and the 2020 Public Defender Reports. Amy Prosser seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF STATE OF THE JAIL REPORT

Sheriff Cserep presented his annual State of the Jail Report. A few items will be noted here. There are a total of 9 cell blocks in the facility and 105 beds. It is the 7th oldest jail in the State of Indiana. There are 2 cells with negative air flow. Overcrowding was compared between 2019 and 2020. 2020 estimated expenditures for inmate housing were decreased due to COVID-19 pandemic. There is one officer per 33 inmates. The safe working average is one officer per 16 inmates per Jail Staffing Analysis (5-18).

Identified problems in addition to those identified last year are: 27 jail food tray hatches inoperable, exterior windows condensation issues, and replacement of building heating motors and pumps cost \$8,594, back-up to be determined. All of these problems as well as problems that were fixed in prior years are potential liabilities to the County. The jail food tray hatches could be fixed but will cost a lot of time and money. Cracking issues continue as had been described last year.

The cost to run and maintain the jail in 2020 was \$297,994.54. It was lower than expected due to COVID-19. The projected cost to run and maintain the jail for 2021 is \$414,308. The walk-in cooler is expected to cost over \$25,000 because it can no longer be repaired. The elevator is going to cost \$103,000 to fix the controls.

Sheriff operations encompass a wide range of services and facilities: restaurants, health care, office management, courthouse security, motor pool, detention facility, public buildings, law enforcement, civil process, prisoner transport, Sheriff Sale, and school resource officers.

The significant majority of charges in 2020 were related to alcohol, followed by drug offenses and failure to appear. Two lifesaving awards were given in 2020. 91,134 meals were served in 2020. There were 23,025 miles of prisoner transports throughout the Midwest. Regarding courthouse security in 2020, there were 87,846 personnel scanned, 76 alarms, 4 disorderly conduct, 3 EMS assists, 26 weapons incidents, among others. Sheriff Cserep said he wondered what was being brought into the courthouse prior to having a deterrent. Finally, for recruiting and retention, 0 applications were received, 2 applications were approved for ILEA. There are currently 3 openings in the department.

MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS-COUNCIL DISCUSSION

208 East 7th Street lot: Closing on this property is scheduled for 4:00 this afternoon. An amended agreement will be signed by the Commissioners in their afternoon meeting which addresses the engineering concerns brought up by consultant Jeremy Bowers. The property is being sold for \$75,000. Councilman VanWye said he is concerned about how closely the new building will be next to the County's building at 220 East 7th. The Commissioners are satisfied that problems are being sufficiently addressed.

Annex Building: The old Red Room's renovations in the Annex Building are nearing completion. It still needs carpet. There are plans to use the room for offices. Also, quotes are being sought for replacing windows in the Annex Building because they are in such poor condition.

Highway-appraisals: Appraisals have been received for the Henderson property on County Road 6 in Waterloo that the County is looking to purchase, as well as the current Highway Department location that the County will eventually sell once it is relocated.

The County Road 6 property has 19 acres and an 11,000 square foot building. There is a finished 2,200 square foot office space and room for cold storage. Zacher provided one appraisal at \$1,046,000. Good

Valuation's appraisal came in at \$1,100,000. The average of the two is \$1,073,000. The Commissioners anticipate \$2,000,000-\$2,100,000 as a projected total cost for the relocation of the Highway Department.

The current Highway Department property on Ensley Avenue has had one appraisal done, and it was for \$310,000. A second appraisal is being done.

Commissioner Sanderson said he believes this project could be done in 2020. He believes the project can be done out-of-pocket if the Council agrees to appropriate the proceeds of properties being sold this year.

Councilman Krafft said Ben Parker believes there is enough room to store stone and other supplies for many years to come.

Employee Handbook: The new Employee Handbook is finally complete and has been distributed to employees.

Covered bridge: The repairs to the covered bridge are underway. It was discovered that the east foundation and wing walls were beginning to rot. The Commissioners decided that it would be most cost effective to repair them now while the bridge is jacked up. A new railing will also be installed. R.G. Zachrich is doing the work for a net cost of \$36,000. USI approved the plans for wall repairs.

New jail: The Commissioners have chosen Elevatus to be the architect for the new jail. A contract will be signed this afternoon. Also, the Commissioners are looking to hire a construction manager who will look over the Elevatus contract as well. A fee for construction management services is being negotiated. President Ring said that he would like to see a timeline developed between now and when the jail will be built and occupied. He will be contacting financial consultant Jeff Peters and asking him to come to the County to talk to Council about financing options. The earliest a referendum can be done is May of 2022. Commissioner Hartman said a special election could be done this November which is what they want to see happen. Commissioner Hartman says a timeline can't be done. The Commissioners would sell the referendum on it being tax neutral. Commissioner Hartman would like to see the County take advantage of the low interest rate. He would like to roll the Community Corrections and jail bonds into one for a total of \$30 million. President Ring said trying to do an election this year is going to cause a tremendous amount of work for the Clerk's Office as well as require an additional appropriation. Councilman VanWye remembers that former Sheriff Lauer had said a new jail would cost an additional \$600,000 in annual costs for operations. Commissioner Hartman said there will be additional costs, but it may not be \$600,000 due to efficiencies in staffing and maintenance. Councilman Krafft also expressed concern about rushing the referendum so we don't lose it. If it fails, we will have to wait a couple of years before trying again. If this is not explained well to the public, they will probably not vote for it. Finally, Commissioner Hartman said the jail study from 2016 will be updated to give guidance on the number of beds needed. The jail will be built so that it can be expanded rather than overbuilding it now.

Permission to sell County Road 36A property: The County has approximately 11.7 acres that is located on County Road 36A which an adjoining landowner would like to purchase. It is a triangular piece that is mostly timber. The County has no use for it. It is north of the composting area. Appraisals were obtained from Good Valuation (\$60,000) and PFKruse Appraisal Group (\$63,000). Commissioner Hartman would like to see the proceeds to be used toward the relocation of the Highway Department. A public hearing will have to be held to open the sale up to the public. The Council gave its verbal consent that the Commissioners can move forward with the sale of this property. A resolution and joint public hearing will be done if possible on March 1st. This property is 11.7 acres out of 119.54 acres (Tax ID #09-05-24-400-001) located on County Road 36A.

Permission to sell County Road 61: The County Road 61 property that the Commissioners would like to sell is all on the west side of County Road 61. It is a wetland replacement property, and the owners who had sold this property to the County several years ago are willing to buy it back and keep it as a wetland. It is of no use to the County. The Commissioners would like to sell it and use the proceeds to help fund the Highway Department's relocation if Council is agreeable.

MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO ALCOHOL TOBACCO COMMISSION

Robert Krafft made a motion to appoint Tyler McKown to the DeKalb County Alcohol Tobacco Commission for 2021. Second by William VanWye, and all approved.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2021-OCC-2, STIPENDS FOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT NURSES

This ordinance is to give a stipend to the Health Department nurses for the additional hours worked in 2020 as a result of being overwhelmed by additional duties brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic per the December 7, 2020, Council meeting discussion. Cheryl Lynch will receive \$4,000, and Debra Krafft and Carma Johnson will each receive \$750.

William VanWye made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-OCC-2 to give stipends for Health Department Nurses on the FIRST reading. David Yarde seconded, and all approved.

Robert Krafft made a motion to suspend the rules to pass Ordinance 2021-OCC-2 and read by title only on the 2nd and 3rd Readings. William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

David Yarde made a motion to approve the Ordinance 2021-OCC-2 on the SECOND and THIRD Readings. William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF SALARY & HOURLY WAGE AMENDMENT ORDINANCE 2021-OCC-3

This is for the part time person who will be paid through the COVID-19 vaccine grant (CARES money) and for a raise for a Case Manager at Community Corrections.

Susan Sleeper said that the current wage for this position is what was submitted to the Auditor's Office at budget time. According to the work study, this position is in PAT A, and the increase would fall within the range for PAT A. Increases went by category, not an across-the-board raise of 1.5%.

Eldonna King made a motion to approve the 2021 Salary and Hourly Wage Amendment Ordinance 2021-OCC-3 on the FIRST Reading. William VanWye seconded.

David Yarde made a motion to suspend the rules to pass the 2021 Salary and Hourly Wage Amendment Ordinance 2021-OCC-3 and read by title only on the 2nd and 3rd Readings. William VanWye seconded, and all approved.

Eldonna King made a motion to approve the 2021 Salary and Hourly Wage Amendment Ordinance 2021-OCC-3 on the SECOND and THIRD Readings. David Yarde seconded, and all approved.

This ordinance will be effective February 1, 2021 and not be retroactive.

MATTER OF 2020 RECEIPTS & EXPENDITURES AND TOTAL COMPENSATION

Auditor Jan Bauman presented the 2020 County Receipts and Expenditures and 2020 Total Compensation for County Officers, Deputies, and Employees report that was posted on Gateway, on the courthouse bulletin board, as well as at Eckhart Public Library and Waterloo-Grant Public Library. Amy Demske made the motion to approve. Second by Amy Prosser, and all approved.

MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Amy Prosser made a motion to adjourn at 11:06 a.m. Second by Amy Demske, and all approved.

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:

Richard Ring, President

William VanWye, Vice President

Eldonna King

Robert E. Krafft

David Yarde

Amy Demske

Amy Prosser

ATTEST:

Jan Bauman
DeKalb County Auditor