

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 22, 2021

Commissioners Present: President William L. Hartman
Vice President Michael Watson
Vice President Todd Sanderson

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman
Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

In 2020, the Feds mandated certain employers to provide paid leave due to COVID-related issues that expired December 31, 2020. Employers could voluntarily extend this program into 2021 but the County Commissioners opted not to. (Private sector employers received tax breaks for providing this program – We did not.) Comes now a continuation of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act - FFCRA (sort of) called American Rescue Plan Act – ARPA. It was signed into law March 11 but doesn't require FFCRA paid and emergency family leave but does extend and expand the FFCRA tax credits (which we don't get anyway) if the employer provides the paid leave due to COVID-19. Previously, employers could voluntarily continue FFCRA benefits until March 31, 2021. With ARPA, these can continue until September 30, 2021. The Commissioners opt not to extend paid leave due to COVID-related issues.

Other HR topics discussed: employee health insurance renewal; unemployment claims; and open positions.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period February 28-March 13, 2021. Second by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

MATTER OF NEW TRUCK FOR SURVEYOR'S OFFICE

The Surveyor had been given approval for \$40,000 from Council in their 2021 budget for a new truck. Nathan Frye obtained three quotes for new trucks ranging from \$34,210 to \$40,827. They prefer the 2022 F250. Mr. Frye explained that his department had originally planned to trade in their 2009 Dodge Ram truck but would like to discuss the possibility of keeping the third vehicle to give them more flexibility for field work needs. Because of the age and condition of the truck, the Commissioners believe the vehicle should not be kept. Todd Sanderson made a motion to purchase from Bill Yoder Ford the 2022 F250 Crew Cab for a net trade amount of \$28,210, and to allow Mr. Yoder to keep the rack and not strip it out. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Commissioners' minutes dated March 15, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and for the President to sign the lease agreement with Mike and Sara Ley LLC for the Change Academy for a period beginning July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2023, with the change in item #13 from \$1,000,000,000 to \$1,000,000. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve and for the President to sign the IDACS Terminal Agency User Agreement. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

Judge Squiller has a different philosophy on how Community Corrections can be utilized. The DeKalb County judges believe that no executed jail sentences can be placed in Community Corrections. This has a ripple effect that Community Corrections is having difficulty adjusting to. Kellie Knauer said that there is a bill, HB 1068, that proposes a local justice reinvestment council be established in each county as well as require the Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council at the state level to conduct a review of the local Community Corrections code provisions.

The showers still need to be addressed. Should fiberglass be retained or should steel showers be installed? Ms. Knauer explained that when Community Corrections has offenders who can't be removed from the program due to violations and must stay for the 2-3 weeks awaiting a hearing, there could be damage done to property at the facility. President Hartman said it would cost \$40,000 to convert the showers to steel. No decision was made.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #131746 through 131750 in the amount of \$5,421.78, and wire transfer #17407 through 17505 in the amount of \$804,734.16 as presented. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the following travel request:

- 1) Mark Olivero, Kevin Likes, Marcia Linsky, Joe Carlin, Stephanie Hamilton, Cory Swagger, John Watkins, Ben Nordmann, and Randy Coffey (Public Defender) to attend the virtual only Annual Update on June 18. Cost of \$225 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF LETTER TO CSB TO REMOVE SIGNATORY FROM CHECKING ACCOUNT

Todd Sanderson made a motion for all three to sign the letter to Community State Bank removing Chris Gaumer as a signatory from Development Services' checking account. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. There will be only one signatory on the account until a new Director has been hired.

MATTER OF APPOINTMENT TO EMS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Todd Sanderson made a motion to appoint Sheriff David Cserep as the public member to the EMS Oversight Committee. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to appoint Michael Watson as the Commissioner member to the EMS Oversight Committee. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF FORMS FOR NEW INSURANCE POLICY

Michael Watson made the motion to have the President sign all of the necessary forms for the new Liberty Mutual policy. Second by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Todd Sanderson made a motion to pay the additional \$1,648.22 to remove and replace a king post and associated structural timber by R.G. Zachrich. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Several lights are out on County Road 11-A which are the County's responsibility. Mr. Parker brought a quote from Shambaugh to repair the lights for \$11,800 (materials, labor & equipment). Kendall Electric could get a quote for replacement bulbs, but they wouldn't have a way to install them. Todd Sanderson made a motion to change the CR 11A lights to LED and to accept the Shambaugh quote for \$11,800 for materials, labor and equipment to change the lights. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

The consensus of truck builders is that the prices are going up. If Mr. Parker can order the trucks now, there is a good chance that the quotes he had obtained last year could be honored. The quote Mr. Parker had obtained for 2 tandem dump trucks was \$458,020. This includes \$240,820 from Stoops freightliner (chassis x 2) and \$217,200 from Kalida (truck body and equipment x 2). Todd Sanderson made a motion to order the two trucks as quoted. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Mr. Parker reached out to Foresight Consulting regarding development plans for the new Highway Department site. Foresight had drafted development plans for Brett Henderson for that site, so they are familiar with it. Working with Foresight Consulting for the Highway Department site plans can save the County some of the cost because of their familiarity with the property.

Heron Lake is filing bankruptcy. The road in the Heron Lake Development is not finished. The applicant for the Irrevocable Letter of Credit was Wayne Asphalt. It expires May 20, 2021. Attorney McCanna will reach out to Wayne Asphalt. He will also put First Merchants Bank Fort Wayne on notice.

Ben Beer from USI was present to talk about Bridge 56 on Morningstar Road that the City of Auburn would like to have replaced with a walkway added. USI is recommending that the bridge be completely reconstructed. They believe the best approach to planning is to do Bridge 56 the same way as Bridge #9, which was to utilize two phases. The first phase would be to have do a preliminary evaluation of the project in order to determine a much more precise fee and better estimate of construction costs. The second phase would be the actual design, permitting, etc. An authorization to proceed would need to be approved first. Replacing the bridge now is a little premature based on the condition of the bridge. The bridge could last another 5-7 years. Mr. Beer recommends a cost share with the City of Auburn throughout the entire project. The Commissioners are still waiting for a response from the City of Auburn regarding a prior question they had about the Morningstar bridge. No action was taken.

MATTER OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES & VISITORS ONLY SIGNS FOR 220 EAST 7TH ST.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to install "County Employees & Visitors Only" signs at the 220 East 7th Street parking lot. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: Rescue Plan Act; office hours being shifted for Surveyor's Office to match their building hours at 220 East 7th Street of 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.; septic line at the 220 East 7th Street building; next Jail Committee meeting will be on March 29th; excavation is commencing at 208 East 7th Street; irrevocable letter of credit of contractor installing street at Heron Lake which has declared bankruptcy; proposed resolution approving transfer of Highway Department property to the City of Auburn; moving vaccine clinic to East 7th Street.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman