

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING
May 17, 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

The recommendations for quarantining due to COVID-19 has changed since last year. Dotty Miller explained the changes.

The schools opted to renew the Change Academy agreement for one year as opposed to three years. This is concerning to Kellie Knauer who has a director's position open for the Academy. Ms. Knauer will be meeting with DeKalb Central's Superintendent Steven Teders to discuss this.

The work study was done prior to the opening of the Community Corrections facility. Director Kellie Knauer is going to want to have WIS review many of the job descriptions for her department. This will be quite costly. Council may not want to add money to Ms. Miller's appropriation in 2021 for additional reviews by WIS.

Other HR topics discussed: IPEP closed and open claims.

MATTER OF UPDATED EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE QUOTE

Rex Whitten and Mike Shuherk from Insurance Trustees shared an updated employee health insurance quote from what was presented last week. There was discussion about wellness incentives for employees and whether the cost will increase significantly the second year after the insurance company has obtained our business. Auditor Bauman explained that if this proposal is accepted, it will require every employee's health insurance deduction to be touched in the payroll system because we would be changing insurance carriers altogether. When carriers remain the same, the changes in the payroll system are much more limited in scope and not as time consuming. It would be most helpful for the Commissioners to make their decision by next week's meeting. No action was taken.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period April 25-May 8, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from May 10, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the following travel requests as presented:

- 1) ClaraMary Winebrenner (Prosecutor) to attend the virtual Anti-Racist Prosecutor I & II seminar. Estimated cost of \$170 to be paid from department travel.
- 2) Mike Watson (Commissioner) to attend the Mayors and Commissioners Caucus on May 19th in Fort Wayne. Estimated cost of \$19.80 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 3) Mike Watson (Commissioner) to attend the IACC District Meeting in Huntington on June 8th. Estimated cost of \$48.40 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF HISTORIC COVERED BRIDGE

Mary Diehl was present and requested more information about the guardrails that the Commissioners would like the Friends of the Bridge to help pay for. President Hartman explained that they plan to use 4x10 white oak rails with 6 x 6 treated posts. The speed limit will be lowered from 25 mph to 15 mph, which is well within the guardrail specifications. President Hartman will do the staining and round the corners himself with a router. Would the Friends of the Bridge be willing to help pay for the guardrails and posts at the worst cost estimate of \$3,500? The Commissioners will pay for it if they do not wish to share the cost. She does not believe this will be objectionable.

Ms. Diehl brought up a separate concern about what kind of maintenance might be involved with the waterproof membranes used on the approaches. She also brought up how there has been history of the drainage nearby that gets plugged, and how the backed-up water could cause an issue for the approaches. The Commissioners will look into that. She gave contact information for Arnold Graton who is a leading expert on repair of covered bridges who may be of assistance.

MATTER OF HISTORIC RAILROAD BRIDGE

President Hartman met with Mayor Ley last week about the historic railroad bridge. The City of Auburn has agreed to purchase the entire bridge (4 sections) for \$50,000 if the Commissioners approve. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the sale of the historic railroad bridge to the City of Auburn for \$50,000. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PUBLIC LISTENING TO MEETINGS VIA CONFERENCE CALL

President Hartman would like for the public to be able to hear the meetings well if they call in via conference call. Last week Auditor Bauman touched base with I.S. Director Jack Smith. There is a way to enhance the audio, but Mr. Smith will need to order an accessory for the equipment. President Hartman asked if there is a way for the Commissioners to mute callers so there is no concern about disruptions. Ms. Bauman will ask this of Mr. Smith as well.

MATTER OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES MEMBERSHIP

Auditor Bauman asked the Commissioners if they would consider becoming members of the National Association of Counties. The former Commissioners did not become members because it was not apparent what NACo did for DeKalb County. However, this year NACo has been in the forefront of advocating for counties on the federal level to receive a portion of the American Rescue Act federal aid. NACo is also providing a substantial amount of information to the counties about the American Rescue Act. It has already provided a webinar. In addition to this, NACo provides training on other topics, but those trainings require membership in order to participate. The membership dues for 2021 would be

\$844. The Commissioners agreed that NACo is serving us well. Michael Watson made a motion to become members of NACo. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF VACCINE CLINIC FOR INOCULATING CHILDREN

Chief Probation Officer Michael Lapham brought up a concern he has about the Health Department using the former Red Room to inoculate children. Probation has clients who will be coming and going as well as using the restroom in the basement for drug screens. He is concerned about the intermingling of age groups and keeping everyone healthy. The Commissioners thought it would be best to meet with the Health Department and Michael Lapham to discuss this more in depth. When called, Cheryl Lynch indicated that she could come to meet with everyone today at 2:30 p.m.

At 2:30, Cheryl Lynch reported that the COVID Vaccine Clinic would not need to begin immediately for children, but that she wants to be ready if and when they do need to run a clinic. The State has given the Health Department the Pfizer vaccine. It has a shelf life of about 2 weeks. Once opened, it must be used within 6 hours. Each vial has 5 doses.

The local pharmacies are not vaccinating at capacity, and the Health Department is overloaded right now. She doesn't know if and when the clinics will need to be done for children. The volunteers are finished, so she is not sure how much help she will have if they do need to conduct another clinic. She would like to set up the clinic equipment in the former Red Room so it is ready to go if needed. The equipment will not fit in the Health Department. For a clinic for children, the most they will be able to vaccinate is 10 children per day. This is because parents usually have a lot of questions about vaccines, children often need to be held so they sit still during the vaccination, and, children take much more observation for side effects after a vaccine has been administered. A drive-through clinic would not work well with children.

Ms. Lynch said everyone has to mask up for the COVID clinics. They thought when it was time for them to run a clinic, the best way to proceed would be to reserve both rooms in the Annex Building basement. One would be for registration, and the other would be for giving the vaccinations.

Mr. Lapham said that he could start working on a better traffic plan in the event of a clinic taking place. He would also make sure measures could be taken for keeping hand sanitizer available, etc.

The Commissioners gave Ms. Lynch the permission to set the clinic equipment up in the former Red Room so it is ready to go if needed.

MATTER OF ZONE MAP AMENDMENT

Chris Gaumer brought a zone map amendment request for the Mary E. Sutton Estate at 7299 Old State Road 3, Hometown. This would change zoning from Neighborhood Commercial (C2) to Conservation Agricultural (A1). The area to be rezoned is 300 feet of road frontage located on the east side of Old State Road 3 and north of County Road 72. The property will be used as a single family residence. Michael Watson made a motion to approve Resolution No. 2021-R-13, UDO #70, Zone Map Amendment located on 7299 Old State Road 3, Hometown, Indiana. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF DISCUSSION ON SOLAR

The Commissioners want to be thinking about all of the issues surrounding solar so an ordinance can be created for DeKalb County. While Chris Gaumer was still here the Commissioners asked him what he would suggest. Mr. Gaumer explained that as it is now, without an ordinance, if someone wanted to add a solar field, the property would have to be rezoned through the Plan Commission. The rezoning would

require approval by the Commissioners. Then a development plan would need to be approved through the Plan Commission.

Colben Steury of 4594 State Road 1, Butler, had been invited to speak about the group he represents in the butler area and the types of things they think would be important to address in an ordinance. A couple of these recommendations were discussed. Also, something he learned when doing research is that the company wanting to put solar on properties does not explain the ramifications well to surrounding property owners. Instead, they do a town hall meeting after everything has been approved.

Mr. Steury said that Shelby County's ordinance on solar farms was a good reference for his group. President Hartman said he doesn't think the County can make it impossible for solar farms to exist in the County. Attorney McCanna has done research on solar farms and distributed a copy of Posie County's solar farm ordinance for the Commissioners and Chris Gaumer to review. Determining what would be involved in the decommissioning of solar fields is a very important aspect of solar farms that must be worked out before an ordinance is put into place. President Hartman believes the County needs to remain neutral but to protect the citizens at the same time.

Mr. Gaumer would like to have candid discussions with each of the Commissioners individually. He would like to include Anton King and a couple Plan Commission members. Also, the more ordinances and information we can look through, the better ordinance we can come up with for our county. In the meantime, the Commissioners think it would be wise to not allow commercial solar farms to do anything until the County has created its guidelines. Michael Watson made a motion to have a moratorium on commercial solar projects for 60 days with the option to renew. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve Supplemental Agreement No. 1 with Butler, Fairman and Seufert to have soil borings done for \$3,750. This increases Project No. 615800.9807 engineering services for the Bridge 46 Replacement from \$62,000 to \$65,750. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Other discussion topics: covered bridge repairs; historic railroad bridge no longer having "historic" designation.

MATTER OF COUNTY HOME REPORTS

Michael Watson made a motion to accept the County Home Reports for March and April 2021. Second by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDRESS CHANGE FOR TITLE IV-D OFFICE

Jeffrey Fox from the Post Office was asked by the Title IV-D Office to explain to the Commissioners the problem that came about when they moved back into the courthouse and were trying to change their mailing address with vendors. Mr. Fox said that 100 South Main Street First Floor is not a recognized address. This causes problems with mail coming from outside of Auburn. The Auburn Post Office has no problems routing the mail properly, but mail coming from other states, internationally, or even through Amazon has problems reaching Title IV-D because of the lack of a suite or room number. Mr. Fox asked the Commissioners if they would like to give Title IV-D a suite number. Todd Sanderson made a motion make the Title IV-D Office Suite 101. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Mr. Fox suggested that if the County brings in other departments in the future, to give them a call at the post office so a suite

number can be assigned before the move so changes of address can be given out with a suite number allowing mail to flow smoothly.

MATTER OF INSTALLATION OF ROOF PROTECTION ON 220 EAST 7TH ST BUILDING

Michael Kinder and Sons performed an existing condition survey for the roof of the 200 East 7th Street Building prior to performing certain necessary work on the new Credent Building being constructed. Todd Sanderson made a motion that the President sign the approval for MKS to begin installation of roof protection on the 220 East 7th Street building in order to perform needed work on the new Credent Building. Second by Michael Watson, and all approved.

MATTER OF CREDIT CARD TO PURCHASE APP FROM APPLE STORE

Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow Jack Smith to use the County credit card to purchase the CrestonGo app from the Apple store for a onetime charge of \$99.95. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This will be used at Central Communications in their EOC room.

MATTER OF JAIL COMMITTEE

The Commissioners want to move forward with having jail plans prepared to 95% using the prototype approach so plans are basically ready to go when the Commissioners are ready to proceed. Tony Vie presented the contract for architectural services that has been modified from the original proposed contract. Michael Watson made the motion for the President to sign the AIA Document B101-2017, Standard Form of Agreement as modified between the DeKalb County Commissioners and Elevatus, for Jail architectural services for an amount not to exceed \$465,000. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. Elevatus will proceed with getting soil borings done at the new jail site. For the remainder of the meeting, the Commissioners and Sheriff went over the jail prototype and made some tweaks to the plans. Jail Committee meetings will be scheduled on an as needed basis going forward.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: public being able to call in to meetings and hear everything; establishing a new donation fund for an outdoor shooting range for the Sheriff.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor