

**DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**  
May 10, 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 Plan Commission will be re-hiring Chris Gaumer for the Zoning Administrator position. The search committee members were not told that he wanted to be considered until all of the interviews with other candidates were complete to preserve the integrity of the process.

The Clerk is asking WIS to reclassify all of her positions.

Dotty Miller is reminding any employee who will be running for political office of the political activity section of the employee handbook so they are aware of the County's guidelines.

Other HR topics discussed: open and filled positions and the Hoosiers by the Numbers report by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

**MATTER OF MINUTES**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from April 26, 2021 and May 3, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

**MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of May 10, 2021, as presented. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

**MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

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

- 1) Kurt Grimm (Circuit Court) to travel to Carmel June 24-25 for the Annual Juvenile Judges Meeting. Estimated cost of \$717.04 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 2) Holly Albright, Nancy Westrick, Liz Blotkamp, and Karen Bishop (Clerk) to travel to Indianapolis for the Annual Clerks Conference June 16-17. Estimated cost of \$2552.48 to be paid from State Called Meetings.
- 3) Donald Shively (Prosecutor) to attend the virtual IPAC Spring Seminar 2021 on May 21. Estimated cost of \$225 to be paid from department travel.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE AND MILEAGE REQUESTS FOR OTHER EDUCATORS**

Elysia Rodgers from the Extension Office explained that Purdue is changing the way the mileage has been invoiced. Now, Purdue will no longer be the middle man by compiling the information and creating an invoice for each county. The Extension Office will submit the mileage form directly to accounts payable for reimbursement. The way mileage reimbursements/invoices have worked in the past is that if we requested that an educator come to our county to do an educational session, their mileage would be paid by us. Likewise, if one of our educators was asked to go to another county to do an educational session, that county would pay our educator's mileage. An educator may be more knowledgeable in certain topics, and that is why they would be asked to go to another county to speak on them. Michael Watson made a motion to allow the Extension Office to pay for the mileage of educators who are asked to do a presentation in DeKalb County. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF HISTORIC RAILROAD BRIDGE**

President Hartman has a meeting scheduled to speak with Mayor Ley about the historic railroad bridge. The Commissioners discussed how much to charge for the bridge or whether there should be a trade. The Friends of the Bridge would like a portion of the bridge. President Hartman should have more to share about this next Monday.

### **MATTER OF AIR PURIFIER FOR EXTENSION OFFICE**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to pay for an air purifier and filter for \$373.50 out of LITED #24 for the Extension Office. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CY 2022 GRANT FOR DART OPERATING EXPENSES**

Duane Blankenship presented several documents and requested signatures from the Commissioners for the DART CY 2022 grant request. This is for regular operating expenses (non-CARES money). He explained that no vehicles are being requested for 2022.

The Commissioners reviewed the following documents. Forms needing signatures are indicated.

- 2022 Project Funding Summary
- Letter to INDOT program manager regarding Indirect Cost Rate Proposal CY 2022
- 2019 and 2020 Agency Audit Reports
- Direct Cost Methodology Report
- Indirect Rate Worksheet
- Indirect Rate Certification Letter
- Certification of Document Upload
- Authorizing Resolution 2021-R-12 (President to sign)
- Local Financial Assurances Detail Report (President to sign)
- Special Warranty Arrangement pursuant to Section 5333(b)
- Statement of Acceptance of Special Section 5333(b) Warranty (President to sign)
- Certifications & Assurances (President and Attorney to sign)
- Pass-through Agreement (President and Attorney to sign)

Todd Sanderson made a motion for the President and Attorney as needed to sign the forms necessary for the CY 2022 Grant request to INDOT for DART operating expenses in the total amount of \$601,998, with the local match portion of \$202,895. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR HENDERSON PROPERTY**

Michael Watson made a motion for the President to sign the purchase agreement for the Henderson Property in Waterloo at the purchase price of \$1,073,000. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. The purchase price is the average of two appraisals. The closing on the property will not take place until later this year when the Commissioners know they can be assured they can build what the Highway needs on the property.

### **MATTER OF ORD NO. 2021-R-11 TO ESTABLISH AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN FUND**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-11, DCC 12-6-1 on the FIRST reading. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. Michael Watson made a motion to suspend the rules and to read by title only Resolution 2021-R-11, DCC 12-6-1, for second and third readings. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-11, DCC 12-6-1 on the SECOND and THIRD readings. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. There was discussion about the Rescue Plan and guidelines for spending. There was also discussion about some people who are willing to serve on the committee.

### **MATTER OF HENDERSON PROPERTY**

Todd Bauer from ForeSight Consulting explained that the Henderson property has challenges, but they are not insurmountable. The property is in a flood plain as opposed to a floodway. A flood plain is easier to work with than floodway. The State doesn't have to be involved when the County is working in the flood plain. The local authorities would have jurisdiction instead. It doesn't appear that the actual flood plain is quite as extensive as what it shows on GIS due to actual elevation. If an area in the flood plain needs to be filled in, it can be offset in another area on a 1 to 1 ratio—shovel for shovel.

Regarding wetland delineations: Depending on the regulatory environment, what is considered a wetland can change. Wetland delineations have a 5-year expiration on them. It is important to get a current delineation so there is a thorough understanding of the rules and we make sure we follow them. Penalties for violating the rules can be costly. ForeSight works with another firm called Earth Source that specializes in wetland delineations. A delineation would typically take 4-6 weeks. EarthSource has a slight backlog, so it may take 6-8 weeks. Realistically, taking all steps of site development into consideration, approval should be easily granted before December 1<sup>st</sup> so the County can begin developing the property. Todd Sanderson made the motion to engage with Earth Source according to their quote of \$4,180 lump sum for wetland delineation. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

Ben Parker presented the Brooks Construction Maintenance Bond for Fawn Creek Section II. He said the road is complete. Michael Watson made a motion to accept Maintenance Bond No. K40314210 for Fawn Creek Section II in the amount of \$8,807.30. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. The bond will expire April 21, 2024.

The cost to do an undercut for Bridge #46 has come in more than what it would be to do pilings. Mr. Parker is going to investigate this further.

Michael Watson made a motion to accept the Irrevocable Standby Letter of Credit Amendment No. 3563855 extending the expiration date to May 20, 2022 for Wayne Asphalt. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. This is in the amount of \$62,612 for The Springs Section 1 (Heron Lake).

There was discussion about utilities within County rights-of-way.

### **MATTER OF NEW JAIL**

Michael Watson believes the Commissioners should sign a contract with Elevatus for the new jail. At the very least, if we are sued and then required to build a new jail, we can act pretty quickly. Elevatus will only bill according to the work the Commissioners direct them to do. The contract is open-ended and is in the County's favor. President Hartman brought up the idea of design, bid, and build. After discussion, Michael Watson made a motion to approve the contract with Elevatus. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

Commissioner Watson also asked how the Commissioners felt about having an estimate done of the jail project prototype by a firm that specializes in that type of thing. This is the last component in making a good decision about building or not building a jail. It would cost approximately \$3,000. Commissioner Sanderson said it would be a cost estimate and is speculative. There was discussion about estimates and how volatile the economic environment is currently. President Hartman will not increase taxes to build this jail. Commissioner Sanderson reiterated what he had stated in a prior meeting that there is a labor shortage and supply shortage right now and the current economy is not sustainable. He also said he will not increase taxes. By not moving forward with a new jail now, we are going back to what the former Commissioners and Council had decided when they built Community Corrections, which was to wait 10 years before building a jail. Commissioner Watson brought up the infrastructure bills that the federal government plans to pass that will tie up the same type of contractors that we would need to build the jail. The Commissioners acknowledged that they all have genuine concerns and good intentions about this issue but that they are not in agreement. Commissioner Sanderson and President Hartman do not want to have an estimate done on the jail project since they are not intending to pursue a jail at this time.

Finally, Commissioner Watson pointed out that there is no way even in 3 years that the CF LIT rate, even at .20%, would be able to pay for the new jail. Commissioner Sanderson and President Watson disagreed and said by waiting there would be more cash on hand in the future to reduce the total bond issue amount.

### **MATTER OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH INSURANCE PRESENTATIONS**

Eric Dreyfus is with Assured Partners and explained the Health Rosetta Reference-Based Reimbursement model. Daniel Kruse and his team from CareHealth Benefits presented their Alchemy Health model. Rex Whitten from Insurance Trustees discouraged going to a self-funded plan at this time and introduced a fully funded plan. Finally, Alexis Coonan and Kris Pilkington from AJ Gallagher also cautioned against beginning a self-funded plan this year due to current high claims costs and gave a cost comparison between a couple of fully funded plans.

### **MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other discussion topics included: Probation using the former Red Room as needed for juvenile intakes; trees needing to be removed that are next to the County's pole building on 7<sup>th</sup> Street; the dinner for the COVID Vaccine Clinic volunteer and spouses will not be paid through County funds; transfer letter for May Council meeting; and the CF LIT rate did not exist in 2016;

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William L. Hartman – President

Attest:

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Michael Watson – Vice President

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Jan Bauman, Auditor

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Todd Sanderson – Vice President