

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

June 14, 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

Ms. Miller briefed the Commissioners on open enrollment for employee health insurance and voluntary insurance, as well as on open and filled positions.

Michael Watson made a motion for the President to sign the Dental Plan contract with Anthem. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period May 23-June 5, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from June 7, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve Special Claims for the week of June 14th. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Sheila Stonebraker and Tammy Warstler (Assessor) to travel to Wabash June 22nd for the Assessors District Meeting. Estimated cost of \$61.60 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 2) Rick Ring (Council) to travel to Plainfield June 26th for the 2021 State Called Meeting. Estimated cost of \$182.12 to be paid from State Called Meetings.
- 3) Johanna Scott (Probation) to travel to Boston, Massachusetts August 23-25 for the APPA 46th Annual Training. Estimated cost of \$1,880.48 to be paid from department travel.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF EASTERSEALS RISE

Crystal Church-Stavitzke, Executive Director for Easterseals Rise, requested an increase in their allocation for 2022 from the Commissioners. Due to the challenges in 2020 due to COVID, RISE had to reevaluate how it serves people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Services were essential

and could not be put on hold for the pandemic, and the result was extensive changes to policies and protocols. What got the organization through the darkest part of the pandemic was a merger with Easterseals Arc in July 2020 as well as support from the Commissioners and community partners. They are emerging a stronger organization with bold plans for the future. They are reaching a larger and more diverse population in the community.

They have created enclaves that provide crews of workers for local manufacturers and businesses. They have a day program that caters to each individual's personal goals with a heavy focus on community inclusion and preparing for community employment or post-secondary education. They have adapted to changes in transportation needs by expanding their hours of transportation services for drop-off and pick-up sites. They also provide support in homes and personal lives, with a respite house added in Garrett. In 2021, Easterseals Rise is opening a new office in Auburn in July; contracting with local artists to promote inclusion through the Just Be Artistry program; working with the Special Education Co-op to find ways to reach people who want and need their support services; working with technology libraries that will create opportunities for their Job Club programs; and adding Pre-Employment Transition services for any student age 14-22 with an IEP in Steuben, LaGrange, and DeKalb counties.

A \$45,000 allocation in 2022 will give them the annual start-up for four programs. The strategic plan is to become self-sustaining within 18 months. Commissioner Watson would like to explore the possibility of whether the Rescue Plan money can be utilized for this.

MATTER OF 2022 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the proposed 2022 Holiday Schedule. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Martin Luther King Day	January 17, 2022
Presidents' Day	February 21, 2022
Good Friday	April 15, 2022
Memorial Day	May 30, 2022
Independence Day	July 4, 2022
Labor Day	September 5, 2022
Fair Day	September 30, 2022
Veterans Day	November 11, 2022
Thanksgiving	November 24-25, 2022
Christmas	December 23 & 26, 2022

MATTER OF FINAL MOTOROLA PROJECT ACCEPTANCE

Todd Sanderson made a motion to for all Commissioners to sign the Final Project Acceptance of the Motorola Radio MCC7500 IP Dispatch Console Project for Central Communications. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This is for Project Number IN-20I121A.

MATTER OF REPORT ON FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDS SEMINAR

Commissioner Watson went to the IACC seminar on American Rescue Plan funds last week and briefed the Commissioners on what he learned. The seminar was led by Baker Tilly, Barnes & Thornburg, and Indiana OCRA. He provided a summary sheet from the U.S. Department of the Treasury that lists the overriding criteria for using the Fiscal Recovery Funds. The County should be able to link the use of the funds with one or more of the criteria, and document the reasoning and the legislation backing it up. As long as this is very clear and done in good faith, the County should not have to pay any of it back to the

Department of Treasury. Premium pay for COVID-related essential workers is a good example of this. The more questionable a use becomes, the higher likelihood of having to pay it back.

For revenue loss, the County can include losses of projected growth above and beyond calculated income losses. We would look at aggregate losses rather than fund by fund.

We will pay eligible projects directly from the ARP fund. This frees up the General Fund for other uses that can't be tied to eligible uses.

MATTER OF ARP COMMITTEE

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the ARP Committee. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Those invited and agreed to participate are: Mike Hartman (City of Butler), Dennis Treesh (Corunna), Wayne Funk (rural ag – west), Mary Simcox (St. Joe/Spencerville), Kevin Bowman (rural ag – north), Tyler Cleverly (United Way/non-profits), Mike Ley (Auburn), Todd Fiandt (Garrett), Pam Howard (Waterloo), Amy Prosser (Council), and Bob Krafft (Council/Jackson Twp). Invited but not yet confirmed: Mike Hasselman (Ashley).

MATTER OF DOC COLEMAN LANDING

Todd Sanderson made a motion to let the Andersons plant soybeans on the Doc Coleman Landing property for two seasons. The Doc Coleman Landing will be earmarked for pollinator use in the third season. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF SOLAR PROJECT NEXT TO COUNTY PROPERTY WITHIN AUBURN ETJ

Rudi Eidam, Vice President of Development for the Sweitzer Family Office, and Jordan Covely of Auburn Renewable and Jordan Covely Business Development Manager for Inovateus, proposed an easement for electrical tie-ins for the solar project being done in Keyser Township. The County owns two parcels that were an old railroad right-of-way. The parcels run directly through the property that will be used as a solar farm. They plan to run any electrical lines six feet under the county land during construction. Currently, a gravel access drive is being considered by the Drainage Board. There will be a 50-foot setback from the edge of the property line on either side.

They understand the County's parcels are intended to be used for a bike trail in the future. They would love to do an educational piece regarding sustainable energy some day.

If the electrical line that is installed ever needs to be moved in the future, the Commissioners would prefer not to have to pay for it. The Commissioners gave their consensus that Mr. Eidam and Mr. Covely can move forward with drawing up the variance paperwork for formal approval by the Commissioners. No action was taken today.

MATTER OF COUNTY HOME REPORT

The Commissioners acknowledge receipt of the May 2021 County Home Report.

MATTER OF INSPIRATION MINISTRIES

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the letter of support for Inspiration Ministries to use the site at 0116 County Road 22, Kendallville, in the same manner it was approved for originally, and for the President to sign. Second by Michael Watson, and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Earth Source has determined the majority of the Henderson property (all but 2 acres) will be able to be used as the Highway Department would like for developing the site.

Ben Parker would like permission to replace two employees who resigned last week. Mr. Parker is concerned that he is going to have more employees resign since drivers with CDL licenses are getting offers for higher pay since demand for these drivers is rising.

The contractor believes the covered bridge repairs should be finished by June 26th.

Other Highway discussion topics: Community Crossings grant applications in July; Environmental Restrictive Covenant for 303 East Ensley property; and proposed DLZ architectural-engineering services agreement.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: County Road 61 properties in Wilmington Township to be sold; Jail Committee to meet June 22nd; upcoming 2022 budget work days.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor