

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

August 16, 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**

Last week Anthem explained their employer portal to HR and payroll. Anthem also provides various incentives to employees, such as for smoking cessation, flu vaccines, or wellness visits to your physician. Dotty Miller brought up other benefits offered through Anthem.

Other HR topics briefly discussed: open and filled positions; disciplinary meetings HR has been asked to sit in on; and benefits as percentage of employees' wages.

### **MATTER OF APPRAISAL OF 220 EAST 7<sup>TH</sup> STREET BUILDING**

Michael Watson made a motion to engage Good Valuation to do an appraisal of the 220 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street Building. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF HENDERSON PROPERTY**

Todd Bauer with ForeSight Engineering was present to discuss the Henderson property. The wetland issue has virtually been resolved; it does not encompass the whole site. ForeSight needs to do the surveying and site design. They will work with whatever architect the Commissioners choose to hire. It will be important to get the Waterloo Plan Commission schedule so nothing gets missed along the way. Mr. Bauer reminded everyone if the site can be developed without impacting the wetland, the Army Corp of Engineers will not be a barrier. Todd Sanderson made a motion to close on the Henderson property so the project can get moving, contingent upon receiving the money from the City of Auburn for their purchase of the Highway Department on East Ensley Street in Auburn. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of August 16, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes from August 9, 2021, as presented. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve travel as presented.

- 1) Ryan Hull (Probation) to travel to French Lick September 8-10 for the POPAI Fall Conference. Estimated cost of \$934.12 to be paid from department travel.
- 2) Patrick Grant (Weights & Measures) to travel to Terre Haute September 14-17 for the 2021 Weights & Measures Conference. Estimated cost of \$564.64 to be paid from department travel.
- 3) Reed Hansen (Sheriff) to travel to Plainfield August 30-December 10 for the Indiana Police Academy training. Estimated cost of \$430 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 4) Reed Hansen (Sheriff) to travel to Plainfield August 23 for the Entrance PT test to the Police Academy. Estimated cost of \$139 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 5) Zach Kerley (Sheriff) to travel to Plainfield September 15 for the Breath Test Operator Training Course. No expenses will be claimed.
- 6) Mike Watson (Commissioner) to travel to Columbia City on August 18 for the Mayors & Commissioners Caucus Meeting. Estimated cost of \$25.17 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.
- 7) Richard Ring (Council) to travel to Florence September 21-23 for the AIC Annual Conference. Estimated cost of \$501.07 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESTRICTIVE COVENANT FOR 303 EAST ENSLEY**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to have the President sign and to approve the recording of the Environment Restrictive Covenant. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This is for 303 East Ensley, also identified as parcel number 17-06-32-401-004.00-025. The document has been discussed with the City of Auburn which plans to purchase this property soon, but the restrictions should impact the intended and expressed use that the City of Auburn intends to use. This document will be recorded.

### **MATTER OF ATTENDING MEETINGS BY ELECTRONIC MEANS OF COMMUNICATION**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Resolution Number 2021-R-18, a Resolution Establishing the Policy by which Members of the Board of Commissioners of DeKalb County May Participate by Electronic Means of Communication. Seconded by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF REPLACING ANNEX WINDOWS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to accept the Haney's Glass proposal of \$41,570 to replace 107 insulated window units in the Annex Building and to pay for it out of LITED #62. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Haney's requires 50% down.

### **MATTER OF EASEMENT AGREEMENT**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to sign the easement agreement provided by Steven Schmucker and Marvin Schmucker for the construction traffic at Bear Creek Estates. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This Non-Exclusive Easement for Ingress and Egress will be recorded.

### **MATTER OF DRUG FREE DEKALB GRANT REQUESTS**

Becky Calhoun distributed a list of recommended Drug Free DeKalb grant requests and explained each one. They were separated by Justice, Prevention, and Treatment Intervention categories. The total amount requested by agencies was \$51,548.70. Drug Free DeKalb reviewed the requests and now recommends granting a total of \$26,263.70 in awards. Michael Watson made a motion to approve the \$26,263.70 in grant requests. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF BROADBAND FOR COUNTY**

Prior to Chris Schweitzer coming for his appointment, Commissioner Watson informed the other Commissioners about what being certified as a “Broadband Ready” community means. The County would be the applicant for grants. A single point of contact would be appointed for any broadband activities. The point is to streamline the process of getting broadband out into the community. We would establish procedures to submit forms electronically. All grant paperwork would need to be signed within 10 days. All inspections would be done in a timely and expeditious manner. A question he had was how would it work with Steuben and Noble Counties expanding broadband partially into DeKalb County?

Chris Schweitzer from Auburn Essential Services explained how internet services are now provided to new customers. AES evaluates the risk and determines at what cost it can provide services to new customers. Typically 25-100 passings can be added at a time. There are approximately 10,000 passings that are unserved or underserved, and they are located mainly in rural area. It’s time to get some intentionality there. In order to make this happen, we need to build a fiber network. This will cost an estimated \$16-\$20 million to get broadband out to all the rural areas.

Mr. Schweitzer brought with him Business Development Coordinator Taiylor Hollis who has been researching the NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration) grant for broadband. To be eligible, it must be a public-private partnership. DeKalb County would be the public side. AES would be the private side. The County would be the applicant, however, and the grant is due tomorrow.

Commissioner Sanderson asked whether the wireless providers could replace AES and the fiber networks. Mr. Schweitzer said that no one has a crystal ball. He said mobility is an aspect of it. Hot spots are served by towers, and towers have limited bandwidth. Towers are served by fiber. Due to the limited bandwidth, the towers have to be built 1000 feet apart, and it’s more expensive to build towers so close together than to run fiber to households. Everyone wants fiber. That is not likely to change, but it is not 100% guaranteed.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to support the NTIA Broadband Infrastructure Program grant and to allow Jan Bauman to submit the necessary documentation as needed. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. The Auditor’s Office will work closely with Taiylor Hollis today and tomorrow to get the grant application submitted.

### **MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other discussion topics included: showers should be done at Community Corrections so a walk-through will be done now; Ben Krafft property update; ARP projects submitted to Baker Tilly for their opinion; and Mayors and Commissioners Caucus.

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William L. Hartman – President

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Michael Watson – Vice President

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Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

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Jan Bauman, Auditor