

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

August 30, 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 2019 for the first time, the Fair Board was responsible for cleaning the restrooms in the Annex Building during Fair Week. The restrooms are allowed to be used by groups to get ready to perform on stage in the County parking lot just south of the Annex Building.

Dotty Miller briefly discussed the following topics with the Commissioners: open and filled positions; quarantine procedure for employees with or exposed to COVID; streamlining processes between the Building, Health, and Highway Departments; and continued invoice issues with AFLAC and Anthem.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #132296 through 132214 in the amount of \$16,106.09, and wire transfer #18703 through 18838 in the amount of \$501,130.82 as presented. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from August 23, 2021, as presented. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve travel as submitted.

- 1) Marshall Gaddis (Community Corrections) to travel to Marion September 27-October 1 for ECMS Training. No expenses to be claimed.
- 2) Adam Squiller (Superior Court I) to travel to French Lick September 1-3 for the 2021 Annual Judicial Conference. Estimated cost of \$124 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CREDIT CARD FOR INCENTIVES**

Michael Watson made a motion to allow the judges to use their County credit cards to purchase gift card incentives through Amazon. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF COUNTY HOME REPORT**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the July 2021 County Home Report. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF VERIFYING ALL COUNTY BANK ACCOUNTS**

Auditor Bauman asked the Commissioners if they thought there would be a way to check with all the local banks to verify bank accounts tied to DeKalb County Government for internal controls purposes to make sure there aren't any dormant or fraudulent accounts that need to be addressed. The Commissioners thought this would be a good idea. There was discussion about how this could be accomplished. Todd Sanderson made a motion to verify any and all bank accounts that are not through the Auditor's Office. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF PARKING PASSES FOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES THROUGH SEPTEMBER**

Sheriff Cserep would like to distribute laminated parking passes that are assigned to employees for use during the ACD festival and DeKalb County Fair to help cut down on parking by people who do not work for the County. He would like an ordinance for issuing a citation between working hours of 8 a.m.-5 p.m. The Commissioners agree and would like Attorney McCanna to work on such an ordinance for their next meeting.

### **MATTER OF FRED GROSCUP JR. DRAIN**

Nate Frye from the Surveyor's Office was present to talk about the Fred Groscup Jr. Drain that needs attention. President Hartman began by saying about two years ago, Commissioner Don Grogg had made a motion to pay for this under a consent and waiver agreement. There is acreage on the Leins property in the watershed. Mr. Frye said our records indicate there should have been a county drain running parallel to State Road 8, but they have never been able to find evidence of the drain on site. He assumes it was demolished when the State worked on State Road 8 at some point in time.

There is a wet area behind Taco Bell and Pizza Hut. Fixing this drain will provide relief to that area. The County pond originally followed an old county tile underneath I-69 and ran underneath those [restaurant] properties. When I-69 went in, it disrupted and reorganized the drainage flow in that area. The proposed fix would take the entire watershed to the north and water in the pond and give it a new outlet to the county regulated drain to the west. It ends up benefiting the City because if all of this water is routed to the county regulated drain on the west side of I-69, it reduces the amount of water on the east side of I-69. As the City develops or redevelops that part of the City, it will require much less infrastructure.

The City would like a larger tile installed than what we would have installed along with additional manholes, and they are willing to pay for the upcharges. The County's portion is an estimated \$72,495. We would not pay more than \$79,744, which is the engineer's estimate plus 10%. The Leins will not be assessed for this reconstruction project. Michael Watson made the motion to approve and for all three to sign the Intergovernmental Agreement Between City of Auburn, DeKalb County Commissioners, and DeKalb County Drainage Board for the Fred Groscup Jr. Drain reconstruction project. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. The County's portion will be paid from LITED #31.

### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

Ben Parker brought an Authorization to Proceed Form for Bridge #9. It does not include construction inspection. The project will be the replacement of Bridge #9 with a single span bridge. Phase 2 of the Preliminary Engineering shall include geotechnical investigation (sub to Terracon), bridge design, environmental permitting (IDNR, IDEM, USACOE, Rule 5), special investigations (if needed), utility coordination, bidding services, and construction phase design services. The not-to-exceed amount is \$85,000, and it has already been incorporated into his 2022 budget. The plan is to get this out to bid in early 2022. Michael Watson made a motion for the President to sign the Authorization to Proceed for Bridge #9 Phase 2 Form. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

The next issue was regarding County Road 55 (south of 800 South near Steuben County), the east side of which has collapsed and sheared off. Nate Frye joined Ben Parker to discuss the issue. Mr. Frye suspects the culvert underneath County Road 55 has failed. The west side of the road was filled in to put a pond in. The heart of the fix as the Surveyor's Office sees it is consolidating the existing 36" and 18" tiles that are there currently into a new 5-foot diameter culvert underneath the road. The waterway is not a County regulated drain, so the County has no authority over the direct maintenance of that.

Mr. Parker said it will mean a lot of money and a lot of time. The road is closed until it is fixed. The County can only work within its right-of-way. There is a huge amount of watershed that comes that way—over ½ mile. The west side used to be as deep as the east side of the road. The owners filled in the west side at some point. There is a 36" tile that is 15 foot deep. There is an 18" tile also. We don't know what's tied into what. There are two laterals feeding into one of them. Mr. Parker, working with the neighbors, came up with another option which may be a better compromise. Even though the tiles are private tiles, it's our issue because the water is washing our road out. We want the water to go under our road rather than over our road.

The Commissioners want to do some exploratory digging on the west side so they know what is going into the 36" tile. There was some discussion about whether the cost of damage to our road could be charged back to the owners of the private tiles. That is a topic for another day. President Hartman will go to the site with Ben Parker to assess the situation and help decide which direction to move forward with.

The guard rail the City of Auburn has is in nice condition and could be utilized somewhere. Todd Sanderson made a motion to offer the City of Auburn \$5/foot for the used guard rail they are offering to sell to the County. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF MORATORIUM ON SOLAR FARM**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to extend the moratorium on solar farms an additional 30 days (i.e., to Thursday, October 14, 2021) *or* until the ordinance is passed. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. The current moratorium is set to expire Tuesday, September 14, 2021.

#### **MATTER OF HANDICAPPED PARKING DURING FALL FAIR WEEK**

Michael Watson made a motion to allow the County parking lot at the Southeast corner of 9<sup>th</sup> and Union Streets be used for handicapped parking during the DeKalb County Fair. Set up would be on Saturday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, and cleanup would be on Sunday, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, with release of the lot to normal usage on October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other discussion topics included: liability claim for Sheriff's department; Council-Commissioners' discussion topics for September 13 Council meeting; 5-year capital needs for Council beyond 2022 budget; Probation Officer position for Probation Department; and next Jail Committee meeting will be September 13 at 2:30.

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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