

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

September 20, 2021

Commissioners Present: President William L. Hartman
Vice President Michael Watson
Vice President Todd Sanderson

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman
Attorney James P McCanna – ATTENDED VIA ZOOM

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

IPEP has a law enforcement expert that can come in and consult with the Sheriff's Department and Community Corrections to recommend changes to protocols or PPE with the hopes to reduce workers compensation claims. Dotty Miller then went through open and closed claims.

Ms. Miller expressed frustration with how Parkview DeKalb has dropped the protocols that were in place when it was DeKalb Health, which is where our injured employees go when the injury occurs on the job. Because the protocols have been dropped, it has resulted in the need for many phone calls to HR trying to straighten things out or to get authorizations to treat. The phone calls are very long due to the holds and transfers. This could all have been avoided had Parkview DeKalb been willing to keep the protocols.

The Commissioners would like Ms. Miller to send an e-mail to employees about parking next week during Fair week.

Other HR topics discussed: vaccine mandates; Travis Holcomb's resignation; possibly combining two "very" part time positions in Development Services to one part time position; and additional resignations and open/closed positions.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period August 29-September 11, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from September 13, 2021, as presented. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PUBLIC NUISANCE PROPERTIES

Code Compliance Officer Paul White came to speak about two properties he has been inspecting: 1047 US Highway 6, Corunna (Hillbilly Tire) and 1425 County Road 54, Garrett (Rodman). An initial inspection of Hillbilly Tire was done on June 7, 2021 due to a complaint regarding several vehicles, vehicle parts, household appliances, RVs/campers, and garbage and rubbish on the property. Three violation notices have been issued since, and a notice to appear today was mailed by certified mail on August 19, 2021. Improvements have been made to the property. The cars apparently are for scrap and appear to be different upon each inspection. There are tires that are out of control which are a breeding ground for mosquitos. The property owner appeared today before the Commissioners. Mr. White said there has been significant progress. The property owners said the problem with what tires they have left

on the property now is that there are more good tires than bad ones, and many have wheels in them. When asked if there is a possibility of constructing another building on the property, they said they had actually looked at possibly purchasing another property with a building on it already. After more discussion, Mr. White said that he doesn't think this case should be dismissed yet but should just monitored.

An initial inspection of the Rodman property was also done on June 7, 2021 due to a complaint regarding several RVs/campers, construction materials, household furniture, household appliances, and garbage and rubbish on the property. Some improvements had been made but then progress stopped or slowed by July 20th. On August 19th, Mr. White received notice that the property owner had been burning materials, possibly rubber. The property may not have sewer or septic, and people are living in the campers on the property. By September 3rd, after several inspections of the property and a 60 day agreement had been worked out with the property owner, Mr. White informed Mr. Rodman's oldest daughter that another agreement would not be made. Upon September 8 inspection, significant cleanup progress had been made with more work to be done. Ronald Rodman is incarcerated right now. His son, girlfriend, and brother's girlfriend attended on his behalf, and they are doing the cleanup. Much work has been done to the property and more work needs to be done. It was confirmed that no one is living on the property. Scrap metals and garbage need to be cleaned up yet. Mr. Rodman's son asked what he needed to do to rebuild a house or outbuilding on the property. Chris Gaumer, who was also present, told him he would need to get a building permit. Mr. White doesn't want to dismiss the case. He doesn't feel like we need to step in and haul things out just yet but wants to monitor it.

The Commissioners thanked everyone for being here today and for the progress they have made and to keep up the good work.

Mr. White updated the Commissioners on other properties he is monitoring. A property on County Road 34 has scrap metals, vehicle parts, and garbage and has received a 2nd notice. The property at 0401 CR 427 has many vehicles and will be receiving a 3rd notice. The CR 19 property is virtually unchanged but the tenants should be moving soon. On CR 60, Indiana Michigan Power has a property that is used to store vehicles, had very weeds, and a house in disrepair, but after receiving Mr. White's phone call, I & M cleaned up the property and informed him the house will be coming down in 2022. No report had to be issued. Finally, there is a property in Spencerville that will be addressed.

MATTER OF SUNNY MEADOWS' KITCHEN FLOOR REPLACEMENT

Sunny Meadows' kitchen floor recently failed an inspection. It needs to be replaced. A contract with Jimelle, Flooring, has been submitted to the Commissioners. It requires 50% down for work to begin and the remaining 50% upon completion. The Commissioners would like to get quotes from West and Roth before proceeding. Auditor Bauman will contact the Home Superintendent to get the quotes.

MATTER OF OLD DRAINAGE BOARD COPY MACHINE

The copy machine that was left in the former Drainage Board Office was a relatively new machine that could be utilized in the Homeland Security Office. Jeff Bassett said the County owns the copy machine that is currently in the Homeland Security Office. It can be scrapped as other copiers have been or used elsewhere. If the machine is donated, they need to realize they are receiving an old machine that may have some problems. For the machine that will go to Homeland Security, Xerox prefers to move these leased machines in case there would be any damage done in the process. There is a cost of \$277 for the move from the Courthouse location to Homeland Security. Michael Watson made the motion to pay for Xerox to move the copy machine from the former Drainage Board Office to Homeland Security and to pay for it out of LITED #24. Second by Todd Sanderson, and all approved.

MATTER OF REDISTRICTING COUNCIL & COMMISSIONERS' VOTING DISTRICTS

The Commissioners would like to redistrict Council and Commissioners' voting districts by the end of 2021 so each part of the County is better represented beginning with the 2022 elections. Ideally they would like the City of Auburn or Union Township to be one district and then have a district on the east portion of the county and a district on the west portion of the county. This would allow Butler, Garrett and the rural communities to have more representation on the Board. The Council districts, however, have more stringent requirements for redistricting. Theirs are based on population. The AIC Conference this week is going to have more information on redistricting that Mike Watson will learn about and bring back with him for discussion.

MATTER OF THE HOLBEN BUILDING

The stucco is starting to come off the Holben Building. The Commissioners are more interested in doing minor repairs to the building since the building will eventually be torn down.

MATTER OF SIGNING TITLE FOR SURVEYOR VEHICLE BEING TRADED IN

Michael Watson made the motion to sign the title for the 2009 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad ST/SLT VIN # ending 0622 so it can be traded in for the new vehicle they have purchased. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF BUILDING MAINTENANCE

There has been water damage on the north wall in Circuit Court which will cost \$400 to fix. Michael Watson made a motion to repair and paint the north wall in Circuit Court for \$400 and to pay for it out of LITED #24. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

The Fair has always used the basement at the Annex Building for preparing for performances and for the caterer. They will have someone there to monitor who is coming and going. They will have someone wiping things down (COVID). The last time the Fair made arrangements like these, it went very well, and Mr. Lane had no complaints. This was in 2019. The Commissioners gave their consensus that they may do this again at next week's Fair.

Ben Parker and Larry Lane were looking at where the new guard rail was going to be installed as a replacement in front of the Holben Building. They believe that the guard rail really doesn't seem to be necessary anymore. We don't park in front of the building anymore. It would look better also.

Haney's did a final measurement on the Annex windows. He also gave a price on the window of the back door which had a crack. He thinks it is a stress crack. It will cost about \$700 to replace that window.

Homeland Security, the Sheriff's Department, and Courthouse Maintenance have many things of no value to get rid of. They would like to rent a dumpster the week after the fair.

Auburn Plumbing and Heating will be coming to run a scope down the roof drain that seems to be leaking into the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Lane thinks it would be wise to have a scope run down all of the roof drains while they are here. The Commissioners agree.

What should be done with the gutters on the pole building? One side is damaged and will have to be replaced. Todd Sanderson made a motion to remove and replace the gutters on the pole building and to pay for it out of LITED #62. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF FRIENDS OF THE SPENCERVILLE COVERED BRIDGE

Mary Diehl came to speak to the Commissioners about signs, trails, and anti-graffiti paint for the Spencerville Covered Bridge. She's been in contact with the Fish and Game maintenance person who has expressed concern about the ORV's that are accessing his property. He has said until that problem has been addressed, they wouldn't be interested in working with the Friends on a trails plan.

In addition to ORV's, people have been building campfires, littering, and doing vandalism to the Port-a-Jon. Diversions that are being put into place by the Friends of the Bridge are just making the ORV's and full size vehicles drive underneath the covered bridge to access fish and game.

Ms. Diehl said they would like to see high quality cameras in more areas and give access to the Sheriff's Department so there is real-time monitoring. Due to the amount of distance from an electric source, solar battery powered cameras will most likely be most cost effective. Ms. Diehl will get in touch with Jack Smith to find out more information.

The Sheriff was present and said his most urgent concern is fire. The best way to deal with the problem is when it is occurring rather than after-the-fact.

Could the County put an ordinance into effect that doesn't allow people on County property from dusk to dawn? Yes, an ordinance could be put into place and is something to consider.

Would the County install more cameras if the Friends purchase them? And, the Friends would be willing to apply the paint if the County is willing to purchase it.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to assist in installation of security cameras at the covered bridge. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Ms. Diehl will come back and present pricing to the Commissioners at another meeting before proceeding with a purchase.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BROADBAND READY COMMUNITY

Michael Watson made a motion to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance No. 2021-R-19, DeKalb County Code 26-9-1-1, DeKalb County Commissioners, An Ordinance Establishing DeKalb County, Indiana, as a Broadband Ready Community and to pass on second and third readings, and for all three to sign. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. Now that the ordinance has been approved, the application can be submitted. Commissioner Watson will be submitting the application.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

The contractor for the new Credent Wealth Building has been told several times that his crew should not be using the County's parking lot as a shortcut to drive their equipment through to get from one side of their building to the other. The Highway Department is going to install a barrier on one of the entrances to the parking lot to stop the problem.

Bid specs for Bridge 46 are ready to be put in the Auditor's Office. Bids will be due October 11th at 10:00 a.m. and opened at 11:00 the same day.

There was discussion about the activity going on at the covered bridge and possible solutions. And, Mr. Parker seems to remember Zachrich giving a reason as to why the anti-graffiti paint shouldn't be used. The Friends should do some research into this and come back with what she learns.

MATTER OF QUOTES FOR TRASH SERVICE

The cost for trash service through Washler is going up substantially, and the County was not given any prior notice. Commissioner Sanderson Noble County Disposal and received their pricing. Washler did not reply to Commissioner Sanderson's e-mail or phone calls. Todd Sanderson made a motion to switch to Noble County Disposal for trash service. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Commissioner Sanderson will notify both trash services. Also, for now, the recycling service is going to be put on hold while more research is done on options.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

E-mail correspondence between Kellie Knauer and Mosaic indicates the showers are done and the floors will be done today or tomorrow. The Commissioners will go to Community Corrections today after lunch to look at the lights that are coming out of the ceiling. The light fixtures were made to be framed in prior to dry walling. The light fixtures were never framed in, so the weight of them is causing them to pull through the drywall.

MATTER OF JAIL SURVEYING SERVICES

The purpose of doing this now is so Elevatus can get their architectural plans to 95% completion. Todd Sanderson made a motion to move forward with ForeSight Consulting for the jail topographic and utility survey at a cost of \$4,820 plus \$1,840 for a boundary survey. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. The Commissioners would like to pay ForeSight indirectly through Elevatus.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: 2022 appointments; additional appropriation request for September 27 Council meeting; and not allowing anyone to hunt on County property due to liability issues.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor