

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

October 11, 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**

Bill Nichols was chosen for the VSO part time position. He will begin November 1<sup>st</sup>. And the booth at the DeKalb County Fair seemed to be successful. Would the Fair Board consider giving the County a free booth next year in exchange for the free handicapped parking lot arrangement the County allows during Fair week? It is worth asking.

Dotty Miller has been checking to find out the number of hours employees work in the courts of other counties so we can compare to how many hours are worked by employees in DeKalb County's courts every week.

Other HR topics discussed: open positions.

### **MATTER 1713 WOODVIEW DRIVE, GARRETT**

Susan Miller of 1713 Woodview Drive would like to know if the Fred Groscup Drain is going to be fixed near her home. She and her two neighbors' yards are under water. It is the first time she has lived in her house when it wouldn't go down. The drain is collapsed. The Commissioners said this is actually a matter for the Drainage Board but that there will be some repairs to the drain closer to Auburn that may alleviate some of the problem in Garrett.

### **MATTER DISPOSAL OF CEMENT POTS**

Some DeKalb County employees have offered to purchase some cement pots from the County that are no longer being used: \$30 for the small ones and \$80 for the large ones. After discussion, Todd Sanderson made a motion to sell employees in the Probation Department \$30 for the small cement pots and \$80 for the large cement pots. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from October 4, 2021, with change. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims as presented. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Mike Watson (Commissioner) to travel to Fort Wayne on October 20 for the Mayors and Commissioners Caucus. Estimated cost of \$21.42 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF BACKHOE OPERATOR AND INDEPENDENT SOIL SCIENTIST CONTRACTS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the Independent Backhoe Operator and Independent Soil Scientist Contracts for Services for the Health Department for 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF USING CREDIT CARD TO RENEW HARASSMENT TRAINING SOFTWARE**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow the Auditor's credit card to be used for the annual HR harassment training software renewal. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF LIABILITY INSURANCE UPDATE**

Mike Shuherk and Kyle Pearson from Insurance Trustees talked to the Commissioners about pre-planning for the liability insurance renewal coming due early in 2022. The Workers Compensation modification rate should decrease 3-4%. Premiums are going up in general even though we have had an incredibly good year claims-wise. One company is willing to cover the Change Academy as well as the distribution of medication at the County Home. In order to get competitive rates year after year, we will want to start mitigating these risks. The Commissioners discussed ideas on how to mitigate the risks. Another topic that was discussed was cyber-liability. Cyber coverage used to be ancillary, but now in order to get coverage or to keep coverage costs down, the County will need to have certain protocols in place, such as the implementation of multi-factor authentication.

### **MATTER OF ORDER ESTABLISHING PRECINCTS**

Holly Albright requested the re-precincting of Union 9 and Union 2 due to the City of Auburn Annexation of the Bridgewater North Subdivision, Bridgewater Golf Course and single-family residential units (total of 262 acres of land) along Morningstar Road in 2020. Michael Watson made a motion to approve the Order Establishing Precincts for changing the boundaries of Union 9 and Union 2 precincts. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF REDISTRICTING**

Rick Ring, Republican County Chairman, addressed the Commissioners and asked them to consider changing the Commissioners' districts so that Union Township is a single Commissioner district and then divide the rest of the County up between the other two Commissioner positions. There was discussion about Council districts and that there will not be a need to really change them. No action was taken.

### **MATTER OF SOLAR ORDINANCE**

In last week's Plan Commission meeting, the Board voted to disapprove the three amendments the Commissioners had proposed for the solar ordinance. The question today is whether the Commissioners want to approve the solar ordinance anyway despite the unfavorable recommendation by the Plan Commission. There was a discussion about this, and then the question about enforcing eventual complaints about a particular buffer. Todd Sanderson then made a motion to approve Resolution 2021-R-

21, UDO 71, including the three amendments that had been rejected by the Plan Commission. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF ZONE MAP AMENDMENTS**

Todd Sanderson motioned to approve Resolution 2021-R-23, UDO 72, Zone Map Amendment for Franz Lands, LLC Located on: West Side of County Road 73, Approximately One-Quarter of a Mile South of the Intersection of County Road 4A & County Road 73, Hamilton, Indiana. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This changes the zoning from A4 – Agricultural Business to A2 – Agricultural.

Michael Watson motioned to approved Resolution 2021-R-24, UDO 73, Zone Map Amendment for Outer Space, LLC Located at: 2839 & 2891 County Road 72, Auburn, Indiana. Todd Sanderson seconded. With 2 ayes and 1 nay, motion passed. This changes the zoning from A2 – Agricultural to I2 – Low Intensity Industrial.

#### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

Ben Parker opened bids shortly after 11:00 a.m. for Bridge 46 replacement on County Road 15.

RG Zachrich	\$583,873.70
Pioneer Associates	\$414,621.95
Primco Inc.	\$411,887.08
RL McCoy Inc	\$391,876.50

Michael Watson made a motion to accept and refer the bids to Ben Parker for his review and for him to come back on October 18, 2021, with his recommendation. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

Someone is wanting to purchase the Todd Land property on County Road 51. The driveway has been moved without Highway approval, and it still does not meet the 42” sight requirements to the south. It does meet the sight requirements to the north. Mr. Parker will contact NIRCC to see if they will give us their opinion on the driveway.

Other Highway discussion topics: upcoming closing on Henderson property; and permit fees charged by other counties compared to DeKalb County.

#### **MATTER OF NATURAL GAS SUMMER STORAGE PROGRAM**

Mr. Gary Turner was present to explain the natural gas industry in general and then specifically how the summer storage program works that the Commissioners expressed interest in last week. After some discussion, Todd Sanderson made the motion to acquire the services with Stand Energy for natural gas and to terminate the agreement with Loyal Energy Trading. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Attorney McCanna will write up the letter to terminate the agreement with Loyal Energy Trading.

#### **MATTER OF REQUEST FOR USE OF COURTHOUSE LAWN BY A.P.A.L.D.**

Tena Pruitt, a registered nurse from Defiance, Ohio, would like to hold a peaceful rally on the courthouse lawn on October 30<sup>th</sup>. She and Shawn Taylor want to bring awareness about drugs that are disguised to look exactly like pharmaceutical grade drugs but are actually fake drugs containing fentanyl that will kill a user the first time they take them. Both women lost children this way.

The rally will be on the north side of the courthouse. People will stand with the signs and will distribute information if people request it. Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow the A.P.A.L.D. group to hold

their informational rally on October 30<sup>th</sup> from 2-5 p.m. and to waive the 30-day application notice. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. The Commissioners explained that nothing should be inserted into the courthouse lawn.

**MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other discussion topics included: cell phone ban; President Hartman on Board of Local JRAC; visual inspection of light fixtures in the attic of Community Corrections tomorrow; Surveyor's damaged truck.

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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