

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

November 1, 2021

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

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman
 Attorney James P McCanna

President Hartman was not present at the beginning of the meeting, so Vice President Watson conducted the meeting until President Hartman joined later.

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty Miller brought up the subject of comparable benefits being offered to the Chief Deputy Public Defender as are provided to the Chief Deputy Prosecutor by the State. The Public Defender's Commission recommends it strongly, but as far as Attorney McCanna can see, offering the benefits to the part time Chief Public Defender would be at the discretion of the County Commissioners, with the decision to fund by the County Council. After a few minutes of discussion and lack of consensus, the Commissioners said they would discuss further later in the meeting and get back with Dotty so as not to take up her time.

Other HR topics discussed: open positions; PUMP legislation has expanded; OSHA and the emergency temporary standard for COVID shots being reviewed; EEOC reporting; and Annual Employee Meeting.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve payroll for the period October 10-23, 2021. Second by Michael Watson, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes from October 25, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Payroll and Bookkeeper Claims for the month of October 2021, and Special Claims for the week of October 25, 2021. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Mike Watson (Commissioner) to travel to Fort Wayne for the Mayors & Commissioners Caucus Meeting on November 17th. Estimated cost of \$25.47 to be paid from Commissioners' travel.

- 2) Sandi Wilcox and Joni Humbarger (Treasurer) to travel to Carmel for the Treasurer Spring Conference on March 8, 2022. Estimated cost of \$215.84 to be paid from the County Elected Officials Training Fund.

Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF APPLICATION FOR USE OF COURTHOUSE LAWN

Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow Theresa Zartman to use the courthouse lawn on November 6, 2021, and to waive the 30-day stipulation and to convey that nothing should be driven into the courthouse lawn. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This is a peaceful protest in regard to the recent COVID19 vaccine/testing mandates.

MATTER OF PUBLIC NUISANCE COMPLAINTS

Paul White brought two properties to the attention of the Commissioners.

The first property was 0395 CR 34, Kendallville, owned by Terry and Vicki McNamara. Mr. McNamara was present for this meeting. He had received all 3 notices from Mr. White. Unfortunately it was a rental property that he was allowing family to stay in. Mr. McNamara has been trying to get them to clean up the property and to move, but they were not responding to him. They finally moved. Since then, 99% of the outside has been cleaned up, and he is now starting to work on the inside of the house. Mr. McNamara believes he can have the property cleaned out by the end of November. The Commissioners are satisfied with that goal and thanked Mr. McNamara for attending today.

The second property was 0401 SR 427, Hamilton, owned by Ronald and Debra Fuller. Neither were present today. A fence has been erected to conceal vehicles to the public's eye. The Commissioners looked through the pictures provided by Paul White. After some discussion, the Commissioners decided that the property will be monitored at this point.

Mr. White updated the Commissioners on other properties he has been following in Spencerville, Butler, and Garrett.

MATTER OF DRUG FREE GRANT RECIPIENT CONTRACTS

Todd Sanderson made a motion to sign the Drug Free Grant Recipient Contracts. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. These contracts are with the following recipients:

- Auburn Police Department
 - \$5,000 – Drug Task Force
- Garrett Police Department
 - \$2,028.70 – Field Test Kits
- DeKalb County Probation
 - \$2,500 – Drug Testing Supplies for client in Veterans Courts Programs
 - \$2,500 – Drug Testing Supplies for client in Family Restoration Courts Programs
 - \$2,500 – Drug Testing Supplies for client in Addiction Treatment Courts Programs
 - \$ 600 – Gas Cards for medium & high risk probation clients in compliance with evidence based probation programs
- DeKalb Central Schools
 - \$1,000 – Vaping Program
- Hearten House
 - \$1,635 – Drug Testing Supplies & Recovery Materials

Hope For Her

\$1,000 – Drug Testing Supplies & Recovery Materials

McMillen Center

\$2,500 – Multiple ATOD Evidence Based Prevention Programs

Northeastern Center

\$5,000 – School Based Substance Use/Mental Health Pilot Program

President Hartman joined the meeting at 9:42, just as the motion for Drug Free grant recipients was seconded., He signed the contracts.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Kellie Knauer distributed another updated list of anticipated over expended accounts within the Correctional Facilities Local Income Tax Fund (1233) through the end of the year. Her intention was never to use grant or project income money to fund building maintenance costs. Commissioner Sanderson spoke about how there needs to be some give and take for the Commissioners and Community Corrections while the facility and program gets up and running. President Hartman expressed concern about what is going to happen in the future.

This led into a discussion about capacity at Community Corrections. Ms. Knauer explained that the building was never intended to be at 100% capacity. Due to how participants need to be separated, 80% is considered full capacity. Commissioner Sanderson brought up the fact that her projected income and budget are based on 100% capacity which doesn't make sense to him. President Hartman asked if there is any other income besides resident fees and grants, and there is not. Finally, Ms. Knauer said that the \$125,000 budgeted in the CF LIT Fund 1233 for building maintenance was an arbitrary number Council decided on before the facility was actually built, so they did not have actual numbers in front of them when assigning that figure.

Commissioner Sanderson said that Judge Squiller had offered Community Corrections to 13 people recently, and none of them chose to go into Community Corrections program. They preferred to serve their jail sentence instead. Ms. Knauer said this is a societal change that no one anticipated.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to cover the utility costs out of the Courthouse General Fund budget through the end of the year and have Project Income cover all other building maintenance costs. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF COVERED BRIDGE SECURITY ISSUES

There has been increasing vandalism near the covered bridge. Tire tracks have been burning up the banks, and a port-a-john and trash containers were burned down. There have been a couple of other vandalism issues. Sheriff Cserep believes lights will probably be the best deterrent. Cameras are the next best deterrent. A dusk to dawn ordinance will help. Making it a county attraction will also help guard it as such. Extending the guard rail or installing posts with wire will also assist by making it more difficult for vehicles to get to the banks to ride and do damage. The east side of the covered bridge has electricity available for installing cameras, but the west side does not. Commissioner Watson will look into some lighting options.

MATTER OF PTO TIME FOR SHERIFF

Sheriff Cserep has jail staff returning to either 8- or 9-hour shifts that have been working 12-hour shifts. He is requesting that any PTO time carried over into their next anniversary year be kept at the rate by which they were earned, which was 12 hours.

His second request is for Deputy Stein to be paid out 151 hours of PTO time that he will lose by his anniversary date because he has been at the K9 academy for 15 weeks, and prior to that he was covering shifts and working overtime. The Commissioners said they don't want to penalize someone who wants to step up and cover shifts and work overtime. There was discussion about why unused PTO just can't be paid out for employees.

Michael Watson made a motion to allow Mr. Stein to have his additional 151 hours to go into the PTO Repository to be used by December 31, 2024. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

Michael Watson made a motion to move the difference in hours for the jail staff (from 12-hour shifts) into the PTO Repository to be used by December 31, 2024. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PRICING OPTIONS OF NATURAL GAS

Mr. Gary Turner returned to talk about pricing options for natural gas. After much discussion, Michael Watson made a motion to give Todd Sanderson authority through October 2022 to authorize him to lock in natural gas prices through CCC Energy within a price range of \$4.25-\$5.00 per dekatherm. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben Parker distributed an itemized breakdown of the costs from the County Road 55 project, which totaled \$41,481.64. He said the good news was that it was fixed correctly. Unfortunately, it was an unexpected cost and not in the budget. The only cost not included in the breakdown was the labor cost for Highway employees, which would be \$2,000. The attorney and Mr. Parker will meet to talk about what costs should be charged back to the landowner. The Commissioners would like the labor cost that is listed on the breakdown for Knott Excavating to be broken down even further.

Todd Sanderson made the motion for President Hartman to sign the contract with RL McCoy, Inc. for the County Road 48 bridge project. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

The County may have to purchase right of way to construct Bridge 9. It is for AEP to be able to put their utility poles in. Mr. Parker doesn't agree with it and is trying to figure out an alternative solution. Construction is expected next fall.

Other Highway topics discussed: tort claim; vandalism near the covered bridge; and solar lights for crosswalk on CR 427 have been ordered.

MATTER OF ADOPTING COUNTY REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES

Michael Watson made a motion to adopt the redistricting guidelines and significant dates for DeKalb County 2021 Redistricting, effective 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF BENEFITS FOR CHIEF DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER

The Commissioners picked up the conversation from earlier this morning when Dotty Miller was here. They disagreed whether the benefits for the Chief Deputy Public Defender should be paid. This issue hasn't come up until now because a Chief Deputy Public Defender wasn't appointed until 2020. After lengthy discussion, Michael Watson made a motion to authorize the benefits for the Chief Public Deputy Defender as adopted by the Indiana Public Defender Commission's Standards for Indigent Defense Services in Non-Capital Cases. The motion died for lack of a second.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other topics of discussion included: certificates to properties that could be assigned to the City of Butler; the Economic development agreement for Auburn Renewables nearing completion and should be ready for approval next week; Council-Commissioners' topics for the November 9th Council meeting; and light fixtures at Community Corrections.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor