

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

November 8, 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**

Dotty Miller briefly covered the following HR topics: COVID mandate and logistics of testing; open positions; meeting with Anthem tomorrow; and individual meetings with departments in lieu of a single meeting for all employees.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #132486 through 132538 in the amount of \$154,849.30, and wire transfer #19318 through 19420 in the amount of \$342,815.33. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated November 1, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded. A vote was taken: 2 ayes and 1 abstained. Motion passed.

### **MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the following travel requests as submitted:

- 1) Carla Winebrenner and Judy Smith (Auditor) to travel to Plainfield on November 18 for the LOW Year-End Property Tax Meeting. Estimated cost of \$144.32 to be from Commissioners' travel.
- 2) Richard Ring (Council) to travel to Indianapolis on November 16 for the Legislative Affairs Organizational Day. Estimated cost of \$203.48 to be paid from Commissioners' travel

Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TOURISM COMMISSION**

Amber Caccamo presented the 2022 budget for the Tourism Commission. She was happy to report that they are running a 2022 budget at 100% capacity due to expected corporate travel. Ms. Caccamo explained the various budget line items. She will present the budget to Council in December also.

### **MATTER OF COURTHOUSE MAINTENANCE**

Todd Sanderson made a motion accept Pat Ley's low quote of \$3,500 for Annex Building water pipe work and to pay it out of courthouse building maintenance. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

One of the two boilers in the courthouse basement needs repaired. It may take until March before parts are available. Larry Lane wanted the Commissioners to be aware. It is going to be an expensive repair.

### **MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Commissioner Sanderson reported that there is a meeting with Mosaic at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. They will talk about each light fixture and what needs to be done to secure it properly. Pictures will also be taken. The work should be completed in 7-10 days.

### **MATTER OF BILL OF SALE FOR RECORDER'S MICROFILM READER**

The Commissioners signed the Bill of Sale for the Recorder's Image Data ScanPro 3000 microfilm reader with Serial Number 91601 with Auburn Abstract Company for \$3,000. The motion had been made in last week's meeting to approve.

### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

Ben Parker briefly updated the Commissioners on an overweight permit that isn't quite ready, as well as an updated bond for RL McCoy.

There was discussion about the driveway situation at the Todd Land property on County Road 51. There is a liability issue with the driveway he is using. It was not approved and is potentially dangerous. The Commissioners would like Attorney McCanna to write a letter to Mr. Land.

Attorney McCanna presented a proposed letter to the Howards on County Road 55 advising them of the costs for which they are responsible. Mr. Howard caused certain changes that had to be rectified by the County. The repairs were very costly.

Rules regarding CDL physicals are becoming quite stringent due to State and Federal guidelines. The healthcare provider that is currently being utilized seems to induce much undue stress for the employees, and Mr. Parker would like to know if they could have some latitude to be able to use a doctor of their own choice instead. Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow the highway employees to seek a certified doctor of their choice for their CDL physical, and we will reimburse them. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

Norfolk Southern wants to close the Norfolk Southern railroad crossing in Corunna on East Street. The Commissioners are hesitant to close this crossing and want more compelling reasons as to why they should. It seems as though Norfolk doesn't want to maintain the crossing anymore, but it will cause quite an inconvenience for the citizens. No action was taken.

### **MATTER OF NEW JAIL EXTERIOR DESIGN**

Nicholas Bloom from Elevatus presented exterior design options that the Commissioners discussed.

### **MATTER OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH AUBURN RENEWABLES**

A verbal agreement has been made between Auburn Renewables and the Commissioners. The written agreement is not quite ready. Commissioner Watson will present the terms of the agreement to the Tax Abatement Committee tomorrow morning for their consideration as they make a decision whether to make a favorable or unfavorable recommendation to Council for the Auburn Renewables solar farm abatement. The written agreement will be ready in the next week or two for the President of the Commissioners to sign, and by December for the Council President to sign.

### **MATTER OF BENEFITS FOR CHIEF DEPUTY PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Attorney McCanna did some more research over the last week into the Public Defender's claim that the County should be paying benefits for the part time Chief Deputy Public Defender. It appears as though the former Commissioners agreed upon the Standards of Indigent Defense Services in Non-Capital Cases, which committed the County to paying comparable benefits to the part time Chief Deputy Public Defender as are paid to the Chief Deputy Prosecutor by the State. With that, Michael Watson made a motion to authorize the benefits for the part time Chief Public Deputy Defender as adopted by the Indiana Public Defender Commission's Standards for Indigent Defense Services in Non-Capital Cases. Todd Sanderson reluctantly seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other topics of discussion included: transfer requests for December Council meeting; parking situation in main County parking lot; appointments to County Emergency Management Advisory Council are statutory driven; security lights update for covered bridge; properties to assign to the City of Butler; cleaning up cemetery at Sunny Meadows; Auburn Sports Complex; Economic Development Commission; and invoice for Good Valuation Inc.

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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