

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

November 15, 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 met with Anthem last week. She told them we would like assistance organizing a health risk assessment event for our employees. She distributed a handout covering the Anthem review and updates since signing moving from PHP to Anthem this summer, which was reviewed by the Commissioners.

OSHA is suggesting that employers be prepared to comply with the mandate for proof of COVID vaccination or testing. This will entail a lot of energy and preparation for something that may never come to fruition.

Dotty Miller briefly covered the following HR topics: open and closed positions.

MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR COUNTY REDISTRICTING

President Hartman opened the public hearing for County Redistricting at 9:03 a.m. Kevin Webb spoke and said he thought it might be appropriate to have a line further to the north and further to the east. He was the only person from the public to voice an opinion. The public hearing was closed at 9:09 a.m. The Commissioners discussed Mr. Webb's proposal but think that the way their proposed lines have been drawn up will satisfactorily address Mr. Webb's concerns about having too much representation within the Auburn City/Union Township area. Michael Watson made a motion to adopt the redistricting proposals dated 11-15-21 and to instruct our attorney to prepare an ordinance for next Monday.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period October 24-November 6, 2021. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated November 8, 2021 as submitted. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) ClaraMary Winebrenner, Joshua Byanski, Erik Weber, and Neal Blythe (Prosecutor) to travel to Indianapolis December 5-8 for the 2021 IPAC Winter Conference. Estimated costs of \$3,389.60 to be paid out of State Called Meetings and department travel.

2) Dave Bundy (Sheriff) to travel to Vigo County November 29-30 for Social Media and Cell Phone Investigations training. Estimated cost of \$254 to be paid from Commissioners' travel. Todd Sanderson reluctantly seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Commissioner Sanderson reported that Mosaic will be going light by light and diagramming what they are doing with each light, and taking a picture when complete.

It will take a lot more time to do them now than if the lights would have been done right to begin with. The contractor has to be very careful working in the attic. There are already no more parts for these lights. During the meeting, the Commissioners learned from Kellie Knauer that she is still waiting to hear from Mosaic to begin the work on the lights.

MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS' CERTIFICATE SALE FOR 2022

Treasurer Sandi Wilcox explained that there are several properties that are on tax sale every year, and finally some interest is being shown for some of these repeat properties. Due to the high liens and taxes that have been built up on the properties, no one wants to bid on them during a regular tax sale. It is probably time for a Commissioners' Certificate Sale. Michael Watson made a motion to proceed with a Commissioners' Certificate Sale and to set the minimum bid at \$25. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. The next step will be working out a date on which to hold the sale.

MATTER OF PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR 220 EAST 7TH STREET PROPERTY

The Commissioners received a proposal to purchase the 220 East 7th Street property. They discussed the proposed terms of the purchase agreement. Attorney McCanna will compose a letter expressing all of his thoughts. This topic will be brought up in the December 14 Council meeting as a discussion topic, but it most likely will not be ready to be acted upon yet. No action was taken.

MATTER OF CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS POSSIBLE 911 RADIO TOWER PROJECT

Director Brian Humbarger would like to build our own radio tower so we aren't paying AES for the rental of a tower, and for the security of knowing it would not wipe out the County's radios if the "perfect" lightning strike hit the tower. He would like to seek ARP funding to pay for the tower. Also, by building one, it would be ready for expansion in the future. If we need to fall back to HAM radio equipment, this would be equipped to handle that. The Highway and the Sheriff's towers will need to come down when their departments move. If they are not up to par, or if they are rotting from the inside out, it could be very costly to build new towers for them. If we had our own tower, it could serve all of the departments who need a tower.

Some of the discussion points included the following: Todd Sanderson said the next step as far as he is concerned is checking with the City of Auburn to find out how much longer their tower is good for. Commissioner Watson said we would want a second full quote rather than a partial quote at the very least so we could compare apples to apples. What would happen if we built a tower and let the City rent from us? No action was taken.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

First up for discussion was the Ben Krafft property. The property at CR 55 and CR 60 is supposed to be cleaned up, and Mr. Krafft was given until September 2022 to do so. However, the dumping is getting worse. And, it appears to be what he gets in the course of running his business. If this is the case, it is illegal. Things being dumped at this property are items such as old pieces of culvert, storm water drain pipe, sidewalk, asphalt, and insulation. Attorney McCanna is going to write a letter to Mr. Krafft telling him the property needs to be cleaned up immediately. Mr. Krafft is actively adding to the problem because there is visual proof of junk being added to the property.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to authorize Ben Parker to sign the Special Extra Heavy Duty Vehicle Permit for Total Foundations LLC, Permit Number 8-2021. The designated route plan will be from Griffin Road to County Road 72, East on County Road 72 to 4526 County Road 72 (1st move). From 4526 CR 72 west to CR 19, North on CR 19 to CR 68, East on CR 68 to CR 427, North on CR 427 to CR 11-A, West on CR 11-A to I-69. This permit is effective November 15-30, 2021.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the Resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the County of DeKalb, Indiana Concerning Authorization for Execution of INDOT Agreements. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved. This gives the President of the Commissioners the authority to execute any INDOT agreements and all other documents related as well as INDOT grant program documents.

Other HR topics discussed: Todd Land driveway on CR 51; CR 62 extension; Lenora Lane bridge almost complete; Henderson property closing last Friday; architect for site development of new Highway property.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other topics of discussion included: No update yet on properties to assign to the City of Butler; trash bill for Community Corrections; “chief deputy” title in public defender’s office; security lights update for covered bridge; and match of \$172,000 for Waterloo-Auburn trail widening.

William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor