

## **DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING**

November 22, 2021

Commissioners Present: Vice President Michael Watson  
Vice President Todd Sanderson

Others Present: Attorney James P McCanna  
1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Susan Sleeper

Absent: President William L. Hartman  
Auditor Jan Bauman

### **MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

Lauren talked about the past Wellness screenings, and explained that if the Commissioners are interested that she will reach out to Parkview and Anthem to negotiate prices. Mike Watson and Todd Sanderson are very supportive of the Wellness screenings and would like Lauren to move forward on checking into the logistics and prices.

Dotty gave an update on positions filled, open & pending across all departments.

Dotty sent an updated spreadsheet on the schedule for luncheons and the logistics for the Commissioners to follow-up on.

Dotty reported that a few workman's comp claims have dropped off since the last report, with a few still lingering.

Dotty joined three different webinars and met with our Labor Law Attorney about the OSHA prep on employers being ready to comply with the Mandate for proof of COVID vaccination or testing to be prepared in case the mandate takes hold, currently it is in a STAY with the Federal 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals.

Dotty has asked the EEOC for an extension as they have run into a few bumps on the road on pulling and entering the reports.

### **MATTER OF CLAIMS**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve General Claims as submitted consisting of warrant #'s 132554-132558 in the amount of \$4,500.14 and wire transfer #'s 19456-19560 in the amount of \$508,674.83. Mike Watson seconded, and all approved. Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the 3 special claims for travel as presented. Mike Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF MINUTES**

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes dated November 15, 2021 as submitted. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

### **MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS**

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

1) Dotty Miller (HR) to travel to Fort Wayne on December 6 for the NIHRA December meeting. Estimated cost of \$17.34 to be paid from Commissioners' travel. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF LEASE AGREEMENT FOR VOTE CENTERS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to have Michael Watson sign the Voting Site Lease Agreement to replace the obsolete agreement that still had former President Donald Grogg's name attached to it. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF DIRECTIVE TO MOVE EARLY VOTING TO ANNEX WHITE ROOM**

Clerk Holly Albright is seeking a directive from the Commissioners saying that early voting has moved permanently to the White Room of the Annex Building. This is because the room will not be able to be scheduled to other parties for 30 days twice a year when the room is occupied by voting equipment. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Holly to use the White Room for 30 days twice a year for primary and general election early voting. Second by Michael Watson, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF TITLE OF DEPUTY CHIEF PUBLIC DEFENDER**

Mark Olivero was in and reported that being part of the 40% reimbursement program is not a requirement, however there are a lot more of Counties that offer benefits to their part time Public Defenders. Mark did state that Chief Likes benefits will be claimed and 40% reimbursement will be received. Commissioner Sanderson explained why he was requesting more information and the logistics around the decision. Commissioner Watson expressed that there is a definite difference between a part time employee and a part time Public Defender that would also support the paying of benefits to Chief Likes.

#### **MATTER OF COUNTY REDISTRICTING ORDINANCE**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-25, DCC 3-2-3 as corrected, on First Reading, An Ordinance Establishing Commissioner and Council Districts. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. Todd Sanderson made a motion to suspend the rules to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-25, DCC 3-2-3 as corrected by Title Only on the Second and Third Readings. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed unanimously. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-25, DCC 3-2-3 as corrected, on Second and Third Readings, An Ordinance Establishing Commissioner and Council Districts. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF CEMETERY DONATION FUND ORDINANCE FOR SUNNY MEADOWS**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-26, DCC 28-9-11, on First Reading, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for the Cemetery on the County Farm. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved. This fund is for use by Sunny Meadows to clean up and maintain the cemetery located on the County Farm and to name it the Sunny Meadows Memorial Gardens. Todd Sanderson made a motion to suspend the rules to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-26 by Title Only on the

Second and Third Readings. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed unanimously. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2021-R-26, DCC 28-9-11, on Second and Third Readings, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for the Cemetery on the County Farm. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS**

Commissioner Sanderson reported the light fixtures are being fixed, there has been a schedule of how many will be done and pictures of each light as it is repaired. Kellie is on top of the process and reporting to Commissioner Sanderson with the progress. Commissioner Sanderson is hopeful that this time next week all fixtures will be completed.

There are now 25 residents at the Community Corrections Facility as reported by Commissioner Watson.

#### **MATTER OF AGREEMENT FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BETWEEN DEKALB COUNTY, INDIANA AND AUBURN RENEWABLES, LLC: A SMALL SOLAR INSTALLATION PRODUCING 20 MW OR LESS OF ELECTRICAL GENERATION CAPACITY**

The agreement is the County will receive \$245,4075 made in three equal installments of \$81,025, the first to be received 120 days after date of operation, second to be received 18 months after the first installment, and the third to be received 18 months following the second installment. The payment is to be made for the purposes of raising revenue to be used for public or governmental purposes in the County, and to offset revenue which the County may otherwise lose as a result of the Abatement. Todd Sanderson motioned to approve the agreement. Mike Watson seconded, and all approved.

#### **MATTER OF HIGHWAY**

The secretary of Henderson Construction contacted Ben to inquire about how much liability insurance they should have and for how long. Commissioner Sanderson will contact Insurance Trustees and Henderson to inquire on the process and coverage. A lease option back to Henderson will be researched and discussed at the next meeting. Annual bids will be brought to Commissioners on Dec. 6<sup>th</sup> for signature and opening on Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m... The brush tractor had an incident on Friday on CR 59 between CR 36 and CR 40, there are gas riser valves without cages sticking out of the ground in the road right-of-way and no markings. According to the fire department this is the 4<sup>th</sup> pipe to be hit on CR 59. NIPSCO was contacted and state they have markings, they just do not have the time to place them. A revised letter went out to Todd Land on removing the driveway on CR 51 on November 19, 2021.

#### **MATTER OF AIRPORT DEDICATION OF PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY**

Todd Sanderson made a motion to accept and approve the Dedication of CR 62 Extension Public Right-of-Way to the County with the airport to be bound to road maintenance for 2 years, completing the 3-year maintenance bond typically required by the County. The first-year maintenance bond was covered under the construction contract. Mike Watson seconded, and all approved.

**MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION**

Other topics of discussion included:

Use of the Red room, grant match for Auburn Waterloo Trail, and scheduling of upcoming Executive Session.

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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