

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 28, 2022

Commissioners Present: President William L Hartman
 Vice President Michael Watson
 Vice President Todd Sanderson (virtual, non-voting)

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty Miller went over the staffing around the County and let the Commissioners know that the Residential Staff at Community Corrections will be increasing. Dotty has checked with the Health Department to be sure our COVID protocols are still up to date and we are in compliance. A brief discussion took place on the First Amendment Audit groups that have been visiting other counties, and the labor law attorney feels the Commissioners should at least let the Department Heads know how to handle a situation if it were to arise.

The Commissioners meeting recessed at 9:00 for the advertised public hearing.

MATER OF PUBLIC HEARING ON ORDINANCE 2022-R-4: AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES IN DEKALB COUNTY

Commissioner Hartman began the public hearing with asking those who oppose the ordinance to come forward to speak first, and those in favor would be heard second.

Opposing:

Brent Shull: 6006 Terry Lake, Hamilton In, Town Manager for the Town of Hamilton. Brent co-authored the Steuben County Ordinance for side by sides only for the issue of safety. He offered the Ordinance and was taken back by the Ordinance that is currently at the hand of the Commissioners. Brent is very concerned on the safety and the parameters that are not on the ordinance. As much as Brent would like to see this Ordinance, he has to oppose it at this time. Commissioner Sanderson replied on the issues that Brent brought before the Commissioners. Commissioner Hartman also replied to the concerns.

Ken Lockwood: 2450 County Rd 32, his main concern is the \$50 fee mostly and wondered what it would be used for and if it would be kept in the County, he proposes the uses to go for the Sheriff Department, Fire Departments, Highway Department. He feels his ORV as farm equipment and does not feel it should fall under any other guidelines other than farm equipment. Both Commissioner Hartman and Sanderson commented.

Keith Heffner: 5618 County Rd 17, he asked if the intent of putting an ordinance together was to control an issue and asked if there was an issue. He does not understand why a golf cart is not included and why Off-road vehicles that were not designed for paved roads to travel over 55 mph and why the ordinance is streamlined to ORV's. Commissioner Sanderson responded.

In Favor:

Kerry Brent Warfield: 649 County Road 64, Garrett. He feels there is a misconception on the ORV's and that many Off-road vehicles have off road and on road tires. He suggests that anything that is going to be on the road should have insurance. Kerry is about freedom and safety; he asked if the Commissioners had any holdups on passing the ordinance. The speed issue could also go back to the Amish; they go down the roads in their horse and buggies that are slow moving. Commissioner Watson wanted to make clear that the County has no jurisdiction over Bridgewater and the city. Kerry asked what the holdup was on golf-carts that had slow-moving signs. Commissioner Sanderson responded as he had many say no golf-carts but is willing to have discussion.

Wayne Smith: 1323 County Rd 63, he is pro on this ordinance, and stated a direct quote of Jim McCanna from a January meeting, he also read pieces of the HEA1491 and HEA1200 that passed. His major concern is that certain roads are not included and as a farmer he travels all over the county. He has a number of youth that help him that are not 18, but they are legal to drive his UTVs for the Agriculture Community. He hopes the ordinance passes, with some seclusion for the AG community. Commissioner Sanderson responded and is open to considering a different sticker with those tied to the AG community; Sanderson is not trying to take away the farming allowances.

Brent Shull asked if the out of County patrons would need to purchase a DeKalb County sticker. Commissioner Sanderson feels all counties are welcome to come get a DeKalb sticker.

Brian Humbarger: 2323 County Rd 72, he has been approached as to why we need an ordinance to comply. With his knowledge in Emergency Services he would much rather have an ordinance that allows the ORVs and not have patrons pass a Deputy and freak out to and try to run from law enforcement. He would like to entertain the possibility of using the DNR stickers and do away with the DeKalb County sticker. Brian really wants to see this ordinance pass. Commissioner Sanderson clarified the reasoning behind rescinding the DeKalb County fee and spoke about the IC on licensing and fee requirements.

Mike Watson received an email from Bear Creek president and asked if a golf cart that meets the requirements will be allowed and if they will be allowed to travel in the community. Mike Watson also asked if the Sheriff had any comments, and response was No sir.

Michael Watson would like to hold off on making a motion to pass on the 2nd reading and make some changes and take into consideration the comments made and pass on 2nd and 3rd readings next week.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:50 and the regular Commissioners meeting reconvened.

MATTER OF CHANGE ACADEMY YMCA RENTAL REQUEST

George Mavronicolas came to ask if they could restart the YMCA program for their participants to use their incentive points to earn gym time.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the YMCA Rental Request and Agreement for the Change Academy to rent court 1, use of soccer field if not in use by the YMCA or its partners, access to the west gym, the lobby and the restrooms in the lobby through the rental agreement. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF EXTENSION OFFICE LATE TRAVEL REQUEST

Elysia Rodgers explained that a lot of the meeting are scheduled last minute, and that it was an over-site on their part as they are not into the routine of submitting travel requests.

The following travel requests were tabled at the March 21, 2022 Commissioners Meeting with request to have Elysia Rodgers attend this week to explain why they were all submitted after the travel had taken place.

- 1) Angela Sorg to attend Area XI Staff Meeting in LaGrange held on February 21, 2022. Estimated cost of \$31.68 paid by Department Travel. **(TABLED on 3/21)**
- 2) Elysia Rodgers to attend Area XI Staff Meeting in LaGrange held on February 21, 2022. Estimated cost of \$25.52 paid by Department Travel. **(TABLED on 3/21)**
- 3) Elysia Rodgers to attend Indiana Forage Council Annual Meeting in Indianapolis held on March 3, 2022. Estimated cost of \$137.28 paid by Department Travel. **(TABLED on 3/21)**
- 4) Effie Campbell to attend New Educator Day on Campus in West Lafayette held on March 16, 2022. Estimated cost of \$119.68 paid by Department Travel. **(TABLED on 3/21)**

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the late travel requests. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben just had some FYIs:

~Bridge #46 on CR 15 is complete

~Bridge #9 meeting with USI on declaring an emergency on it and they did find some deterioration from the last inspection, the majority of INDOT bridges are coming over estimate due to construction, labor, & material costs increasing

~There is a major ordeal with the temporary signage coming up stolen that is happening weekly if not multiple times a week and Ben is considering purchasing a small apple gps device to possibly catch some of these that are being stolen until the drains are corrected that are causing the flooding, the

Commissioners are in agreement and give Ben the authority to work with the Auditor to get the devices purchased

MATTER OF INDIANA & MICHIGAN POWER PERMISSION TO CLEAR TREES FROM POWER LINES ON COUNTY PROPERTY

AEP Power is requesting to access county property located at Holiday Lakes to remove trees from the power lines and was inquiring if the Holiday Lakes Association was in charge of this or if the power company could take care of removal at no cost to the County.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the tree work by the power lines on the County property located at Holiday Lakes in the name of the County. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #132962 thru 132969 in the amount of \$53,385.09, and wire transfer #20574 thru 20677 in the amount of \$566,607.89. William Hartman seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated March 21, 2022 with the date change. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Rick Ring to attend the AIC Class: Budget & Finance I 2022 held prior to the AIC District Meeting on March 30, 2022. Estimated cost of \$60.00 paid from Commissioners Travel. (District Meeting and Travel was already approved)
- 2) Dotty Miller to attend Northeast Indiana Human Resources Association held in Fort Wayne on April 11, 2022. Estimated cost of \$19.50 paid by Department Travel.
- 3) Judge Monte Brown to attend the 2022 Spring Judicial College held in Indianapolis on April 26-28, 2022. Estimated cost of \$203.00 paid by Department Travel.

William Hartman seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include: 310 Conductor Cove, Garrett fire and the avenue on where to file a complaint



William L. Hartman – President




Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor