

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

April 4, 2022

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

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty Miller reported there are many interviews for residential facilitators this week for Community Corrections. Sheriff is still looking for Confinement Officers, Extension office will be looking to replace Leesa Houser, and Public Defender will be requesting to change a part time position to a full time position. Dotty has been in discussion with Jack Smith and the needs or changes needed in his department over the next few years. Nationwide has taken over for Hoosier START, and the transition is happening as we speak, with direction coming from the State. Dotty is waiting to hear back on employee health insurance data for the upcoming renewal period. Dotty has asked the Sheriff about active shooting training and is waiting to hear from him on the plan. A short discussion took place on the wellness screenings, and the shortcomings from Parkview on the poor setup and logistics that were very disappointing.

MATTER OF ARP FUNDING PROPOSAL

Commissioner Hartman requested that each Commissioner go down their list of priorities and costs, after each Commissioner has a chance to discuss then the public would be able to respond. Todd Sanderson started out with discussing how the ARP funding began at the start, knowing there were restrictions and now there is not, there wasn't inflation and now there is. Todd is concerned about the Highway and Jail Infrastructure, and does not feel he is ready to pinpoint projects at this point since there is still time to fully commit the ARP dollars. Michael Watson shares Todd's general concept on all the moving parts, he also feels there should be a good amount left in for broadband as that is in favor for all DeKalb County, he also feels the drain reconstruction is important as the engineering will fall onto the taxpayers, the public safety part of the proposal for the radios and the Spillman server needs close attention as that is Safety for the entire County, he is less concerned on the jail infrastructure as we are at least 6 years out from being able to build at this point and he doesn't really want to see investing \$1.5M into infrastructure for it to sit for 6 years. Michael Watson also feels we should keep \$200,000 for Sunny Meadows, and William Hartman reminded us that we have ~\$100k from the corn crib to put toward Sunny Meadows as well. Todd agrees Sunny Meadows needs help, but how far do we go so our residents are not looking for another place to stay. Todd agrees we are at least 6 years out from building a new jail and does feel we could put money into the old jail to keep it operable for the time being. William Hartman put some numbers down and explained to the public that the original plan for the Highway Department was sabotaged, it had all the utilities already and has now pushed us into hyper-inflation, that project has went from \$4.5M to \$6.7M. William Hartman has \$900,000 for highway operations, \$4,100,000 for building move, \$1,500,000 jail street and extension and he feels we shouldn't wait to do the infrastructure, and \$50,000 for the volunteer fire departments for a total of \$6,900,000, already spent is \$248,767 from the

ARP money, leaving \$1,181,233 available in ARP funds. Auditor Sleeper asked that the Commissioners remember that IT expenses that are requested in the ARP dollars will need to come from CCD Funds along with the old jail repairs if needed and at this time the CCD Fund does not have a large enough cash balance to be able to fund both and other needs in the coming years. More discussion took place on whether or not to extend Potter Drive and whether the 'intent' would be shown by extending Potter drive or not. Jim McCanna feels that a case can be made to a judge either way as to repairs to the old jail or putting in new infrastructure as the Commissioners are working on the planning for a new jail in the future.

Dennis Treesh, Corunna Fire Department: he does appreciate the Commissioners true support for the Volunteer Fire Departments, as they do still have to train and maintain their equipment to the Fort Wayne standards, and the volunteer departments do hold fundraisers as they are struggling not only on funds but also manpower like the rest of the communities. The \$4.2M slated for the Highway Department is extreme and 50% of the ARP funds should not be slated for the Highway as there are other agency's that need help as well. William Hartman stated that at this point we are at a HAVE TO stage of the project. Todd Sanderson fully agrees that it is horrible to be in this position but clarified it was NOT the Highway that did not plan, it was the Commissioners and Council. Dennis is not disagreeing the highway needs the money, but he just does not see the fairness to put half the ARP dollars to this one project. Dennis believes holding back money for jail repairs and putting some in infrastructure is a good idea.

Pam Howard, Waterloo Town Manager: she appreciates Michael Watson bringing up the need for Sunny Meadows, the group spent 9 months coming up with the plan and appreciated the Commissioners looking at it, but it is a County Home and is only 1 of 9 remaining and we want to be proud of the home. Pam would like to keep Sunny Meadows in the forefront.

Leta Hullinger, County Recorder: she is a HUGE advocate for Sunny Meadows and appreciates everything the Commissioners have put into Sunny Meadows, she does feel some of the ARP money should go to Sunny Meadows to give the residents a home, as some of the adult residents will not have a place or family to go to if we lose the home. Leta sees a lot of money going to those that cause problems like community corrections and the jail. Leta also stated that the County puts a lot of money into the Human Society- do we really feel that animals are more important than our humans? Todd Sanderson does agree on the Human Society comment. William Hartman suggested possibly diverting the monies that are sent to the Human Society to Sunny Meadows.

Brent Shull, Hamilton Town Manager: he agrees the Commissioners have a big job on their hands, he also stated that ARP money can be used with grants and we could find some highway money and also Sunny Meadows can have private money raising done at the time a project is decided on.

Todd Sanderson made a motion for the ARP funds be committed in the following manner:
\$4,100,000 highway move, \$900,000 highway operation, \$150,000 Sunny Meadows, \$88,000 Spillman,
\$78,000 Cisco, \$637,500 Volunteer Fire departments to do with as they need not specified to anything
(\$75k x 7) Corunna, Waterloo, Jackson, Concord, Spencerville, Garrett, Butler
(\$37.5k x 3) Ashley Hamilton & LaOtto

The remaining money for the committee to decide how to spend.

\$5,953,500 Total

Michael Watson seconded, motion passed (3,1) with all ayes by all 3 Commissioners.

MATTER OF ENGINEERING RESOURCES | POTTER DRIVE EXTENSION

Derek Frederickson put together a concept of what the extension would look like and the cost estimate. The 2700 feet of roadway that was done in 2018 cost \$2,766,536.36. The 1458 feet of road way proposed in 2022 comes in around \$1,391,287.58. Derek explained to be able to come to the \$1,000,000 that was talked about being used in ARP dollars would be reached by pulling pieces out the proposal. Derek stated that he did talk with the City of Auburn and they are willing to do a cost-share with the sewer extension as they did with the original sewer when Potter drive first went in. Derek suggests that the jail project be pushed back about 50 feet, for the County's benefit of possibly having an alternate sewer service for future development. Derek also spoke on the Storm sewer management. He stated that when the original Potter drive project was scaled back they had to come up with some creative ways for the storm sewer layout. Derek did suggest swapping the lighting to the other side of where it is currently located for aesthetic reasons. The next step after the Commissioners are good with the scope of the project would be an engineer's estimate. Michael Watson did ask how much further it would be to run Potter Drive out to County Road 40. Derek believes the new area to build would be about 2700 feet in total. Derek also said the City is very welcoming and wanting to sit down and talk to the city on the cost-share to which Michael Watson agrees. William Hartman let Derek know that the ARP dollars were pulled out of the plan for the time being. Todd Sanderson feels we need to take the next step and sit down and talk with the City about the plans.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben received a call back from Nipsco and they are removing the bill that was sent for the gas line. Ben is having his grade all checked over and is awaiting parts. Ben is looking to trade in the old sign truck for a Ford F550 Sign Truck from Yoder Ford, he has a quote from Maxplat but they will not quote the trade-in. For the equipment, he received two quotes from Kalida and H&H and Ben liked the H&H bed better out of the choices. Ben would like to order as soon as the Commissioners approve.

MATTER OF PUBLIC DEFENDER JOB RE-CLASSIFICATION

Mark Olivero was in to request that his part time administration assistant position be changed to a full time position. Mark is trying to plan in advance of the 2023 budgeting process, and is here requesting the position to be full time. Mark discussed with the current part time employee the possibility of full time status and she is interested. The reasons for needing a full time position are the following: PTO coverage, criminal rule 26 process, summons process changed, half-way house applications are increasing, treatment courts started and referrals are increasing. Mark feels that his current part time employee is a very skilled worker and does not want to see the County lose a good employee. Mark would also like the title changed from administrative assistant to paralegal assistant.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the part time position increasing to a full time position pending on the Council's approval. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period of March 13-26, 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve March 2022 Bookkeeper and Payroll claims. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes dated March 28, 2022 with the date change. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Erik Weber to attend Trial Advocacy II held on April 19-21, 2022 in Fort Wayne. Estimated Cost of \$256.00 paid by Department Travel.
- 2) Elysia Rodgers, Angela Sorg & Effie Campbell to attend IEEA Spring Conference held on April 27-28, 2022 in Lafayette. Estimated cost of \$547.00 paid by Department Travel.

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

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

William Hartman invited anyone to the podium to speak.

Daniel Davidhiser – 206 School Street: he briefly read the online article and is concerned on how this will affect the Town of St. as he feels already has an issue with ORVs running all over, he does feel the registration piece is good and the connecting with the other counties, he has stated that there has been accident issues in his area on county roads and the state roads, he does drive bus for DeKalb Eastern and had an ORV pass his stopped bus with a woman holding a baby. Michael Watson clarified that if ORVs are inside St. Joe that is nothing that the County will have jurisdiction over. Todd Sanderson clarified that if the ORVs are on State Road 1 that is already illegal and can only be crossed at a 90 degree angle. Todd did explain that we do need to drop the registration fee locally, cannot restrict weight limit, or require a driver's license because as IC 14-16-1-22 states, but we can keep the age limit requirement of 18 years old. Michael Watson has found that all the people he spoke with are all in favor of the ordinance but were concerned about ORVs that you ride on and not in, Michael would like to see the straddle vehicles removed from the ordinance. Michael Watson has had enough contacts from others to pause and think about this. Todd's response was at what point is this the personal responsibility of the owners.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to pass Ordinance 2022-R-4 on the 2nd reading by title only with amendments. William Hartman seconded, motion passed (2,1) with Michael Watson opposing.

MATTER OF 2021 ANNUAL JAIL REPORT

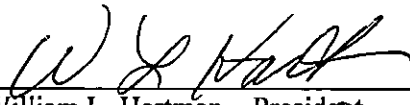
Todd Sanderson Made a motion to accept the 2021 Annual Jail Report submitted by Sheriff Cserep and prepared by Captain Joshua Hicks. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF 2021 SOIL & WATER ANNUAL REPORT

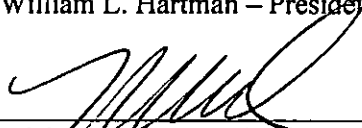
Todd Sanderson made a motion to accept the 2021 Annual Soil & water Conservation District Report. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include: Tim Petre and Insurance Quote, C.R. 14 flooding and other County drains.



William L. Hartman – President




Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor