

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

June 13, 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 announced that HR has handed out the insurance renewal packets. Updates on positions around the County were discussed. Dotty did state that taking things away from employees goes against SHRM and every other HR group she is involved in, everything is being looked at to entice how to keep the employees. Michael Watson stated that everyone is in the same boat, and William Hartman agrees but questioned how far we go to help the situation. Michael Watson feels people around the County are interested in getting good service for what they need to pay as taxpayers, and the taxpayers understand they do have to pay the employees' wages. Dotty thanked the Commissioners for allowing Lindsey to come on board prior to Lauren leaving so there was an overlap for training.

MATTER OF 8 HOUR WORK DAY

Dotty is working with Jack to develop a survey monkey to send out to the employees to include the questions that Michael Watson came up with, William Hartman feels we should exclude one of the questions about whether to change the current workweek as he feels that will skew the responses. Dotty reminded the Commissioners that if they change to an 8-hour work day the PTO time would increase, as being accrued at 8 hours, and the hours worked over 40 hours will be paid at actual time and one-half pay vs. the current hours in which 5 hours per week if worked are currently paid at straight time up to 40 hours. Todd Sanderson expressed he is not out to take things away from the employees, he would prefer to put more money in the employees pockets and let the employees make their own decisions on how they utilize their own money. Michael Watson would like to receive feedback from the employee survey before making a decision on how to handle the matter. William Hartman is leaning toward 8-hour workday with 1-hour lunch. William Hartman suggested possibly setting the Courthouse hours to 8-5, and rely on the department heads to schedule their employees to cover the hours that are set. Michael Watson feels if they can combine a multitude of different decisions they may be able to come up with a solution that will appease everyone.

MATTER OF 2023 HOLIDAY SCHEDULE

William Hartman discussed how 2 counties jump off the chart, that was provided by the Auditor showing other counties and the number of paid Holidays they approve, as having only 10 paid holidays, and expressed they are keeping those employees because they have higher pay. Auditor Sleeper also mentioned that those counties benefit packages could also be better than what we can offer. We may or may not be comparing apples to apples. Todd Sanderson would like to see the survey results and to discuss with the Council prior to making a decision on the 2023 schedule.

MATTER OF DUST CONTROL POLICY

The highway department started calcium chloride spraying today and Ben explained that a few other counties have significantly cut down and is only spraying intersections. William Hartman feels we need to follow through and spray in a uniform manner of 200 feet in front of each home whether they overlap or are across from each other, both Todd Sanderson and Michael Watson agrees. The Commissioners also agree that gaps in between homes that are 100 feet or less should be sprayed and not skipped but only if it connects the sprayed areas together and the Commissioners all know this will increase the cost of product.

Michael Watson made a motion to adopt a dust control policy that sprays 200 feet per house and cover distances between homes of 100 feet or less to meet the next spray and this will be paid from LITED #64 Highway Operations. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF EXTRA HEAVY DUTY WEIGHT PERMIT

Extra heavy duty weight permit for Ericksons, Inc. wants to move a transformer from the sub-station on CR 55 by SDI, Edwards Heavy Haul moved 2 of these to this location for AEP and 1 is sitting as a spare. Now, AEP is wanting to relocate this transformer up to Michigan to replace one that has failed. Erikson would jump the bridge, which basically sets up a steel bridge over our bridge so that they do not actually drive on our roads, as this weighs over \$600,000 pounds. Ben reviewed all the paperwork that was submitted in 2020 and is requiring the same, and he did request another bond to be issued. Discussion took place.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the Extra Heavy Duty Weight Permit for Ericksons Inc. contingent on receiving their bond. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DONNIE HOLBROOK ROAD DAMAGE

Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance would like to settle the claim against Donnie Holbrook for the damage that his farm machinery caused on the County Road 40-A. Indiana Farm Bureau will pay the estimated \$9,500 and has submitted a Full and Final Property Damage Release to be signed by the Commissioners president.

Michael Watson made a motion to accept the payment of \$9,500 and for the president to sign the Full and Final Property Damage Release. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DESIGN RELEASE FOR BUTLER, FAIRMAN & SEUFERT FOR CR 56

Butler Fairman & Seufert has submitted a Level 2 Design Exception for CR 56 to change the design standard on a small section of roadway. This exception would decrease the off-road clear zone from a recommended 24'-30' down to approximately 15'. By going with this exception it will save the County around \$2,002,000 in addition purchase of R/W and relocating transmission power poles and added time to this project. Butler, Fairman & Seufert feels comfortable with this exception.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to go the cheapest route and for Ben Parker to sign the Level 2 Design Exception, Designation NO. 1702950 for CR 56 from SR 427 to the North Section of CR 17, Clear Zone document. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF SHERWOOD DRAIN

Mike Kline wants to upgrade the tile and is working on the design, he has questioned if the Highway would pay the increased tile size to take care of increased usage. Ben explained that the Highway Department already pays drainage assessments and to also pay for the increased size and a yearly assessment, and maintains the drains in the road right of way, however Ben is not going to split hairs over it as we all need drains and understands that concept. William Hartman is not in agreeance on the Highway paying for that upsize but wanted to have some discussion on the matter. William Hartman is going to suggest that the Highway pay for the intake structures.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period of May 22 – June 4, 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the corrected minutes dated June 6, 2022. Michael Watson seconded and motion passed.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Mike Watson to attend the Mayors and Commissioners Caucus held in Bluffton on June 15, 2022. Estimated cost of \$57.00 paid by Commissioners travel.
- 2) Jessica Stanczak to attend IEHA monthly meeting at the Salamonie Reservoir held on June 16, 2022. Estimate cost of \$0.00 paid by department travel.
- 3) George Mavronicolas, Marianne Snyder, Janna Long and Michelle Isham to attend Great Kids Training held at the Impact Center in Fort Wayne on June 9, 2022. Estimated cost of \$0.00 paid by department travel.
- 4) Greg McClure to attend the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy to be a guest Firearms Instructor in Indy on June 19-23, 2022. Estimated cost of \$470.00 paid by department travel.
- 5) Michael Watson to attend Baker Tilly Crossroads of America Leadership Summit held in Carmel on June 23, 2022. Estimated cost of \$140.00 paid by Commissioners travel.
- 6) George Mavronicolas, Marianne Snyder, Janna Long and Michelle Isham to attend Online Workshops: The Bridges Out of Poverty Workshop and Motivation and How to Motivate Students to Increase Performance Workshop. Estimated cost of \$520.00 paid by department travel.

Michael Watson seconded and motioned passed.

MATTER OF COVERED BRIDGE CERTIFICATION FOR CY 2022

Michael Watson made a motion for all to sign the Covered Bridge Certification document for calendar year 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE

On March 14, 2022, the DeKalb County Commissioners evaluated the per mile reimbursement rate for DeKalb County and set it at \$0.50 per mile effected April 1, 2022, and would revisit quarterly. The State Memo dated January 25, 2022 had the state reimbursement set at \$0.41 per mile at the time DeKalb County went to \$0.50 per mile. The most recent State Memo dated April 8, 2022 has the state

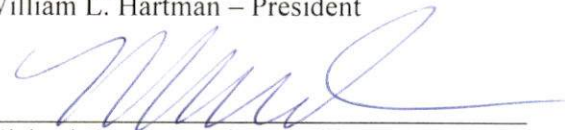
reimbursement rate at \$0.42 per mile and the State has decided to change the frequency with which they review prices to every 3 months instead of the prior review period of every 6 months.

Michael Watson made a motion to keep the reimbursement rate for mileage to \$0.50 per mile beginning July 1, 2022 and will be re-evaluated quarterly. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics include: Conrad Braun: CR 11A light pole damage, highway build special meeting scheduled for June 16, 2022 @ 2:00 pm, Horse Drawn Buggy Ordinance, and auction discussion.


William L. Hartman – President


Michael Watson – Vice President


Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor