

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

October 17, 2022

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

Others Present: First Deputy Carla Winebrenner
Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty went over recruitment around the County. She gave the department heads examples of evaluations. She has received quite a few of them. Brian Humbarger has two employees who will do CPR training for recertification and new certification training for all employees. We had two worker's compensation claims close. We have six open at this time. The new façade is up and a light at the back of the building by the parking lot.

MATTER OF REVIEWING GRANTS FOR DRUG FREE

Rebecca Calhoun is here to go over her grant requests of Justice, Prevention, and Treatment with a chart that she brought in. Monarch Foundation is new to them, but they would like to get them on board. Michael Watson made a motion to approve the grant program and Todd Sanderson seconded, all approved and motion carried. Rebeca Calhoun will send in the paperwork to sign.

MATTER OF INVOICE CLOUD CONTRACT BY TREASURER

Sandi Wilcox came in to present the biller agreement that she had presented earlier in the year. She wants to provide a good service for our citizens. Invoice Cloud is cheaper than Star that we have had. She has been testing out the Invoice Cloud system. She would like approval to try the new system. She feels that the previous company did not meet our needs.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the Invoice Cloud billing and seconded by Bill Hartman, all approved and motion carried.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Michael Watson made a motion to approve payroll for the period of September 25 – October 8, 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded, all approved and motion carried.

MATTER OF ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

Michael Watson made a motion to approve General Claims consisting of warrant #133658 thru 133662 in the amount of \$\$2,753.50. Seconded by Bill Hartman, all approved and motion carried.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes dated October 10, 2022. Michael Watson seconded, all approved and motion carried.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Angela Sorg from Extension to attend Health & Human Sciences Area Meeting on October 26, 2022, at Decatur, IN. Estimated cost of \$45.00 paid by department travel.
- 2) Elysia Rodgers from Extension to attend the State PCARET Fall meeting held at Beck's Agriculture Center, West Lafayette, IN, on November 10, 2022. Estimated cost of \$139.00 paid by department travel.
- 3) Elysia Rodgers to attend the State ANR Educator Retreat held at Beck's Agriculture Center in West Lafayette, IN on November 15-17, 2022. Estimated cost of \$231.50 paid by department travel.
- 4) Elysia Rodgers from Extension to attend State Extension Professional Development Conference, on December 8, 2022 at Purdue Memorial Union, West Lafayette, IN. Estimated cost of \$136.00 paid by department travel.
- 5) Susan Sleeper, Carla Winebrenner, & Jody Wiedenhoeft will attend the Leadership Institute for Excellence meeting, at Belterra Resort, in Florence, IN on Tuesday, October 25, 2022. Estimated cost is \$180.00 paid by department travel.
- 6) Leanne Sparkman & Carla Alford to attend the LOW Year End Training Meeting held at Embassy Suites Conference Center, in Plainfield, IN, on November 17, 2022. Estimated cost is \$556.00 paid by department travel.

Bill Hartman seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben Parker said he has Ron Francis from Butler, Fairman and Seufert, Inc. available to speak with them regarding the settlement on the Howard property at CR 56 of \$65,000. This is the only one that needs resolved according to Jim McCanna. Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve the \$65,000 to the Howard property owner on CR 56 and seconded by Michael Watson, all approved and motion carried.

Ben presented a photo of a map from Todd Land regarding the driveway permit. This meets the driveway permits that he was given prior to Ben from 2011. There has been prior discussion regarding this issue. Commissioner Watson will stop at the Surveyor's Office to make sure that it meets all the requirements needed. Michael Watson made a motion to approve the driveway permit contingent on the Surveyor's Office and seconded by Todd Sanderson, all approved and motion carried.

Edwards Tree Service has a request to transport from the new airport project. Ben requested that USI review this per Edward Tree Service covering cost for the overweight permit to Bridge 25 on CR 427. Michael Watson made a motion to approve this contingent on the USI report and seconded by Bill Hartman, all approved and motion carried.

Ben has put some equipment on line to sell.

Dylan Dyre from Nipsco sent a proposal for natural gas for the new highway property. Bill Hartman signed on 9-21-22 a proposal to send back to Milan Acamovic. They were to send an invoice and contract and did not for the cost of \$1,402.99. He spoke to the company and the proposal was incorrect and the employee is no longer there. The new amount to the county is now \$55,245. Ben is waiting on the new estimate in writing. Jim said there could be an argument with them honoring the original estimate and could go to litigation.

Bill Hartman thinks we need to bring up the buggy ordinance for a fee. Todd Sanderson thinks that people need to see the damage that happens to the roads. They want to put this on next week's agenda to discuss.

There was discussion on the damage that was done to the road from the buggy parade. This will be tabled and discussed at the next meeting. Prior county commissioners' had a permit to hold a parade.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE No. 2022-R-14, DEKALB COUNTY CODE SECTION 8-1-2-20

The Town of St Joe and DeKalb County Indiana discussed that a portion of County Road 60 between State Road 1 and Widney Street would better meet the needs of the citizens if it were under the control of the Town of St Joe. There was a motion on first reading by Michael Watson and seconded by Todd Sanderson. They will do the second and third readings at next week's meeting.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Andrew Provines was here again to discuss the solar farms. He wants to know what is set in place to solve soil erosion and invasive species from these farms. They have to have approval from Soil & Water and the Surveyor's Office. He wants to know the actual plan if they do not abide to the agreement. Jim McCanna said the Development Services would follow through with this. Mr. Provines states he wants the ordinance to be opened back up for the safety and future of our citizens.

Ryan Hoover 3935 CR 75, Butler, IN. He just bought the land and now a solar farm will be surrounding them. If he builds a house out there, he wants to make sure that if something happens, that his property will be covered if there is a fire from the solar farm.


Ginger Miller 7348 CR 46, Butler, IN is a real estate agent in these areas. She would like the ordinance to be re-opened and reviewed in this area. She has been told that the solar panels are only 20% efficient. Appraisers that she has contacted agree that solar panels will be detrimental to the property owners. She was referred to Development Services by Jim McCanna.

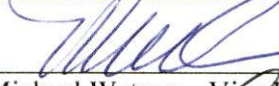
Colbin Steury, 4594 SR 1, Butler, IN. He is here to state that people of his age range will be affected by this solar field his entire life. The fences will be surrounding him and he is concerned about the wildlife in the area. He is also a hunter and this will disturb the environment. He would like to see the ordinance re-opened.

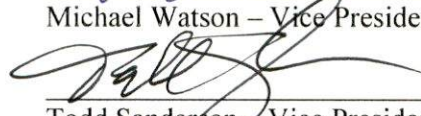
Commissioner Sanderson would like to discuss the solar farm. He brought up the concerns of the citizens and the business owner. Commissioner Watson also joined in the discussion regarding the solar use history in Indiana. This is a property rights issue versus a business owner issue. Commissioner Watson states that the fence would have to be 30 feet from the property lines.

There was also discussion about the population of the jail and Community Corrections regarding the numbers.

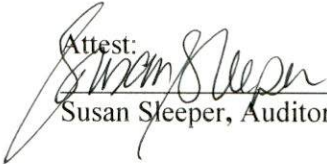
The truck from the coroner (refrigerator box truck) was sold for \$3,500. Todd Sanderson will get the check to Auditor Sleeper.



William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor