

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

November 21, 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 MAINTENANCE

Larry explained that because departments are going digital, he has about 12-15 lateral filing cabinets. He sent out an email to see if any offices needed them and he was able to get rid of 2, he does have a few people interested in purchasing them for \$20 per cabinet. The commissioners are in agreement to sell them, rather than taking them to the basement.

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty began with recruitment around the County Departments. Dotty performed some preliminary phone interviews for the Sunny Meadows Interim Director position, she gave the Commissioners a review of each Candidate and discussion took place. The Commissioners agree to interview Dotty's top three choices at the Executive Session on November 28th and then Dotty will meet them at Sunny Meadows to give them a tour of the facility. Dotty then went over the closed and open worker comp. claims. Dotty has met with the Newly Elected Officials for onboarding. Dotty asked Jim if he had the results of the employee survey and he does, they have decided they will present at the Department Head meeting and then post to the intranet for all employees to view. Dotty has continued to work with some entities to nail down information on self-funding health insurance. Commissioner Watson feels they can narrow down to two companies and all agree to have them both come in to do presentations.

MATTER OF SPEED LIMIT POSTING ON CR 44: TERRY ROSENBURY

Terry Rosenbury residing at 6260 County Rd 44, Butler came to the commissioners prior to the solar coming into play about the speed limit being marked and now with the solar construction she wants to be sure the speed limit is posted and that the farmers will be held accountable for provisions while being on the roads. Commissioner Sanderson asked if Terry wanted her road paved and she does not, as it will increase the road traffic. She also stated that SDI would be more than willing to apply the dust control more often. Commissioner Watson asked if she feels her neighbors also feel that they do not want the road paved, and Terry said yes. Commissioners explained that they will need to check to see if there has been a traffic study has been completed before being able to post signs. The Commissioners will have Ben contact SDI to increase the number of times the dust control is applied to the road.

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY VISITORS BUREAU RIGHT OF FIRST REFUSAL

When Amber came on board the DCVB was put in charge of finding a new location and they now rent from Rick Purdy, and she is requesting the Commissioners approve for the DCVB to have the right of first refusal when the time comes so that everything is setup correctly. Amber explained the decision will still be a board approval on if they stay at the location when the time comes
Todd Sanderson made a motion to sign the Right of First Refusal . Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY TOURISM COMMISSION BOARD APPOINTMENT

Amber Caccamo recommended Damian Dunn be appointed to the Board of the Tourism Commission.

Michael Watson made a motion to appoint Damian Dunn to the DCVB Board as suggested by the Executive Director for a two year term beginning January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ANDREW PROVINES: ABATEMENT/SOLAR/FINANCE

3920 CR 75, Butler, IN 46721 | Andrew is forfeiting some of his time and is allowing Larry Williams to speak who resides at 2418 Woodland Trail | he had just learned about the solar topic just last week and found it very interesting. He explained a bit about his financial background and then shared some information he has put together from reading the newspaper, then addressed some questions that arose. Will EDF consolidate their DeKalb County financial results with the EDF of France, and if they do, if they do are the DeKalb County Commissioners and members of the DeKalb County Council in a position to advocate for and approve tax abatements to EDF Renewables that may ultimately benefit the public monies of the French Republic? This is a hot topic internationally and feels this affects us at DeKalb County. He feels strongly that Tax Abatement should be used as a tool for companies that are bringing in a large amount of jobs. Commissioner Watson explained that County Council is in charge of Tax Abatements and the Commissioners can make recommendations but are not the approving body. Commissioner Watson also said that the number of jobs used to be the huge factor of a Tax Abatement, but that is changing because of robotics. Commissioner Watson addressed the International comment with we have local companies that have foreign connection as well. Commissioner Hartman has a large problem with a Foreign Company having control. Discussion took place.

Andrew asked if the Commissioners had control over Tax Abatements, and made a point that Commissioner Watson has his hands in many pieces of the pie that is in connected with the Solar Ordinance. Andrew also asked about Fire Plans and if there was any follow up as the proposed solar field cannot be reached easily by fire trucks. Commissioner Watson explained the Knox box that is on the solar panels that would shut the power off to all panels at once in the case there is a fire. Commissioner Hartman brought up fire stop strips as a possibility of helping, and Commissioner Watson said there are fire stops in the plan already. Andrew addressed a prior comment that solar companies are not an environmental hazard, but they are and he passed out articles to the Commissioners. Commissioner Watson clarified that he did not say the projects do not have issues, but that we never hear about the projects that go smoothly. Andrew's concern is to make sure an environmental issue does not happen here in DeKalb County.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Special claims in the amount of \$16,938 consisting of wire transfer #'s 22739 thru 22740 that were processed on November 16, 2022 and General claims processed on November 21, 2022 in the amount of \$636,859.93 consisting of warrant #'s 133727 thru 133732 and wire transfer #'s 22742 thru 22858. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Todd Sanderson made the motion to approve the minutes as amended dated November 14, 2022. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

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

- 1) Effie Campbell to attend 4-H Camp Planning Meeting held at Huntington Co. Extension Office on November 18, 2022. Estimated cost of \$51.00 paid by department travel.
- 2) Brady Thomas, Ben Rice & Josh Hicks to attend Indiana Sheriff's School held at Courtyard by Marriott in Muncie on December 5-9, 2022. Estimated cost of \$416.00 paid by department travel.
- 3) Jessica Stanczak to attend EHS/PHN Orientation held in Indianapolis on December 6-7, 2022. Estimated cost of \$382.00 paid by department travel.
- 4) Susan Sleeper to attend Newly Elected Officials Training held at the Embassy Suites Event Center in Plainfield on December 6-8, 2022. Estimated cost of \$611.00 paid by state called meeting account.

Todd Sanderson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF DRUG FREE GRANT AWARD CLAIMS

The Commissioners approved the Drug Free Program on October 17th for the following recipients and amounts.

- DeKalb County Change Academy | \$600.00
- DeKalb County Community Corrections | \$2,500
- DeKalb County Probation | \$5,000
- Hearten House | \$3,125
- Monarch Foundation | \$3,125
- Inspiration Ministries | \$3,125
- Auburn Police Department | \$5,000
- McMillen Health | \$4,500
- Hope for Her | \$3,125
- Garrett Keyser-Butler Schools | \$5,000

Todd Sanderson made a motion to accept and the president to sign the DeKalb Drug Free Grant Recipient Contracts. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF COURTHOUSE USE AGREEMENT

Lucy Papaik, from Right to Life of Northeast Indiana submitted an application to use the Northside of the Courthouse, just on the sidewalk area to hold a rally for life.

Michael Watson motioned to approve the application of sidewalk use as written to hold a Rally for Life.

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2022-R-20: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Michael Watson made a motion to approve Resolution 2022-R-20 adopting the Economic Development Income Tax Capital Improvement Plan for the period of January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2024. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF SHERIFF DEPARTMENT VEHICLES GOING TO AUCTION

Michael Watson made a motion for the president to sign the following vehicles titles that are going to auction:

- 2016 Dodge Ram 1500 | VIN# 1C6RR7XT6GS342969
- 2018 Dodge Charger | VIN# 2C3CDXKT1JH323847

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF SUPPORT LETTER FOR RAILROAD OVERPASS

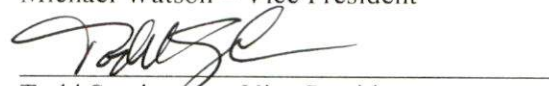
Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and all to sign the letter of support for the City of Auburn's application for INDOT's Rural Call of Projects Grant that will assist with reconstructing a portion of Wayne Street (CR 427) and grade separation at the CSX Railroad Crossing south of Auburn Drive. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics Include: Innkeepers tax update, ASG, Solar Ordinance amendments/moratorium, Horse Drawn Vehicle Ordinance Discussion,

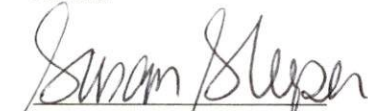


William L. Hartman – President

Michael Watson – Vice President

Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor