

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

July 11, 2023

The following Council Members were present:

President Richard Ring
Vice President David Yarde
Member William VanWye, absent
Member Robert E. Krafft
Member Amy Demske
Member Amy Prosser
Member Rick Collins

Others present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
Attorney Donald J Stuckey

Robert Krafft opened the meeting with prayer at 8:33 a.m.

MATTER OF MINUTES

David Yarde made a motion to approve minutes dated June 13, 2023. Rick Collins seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

David Yarde made a motion to approve the Airport's Additional of \$750,000 for Infrastructure with in the Airport Rainy Day Fund. Rick Collins seconded and all approved.

Larry Williams asked questions on logistics of where the money came from and its purpose.

David Yarde made a motion to approve Public Defender's additional request of \$6,000 in account 33120 (Transcripts) and \$10,000 in account 32780 (Other Service Fees), both within County General Fund (1001). Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

Mark Olivero explained the need and answered Council questions.

MATTER OF TRANSFERS

Rick Collins made a motion to approve the Recorder's transfer of \$500.00 from account 22730 (Other Operating Supplies) to account 34295 (Training/Travel/Education) with in County General Fund (1001). Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

Amy Demske made a motion to approve DCCC's transfer of \$7,500 from account 10750 (Part-Time) to account 33440 (Contractual Services) with the Project Income Fund (1122). Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORT BY FUND

The Council certified that they have received and reviewed the June 2023 Financial Report by Fund.

MATTER OF DEKALB COUNTY AIRPORT UPDATE

Council and Commissioner Brief 7/11/2023

New Business

- Mr. Bob Patterson Passed away on July 1, 2023. He will be very much missed.
- The Self-Serve Fuel System installation is moving along. The electrical has slowed down just a bit as we wait for some backordered components. We will have the ability to run the system from our 50kv generator so we are waiting on the manual transfer switch. The electric company will be out in the coming week to get the service set up. The POS (Point of Sale / Credit Card) system came damaged so we sent it back. We are waiting on word from the vendor, QTPod as to when the replacement might be back onsite.
- The Board voted to accept the low bid from Fleming Excavating, pending a federal grant, on the AIP36 RW 9-27 NAVAIDS Relocation project in the amount of \$4,411,905.93 Total, 90% Fed \$3,970,715.00, 5% State \$220,595, 5% Local \$220,595.
- Runway 9 (landing from the west) is reduced to 3,850 feet, Runway 27 (landing from the east) is closed.
- The entire runway will be closed July 28 to August 28, scheduled reopening of the 7100 foot runway is August 29. Thresholds on either end will be displaced resulting in 6300 feet available for landing. Aircraft departing the airport will have the entire 7100 feet available in either direction.

Old Business

- None.

MATTER OF 2023 SALARY & HOURLY WAGE ORDINANCE: 2023-OCC-7

Robert Krafft made a motion to approve The 2023 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance: Ordinance 2023-OCC-7 by title only on the FIRST Reading. David Yarde seconded and all approved

David Yarde made a motion to suspend the rules to pass The 2023 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance: 2023-OCC-7 on the 2nd and 3rd Readings. Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

Rick Collins made a motion to approve The 2023 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance: Ordinance: 2023-OCC-7 by title only on the SECOND and THIRD Readings. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMISSIONER-COUNCIL DISCUSSION

Rick Ring explained that it will be important for the Council's Budget Process to know whether or not the Commissioners are going to opt-in to the SB-4 Health Funding. Commissioner Watson explained that on July 24th they are taking public comment and will be voting on July 31st. Rick Ring encouraged all Council members to either be in attendance at one of the meetings or at least send in a letter. David Yarde asked about the status on the CR 56 project and has had many inquiries. Commissioner Watson explained the timeframe has actually been moved up and should be happening, the funding is much more than original cost, and a major peat soil issue was also uncovered.

MATTER OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION

September Council Meeting Date Change: The meeting date will remain at the original date of September 26th, due to the requirement of having 10 days between the Public Hearing and Final Adoption.

Wheel Tax: Rick briefly explained the need for a wheel tax as shown with the fiscal plan update given from Jeff and the highway being unfunded by 2025. Ben Parker and Brad Stump were in attendance and handed out data they collected and explained the documents. Ben explained that the MVH Restricted change a few years back has helped the lower funding for his department as the requirements in order to use the Restricted Funds are stringent and tasks like salt and sand are not considered a Restricted task and that is a large amount for DeKalb County. When the Restricted and Unrestricted change was implemented the State wanted the Local municipalities to raise their own funds to fund the Highway department, which meant the County received the same amount of funding, from Gas Tax, but had to split the funds 50/50 even those costs increase. Brad Stump discussed the handout that focuses on funding public road maintenance. He explained that Public Roads are only one part of a community's Transportation Asset Management puzzle. Transportation Asset Management includes bridges, small structure/culverts, roads, signals, signs, marking/stripping, sidewalks, ADA, ramps, and trails. There is approximately 704 miles of road under DeKalb County's jurisdictional control (425 paved and 279 un-paved). Brad explained that pavement maintenance requires a method of determining pavement conditions, matching pavement maintenance processes to those conditions, and performing maintenance to the extent allowed by available funding. Historically, the asphalt and concrete road maintenance process was to pave a road then do little/no maintenance until it was re-paved which is expensive and unsustainable from a budget standpoint. The key is to keep ahead of the curve with less-expensive preventative maintenance to minimize the number of miles of more-expensive reconstructive projects. There are rating systems of paved roads, in 2016 DeKalb County had 165.66 miles in the rating of 1-4, the goal being to have NO roads in the rating of 1-4. In 6 years, mainly due to Community Crossings Grant Dollars, DeKalb County as lowered that to 66.83 miles rated 1-4 in 2022. Brad then went over Lifecycle Maintenance Costs per Mile for Micro surface, separated between roads needing reconstruction (\$14,700 per mile – per year) and roads that do NOT need reconstruction (\$12,867 per mile – per year). Further, by using road ratings they assumed 7.5% of roads requiring reconstruction using Micro surface and 90% of roads not needing reconstruction using

Micro surface would come in around \$411,427.35 annually for a Micro surface maintenance plan. Brad then went over the Lifecycle Maintenance Costs per Mile for Chip Seal, separated again by roads needing reconstruction (\$10,233 per mile – per year) and roads that do NOT need reconstruction (\$8,400 per mile – per year). Again, assuming 92.5% of roads that would require reconstruction using Asphalt & Chip Seal, and assuming 90% of roads would NOT require reconstruction using Asphalt & Chip Seal would come in around \$3,337,483.25 annually for Chip Seal maintenance. Brad further expressed that Supplemental Funds are not a guarantee and should supplement rather than form a core part of the annual maintenance budget. Continues reliance on CREDIT/LITED may divert those fund from other projects or those funds may be withdrawn to fund other projects. Rick reminded that if a Wheel Tax is in acted, those funds are ONLY able to be used for roads not any other project in the County. Ben also handed out a Road Surface Map and a Road Rating Map for review. Rick Collins asked if the influx of the Amish Community into our County if Ben had noticed increased maintenance need. Ben is seeing wear on the roads but it is hard to answer at this point until he can see over a period of time how the damage

Terri Hines: She wants her road paved or chip & sealed, she doesn't care but wants it done. She noticed that in the Highway Budget, only the roads that are in very poor condition are planned for in the budget. She feels that unless a Wheel Tax is in acted then someone like herself that lives on a good dirt road will never have a change at getting a paved road.

Rick announced that a vote would not be made today and that there are many people on both sides of the fence on this decision. At the Council's August 8th meeting a vote will be taken on whether or not to adopt the Wheel Tax for DeKalb County. Rick also mentioned that he is not sure how all farmers feel, but those he has talked to are not in favor of paved roads because of the type of work and machinery they need to use, as well as the increased cost for maintenance.

Amy Demske asked how the Gas Tax money is allocated from the State. It was explained that there is a percentage that is given to the County, Cities & Towns based on the number of miles of road in the respective areas.

Further Discussion took place amongst the Council members and Attorney Stuckey. Attorney Stuckey reminded the Council that the Commissioners/Highway should be the ones that are letting the Council know how much money they are in need of. Brad reminded that the value the Commissioners will provide will be an estimate only and that value can change immensely.

Darrell McConnell: Auburn City Planner explained that cities the size of Auburn fall in the 50/50 grant match and they have tried to utilize the Community Crossing Grant monies but it is not a guarantee. In 2022, the City applied for 6 projects under the Community Crossings Grant but was only awarded 1 of those 6 projects. From a City Planner perspective the wheel tax income would definitely be used for maintenance and projects in the City that need funded.

Lynn Reinhart: Thought that he understood that all the Highway Funding came from Gas Tax, but was confused on the discussion on LITED. Rick explained the difference in funding acronyms. He also reminded that he did not want to build a new department and come back and ask for a wheel tax in the same year.

Larry Williams: Agreed with the LITED comments made by Mr. Reinhart and agrees that LITED funds are now going to be not available for the Highway due to the payment for the new facility. Larry asked if there is any way to lower expenses somewhere else in order to receive lower revenue in one area to increase and pay for highway expenditures. Rick explained that it is the Commissioners decision on what and how they spend their LITED funds. Larry also asked if the Cities can do a wheel tax on their own, but as of right now according to Attorney Stuckey that only the County Council can enact the Wheel Tax.

Rick asked the City and Towns to let the Council know what their position is on in favor or not in favor of the Wheel Tax prior to the August meeting.

New Health Funding: A short discussion took place on the new funding. The Council received a handout from Indiana Department of Health that shows DeKalb County will receive between \$421,833.75-\$562,445 in 2024 and will receive between \$843,667.50-\$1,124,890 in 2025 IF the Commissioners OPT-IN to the new funding.

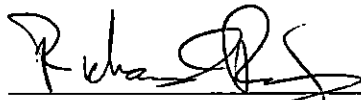
MATTER OF SHERIFF'S COMMISSARY REPORT

David Yarde made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Commissary Report for January-June 2023. Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

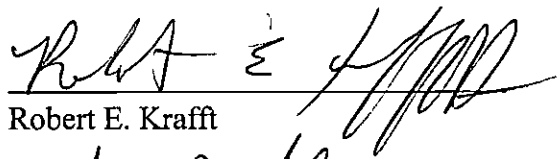
MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Rick Collins made a motion to adjourn at 11:12 a.m. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

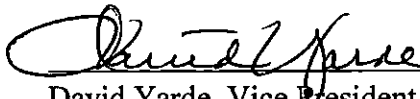
DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:



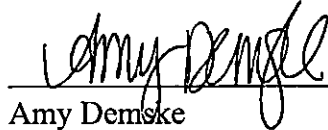
Richard Ring, President



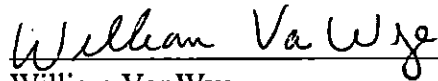
Robert E. Krafft



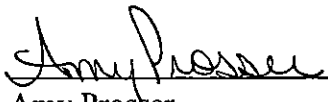
David Yarde, Vice President



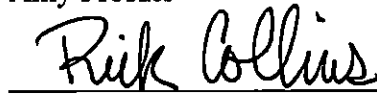
Amy Demske



William VanWye

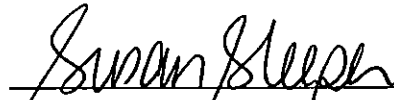


Amy Prosser



Rick Collins

ATTEST:



Susan Sleeper, DeKalb County Auditor