

DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

January 9, 2024

The following Council Members were present:

President David Yarde
Vice President William VanWye
Member Rick Ring
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 9:03 a.m.

MATTER OF MINUTES

David Yarde made a motion to approve minutes dated December 12, 2023. Rick Collins seconded.

MATTER OF REORGANIZATION

William VanWye nominated David Yarde as president, Amy Prosser seconded.
Amy Demske nominated Rick Ring, there was no second to the nomination.
Motion passed for David Yarde as President unanimously.

Robert Kraft nominated William VanWye for Vice President. Rick Ring seconded.
Robert Krafft motioned to close nominations; Amy Prosser seconded to close nominations.
Motion passed for William VanWye as Vice President unanimously.

Robert Krafft made a motion to retain Don Stuckey. William VanWye seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

No Additional were needed.

MATTER OF TRANSFERS

Rick Ring made a motion to approve the Sheriff transfer of \$1,972 from Operating Supplies (22130) to Purchase of Vehicles (44610) within the School Resource Officer Fund (9105). Rick Collins seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF 2023 YEAR-END TRANSFERS

Rick Ring made a motion to approve 2023 year-end transfers. Amy Demske seconded, and all approved. The list of transfers is attached to these minutes.

MATTER OF 2023 ENCUMBRANCES INTO 2024

A breakdown of the encumbrances for fund summaries were presented to Council prior to their meeting and are available on file in the Auditor's Office. The list of encumbrances is attached to these minutes.

Rick Ring made a motion to approve 2023 encumbrances into 2024. Amy Demske seconded the motion, and all approved.

MATTER OF FINANCIAL REPORT BY FUND

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

Regular Council Meeting paused for a Public Hearing as advertised.

MATTER OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 2024-OCC-1 | MODIFYING LOCAL INCOME TAX RATES FOR DEKALB COUNTY

Public Hearing opened at 9:30

Auditor Sleeper explained the reason for this Ordinance for the State. Rick Ring pointed out a few points including that the PTR rate is 0.5% which is uncommon among the surrounding Counties, such as Lagrange .15%, Steuben .29%, Noble .25%, and Whitley .03%. He stated we are directing more of our income tax relief to the residential property, not businesses or agriculture; if the Council had not directed it in this manner the property taxes in DeKalb County would be increased.

David Yarde asked for any public comment for or against the Ordinance, there was no patron in attendance that wanted to speak.

Robert Krafft asked if all the LIT funds were committed at this time, which would mean they overall tax rate could not be reduced.

Public Hearing closed at 9:42 a.m.

Rick Ring made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-OCC-1 on FIRST Reading. Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

Rick Collins made a motion to suspend the rules and vote on 2nd & 3rd Readings of Ordinance 2024-OCC-1. Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

William VanWye made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-OCC-1 on SECOND & THIRD Readings. Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF PTABOA BOARD APPOINTMENTS FOR 2024

For the PTABOA Board, Assessor Stonebraker has done all she could to find qualified candidates who are Democrats.

Rick Ring motioned to waive the political party requirement. Robert Krafft seconded, and all approved.

Amy Prosser motioned to waive the level 2 or 3 certification due to the lack of qualified individuals holding the certification. Rick Collins seconded, and all approved.

Amy Demske motioned to Re-Appoint Kyle Branscum and Marcia Seevers for the 2024 Board. Robert Krafft seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2024-RCC-1 | PRELIMINARY (DECLARATORY) RESOLUTION FOR THE CREATION OF AN ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AREA

William VanWye made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-RCC-1 as described above. Rick Ring seconded and the motion passed (6,1) with Prosser voting against.

MATTER OF BOARD OF FINANCE RESULTS | TREASURER WILCOX

Treasurer Wilcox handed out the Annual Board of Finance Report. The calendar year of 2023 ended with \$65,583,211.84 in all accounts. Interest income earned in 2023 resulted in \$3,572,311.28, in 2022 the amount is \$872,031.71, and in 2021 the amount is \$71,262.72. Next Treasurer Wilcox went the Summary of Collections for 2023 that showed a total of \$253,088,038 of total cash flow through the Treasurers' Office. Most of the property tax payments came by way of walk-ins, mail or dropbox at 52.0%, Mortgage Escrow at 27.4%, Electronic Payments at 15.00%, Partner Bank Locations at 1.10%, and Misc. Collections such as TRECs, AFCS at 0.5%. The delinquency rate for 2023 was at 7.02%, up from 6.97% for 2022, but still down from 7.30% in 2020. That represents about \$2.69 million dollars in delinquencies. There were 70 tax sale properties in 2023, compared to 64 in 2022 and 130 in 2021. Finally, Ms. Wilcox went over 2023 Achievements and 2024 Goals. **Accomplishments included:** New online payment portal, Invoice Cloud went live February 1, 2023, earned more interest on County money in 2023 than in the last 10 years combined by being diligent about the earning strategy, worked with Beacon Schneider to get real estate, mobile home & personal property searches combined, successfully transitioned the in-person tax sale to online only, and First Deputy completed 2 additional courses in the NaCo Professional Development Leadership Program—Leading in Analytics and Leading on Purpose. **Goals for 2024 are:** work with Auditor's office to complete the cleanup of remaining parcels with unknown owners and unknown locations, decrease the delinquency rate as well as postage costs for county by utilizing Invoice Cloud's marketing strategies to promote paperless billing, recurring & automatic payments, Continue to be diligent about earning interest on county money with a goal to earn \$2.0 million in interest for the year, even in environment of

declining interest rates, Digitize all bankruptcy files to eliminate paper storage of bulky records, Work with CSB to enable positive pay on ACH transactions, streamline department "green" receipt process, cross train staff on settlement process, and Transition Treasurer's office responsibilities to the newly elected treasurer to assure seamless changeover.

MATTER OF COMMISSIONERS-COUNCIL DISCUSSION

President Hartman stated that Mike Watson can add anything to this discussion, but wanted to address the Sunny Meadows situation and explained some of the upgrades that have been done and will be completed this coming year. Bill also addressed the New Highway build, stating it is progressing but there have been some slow times due to the quantity of workers. Hartman then gave an overview of the Maintenance Employee that was added to primarily cover Sunny Meadows, DCCC & Central Communications. He then discussed the Weights & Measures truck and how the Commissioners want to get him a van and designate the prior truck as the maintenance vehicle. The Building Inspector Truck was also discussed as it needs to be traded in due to a known transmission issue.

MATTER OF 2024 SHERIFF SALARY CONTRACT

The Sheriff shall be paid a fixed amount of compensation in place of fee compensation in accordance with I.C. 36-2-13-2.8 in the amount of 70% of the full time Prosecutor's salary which calculates to \$124,718 for the calendar year 2024. The Commissioners approved the contract on December 18, 2023 contingent on DeKalb County Council's approval.

Rick Collins made a motion to approve the 2024 Sheriff's Salary Contract. William VanWye seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMISSARY REPORT FOR JULY 1 TO DECEMBER 31, 2023

William VanWye made a motion to acknowledge receipt of receiving the Commissary Report from the Sheriff. Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RECEIPT OF ANNUAL CORONERS REPORT

William VanWye made a motion to acknowledge receipt of receiving the Annual Coroner's Report. Amy Demske seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRANSFER FROM COUNTY GENERAL TO RAINY DAY FUND

Robert Krafft made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-RCC-2, A Resolution Transferring Funds from the County General Fund to the Rainy-Day Fund in the amount of \$542,859 (the last year to move 15%). Amy Demske seconded, and all approved.

2023 Year-end Transfers

Fund	Acct	Acct Desc	Obj	Loc	Amount	Comment
Fund Desc: ARP: American Rescue Plan (4 Items, 0.00)						
Loc Desc: Commissioners (4 Items, 0.00)						
8950	22720	Supplies	00000	0019	4028.54	From: 35699
8950	33710	Equipment Rental	00000	0019	487.03	From: 35699
8950	35699	HWY Project/Construction	00000	0019	-4028.54	To: 22720
8950	35699	HWY Project/Construction	00000	0019	-487.03	To: 33710
Fund Desc: General (56 Items, 0.00)						
Loc Desc: Auditor (2 Items, 0.00)						
1001	34140	Software Maintenance	00000	0002	-264.00	To: 44420
1001	44420	Computer Equipment	00000	0002	264.00	From: 34140
Loc Desc: Circuit Court (6 Items, 0.00)						
1001	10750	Part Time	00000	0025	-2.00	To: 10804
1001	10804	Administrative Allotment	00000	0025	2.00	From: 10750
1001	11419	Assistant Court Reporter	00000	0025	-1445.48	To: 11421
1001	11421	Balliff	00000	0025	1445.48	From: 11419
1001	32780	Other Service Fees	00000	0025	-200.00	To: 32820
1001	32820	Legal Fees	00000	0025	200.00	From: 32780
Loc Desc: Commissioners (4 Items, 0.00)						
1001	22255	Incentives	00000	0019	5800.00	From: 32780
1001	32780	Other Service Fees	00000	0019	-5800.00	To: 22255
1001	33410	Liability Insurance	00000	0019	-2236.60	To: 33420
1001	33420	Official Bond	00000	0019	2236.60	From: 33410
Loc Desc: County Council (2 Items, 0.00)						
1001	33940	Dues	00000	0061	-79.10	To: 34295
1001	34295	Travel/Training/Education	00000	0061	79.10	From: 33940
Loc Desc: Information Systems Dept (4 Items, 0.00)						
1001	10750	Part Time	00000	0018	-2169.12	To: 11342
1001	10750	Part Time	00000	0018	-2292.28	From: 10750
1001	11342	Systems Administrator	00000	0018	2169.12	From: 10750
1001	11343	Applications Support Analyst	00000	0018	2292.28	To: 11343
Loc Desc: IV-D Child Support (2 Items, 0.00)						
1001	11258	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney 3	00000	0030	0.08	From: 11446
1001	11446	IV-D Deputy Director 1	00000	0030	-0.08	To: 11258
Loc Desc: Plan Commission (2 Items, 0.00)						
1001	33610	Vehicle Maint/Repair Service	00000	0013	6500.00	From: 34140
1001	34140	Software Maintenance	00000	0013	-6500.00	To: 33610
Loc Desc: Probation Department (2 Items, 0.00)						
1001	11050	Overtime-Straight Time	00000	0029	-0.10	To: 11201
1001	11201	Department Head	00000	0029	0.10	From: 11050
Loc Desc: Prosecutor (6 Items, 0.00)						
1001	11256	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney 1	00000	0008	0.06	From: 11256
1001	11257	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney 2	00000	0008	-0.06	To: 11256
1001	11257	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney 2	00000	0008	-0.02	To: 11272
1001	11272	Deputy Prosecuting Attorney 5	00000	0008	0.02	From: 11272
1001	11513	Legal Secretary	00000	0008	1014.40	From: 11514
1001	11514	Legal Secretary	00000	0008	-1014.40	To: 11513
Loc Desc: Public Defender (8 Items, 0.00)						
1001	11201	Department Head	00000	0028	0.08	From: 11429
1001	11429	Paralegal	00000	0028	-0.08	To: 11201
1001	32780	Other Service Fees	00000	0028	-2759.58	To: 33120
1001	32840	Consultant Fees	00000	0028	-4699.29	To: 33120
1001	33110	Depositions	00000	0028	-884.15	To: 33120
1001	33120	Transcripts	00000	0028	2759.58	From: 32780
1001	33120	Transcripts	00000	0028	4699.29	From: 32840
1001	33120	Transcripts	00000	0028	884.15	From: 33110
Loc Desc: Sheriff (10 Items, 0.00)						
1001	11345	Matron (bi-weekly)	00000	0005	2059.85	From: 11361
1001	11361	Intake -Sgt (74.88 hrs)	00000	0005	-2059.85	To: 11345
1001	11362	Intake -Sgt (74.88 hrs)	00000	0005	-1869.60	To: 11364
1001	11364	Intake -Sgt (74.88)	00000	0005	1869.60	From: 11362

1001	11401	Corporal-Jail #1 (74.88hrs)	00000	0005	106.32 From: 11402
1001	11402	Corporal-Jail #2 (74.88 hrs)	00000	0005	-106.32 To: 11401
1001	11402	Corporal-Jail #2 (74.88 hrs)	00000	0005	-2086.63 To: 11408
1001	11408	Maintenance (80 hrs)	00000	0005	2086.63 From: 11402
1001	11501	Administrative Assistant	00000	0005	1439.80 From: 11618
1001	11618	Confinement Officer (74.88 hr)	00000	0005	-1439.80 To: 11501
- Loc Desc: Sunny Meadows (2 Items, 0.00)					
1001	10750	Part Time	00000	0024	-3499.92 To: 11201
1001	11201	Department Head	00000	0024	3499.92 From: 10750
- Loc Desc: Superior Court 1 (4 Items, 0.00)					
1001	10750	Part Time	00000	0026	-2.00 To: 10804
1001	10804	Administrative Allotment	00000	0026	2.00 From: 10750
1001	32780	Other Service Fees	00000	0026	1569.02 From: 32820
1001	32820	Legal Fees	00000	0026	-1569.02 To: 32780
- Loc Desc: Superior Court 2 (2 Items, 0.00)					
1001	10750	Part Time	00000	0027	-2.00 To: 10804
1001	10804	Administrative Allotment	00000	0027	2.00 From: 10750
- Fund Desc: Highway (2 Items, 0.00)					
- Loc Desc: Highway General (2 Items, 0.00)					
1176	12200	Insurance	00000	0076	8834.70 From: 12300
1176	12300	Social Security	00000	0076	-8834.70 To: 12200
- Fund Desc: LIT Public Safety-County Share (2 Items, 0.00)					
- Loc Desc: Central Dispatch Communication (2 Items, 0.00)					
1170	11100	Holiday Pay	00000	0034	-0.02 To: 11201
1170	11201	Department Head	00000	0034	0.02 From: 11100
- Fund Desc: User Fee (2 Items, 0.00)					
- Loc Desc: Probation Department (2 Items, 0.00)					
2500	11638	Vet. Ct. Probation Officer	00000	0029	0.07 From: 11639
2500	11639	Family Recovery P.O.	00000	0029	-0.07 To: 11638

Encumbrances from 2023 into 2024

Fund Desc	Acct	Obj	Loc	Loc Desc	Amount Notes
Fund: 1001 (8 Items, 225,411.35)					
General	33110	00000	0028	Public Defender	428.75 Multiple Appeal Expenses: 17D01-2112-F1-08 Billy Burrow 17C01-2302-JD-06 Elliot Crespo 17D02-2201-F6-28 M. Koolstra 17D01-2106-F6-154 N. Coburn 17D02-1905-F4-014 N. Toepfer
General	33120	00000	0028	Public Defender	10148.00 Multiple Appeal Expenses: 17D01-2112-F1-08 Billy Burrow 17C01-2302-JD-06 Elliot Crespo 17D02-2201-F6-28 M. Koolstra 17D01-2106-F6-154 N. Coburn 17D02-1905-F4-014 N. Toepfer
General	22300	00000	0005	Sheriff	2771.99 Brateman's orders that haven't arrived yet.
General	22200	00000	0005	Sheriff	7208.61 Brateman's orders that haven't arrived yet.
General	32820	00000	0025	Circuit Court	6219.00 Likes Law Office Invoice for case 17C01-2104-AD-006 for services from 2020-2023
General	33610	00000	0013	Plan Commission	6500.00 For Transmission for the building inspector truck, current estimate \$6500 @ Russ Moore Transmission
General	44210	00000	0019	Commissioners	163135.00 Remaining amount from Commissioners County General Fund out of \$525,000 slated for New Highway Build.
General	32780	00000	0002	Auditor	29000.00 SBS Portals scanning and online document center project.
Fund: 1112 (1 Items, 300,000.00)					
LIT Economic Development	31066	00000	0019	Commissioners	300000.00 \$300,000 Commissioners set aside for New Highway Project
Fund: 1138 (4 Items, 286,063.25)					
Cum Capital Development	35014	00000	0072	Highway (non-MVH)	205100.75 R.G. Zachrich Construction- Bridge Contract Bridge #132 CR 72 Engineering Original Bid: \$449,862.55 Paid \$244,761.80 in 2023 Due \$205,100.75 to fulfill contract
Cum Capital Development	44520	00000	0005	Sheriff	11516.50 Stalker Radar Concepts INC for 5 radars to replace radars in wrecked vehicles and other vehicles not equipped with radars. Estimated ship date February 2024
Cum Capital Development	44430	00000	0005	Sheriff	10815.00 7 AEDs from Coro Medical to equip mew deputies hired.
Cum Capital Development	33670	00000	0005	Sheriff	58631.00 To finish the Elevator Project that started in 2023
Fund: 1159 (2 Items, 6,240.00)					
Health	34333	00000	0500	Health Department	3520.00 MC Squared, LLC Services for Nvoember/December 2023
Health	44410	00000	0500	Health Department	2720.00 Bassett Office Furniture for School Liaison Position
Fund: 1169 (1 Items, 158,615.25)					
Local Road & Street	44610	00000	0072	Highway (non-MVH)	158615.25 Purchase @ : Max Platt Ford \$59,115.25 Kalida Truck Equipment \$99,500
Fund: 2501 (1 Items, 942.00)					
Pre Trial Diversion	44410	00000	0008	Prosecutor	942.00 Bassett Office Furniture for Conference Room
Fund: 4114 (1 Items, 30.02)					
Probation Donation Fund	33900	00000	0029	Probation Department	30.02 Drug Testing for December
Fund: 4802 (1 Items, 5,574,455.31)					
2023 Project Fund - Hwy	44210	00000	0002	Auditor	5574455.31 Highway Project Fund
Fund: 8113 (1 Items, 6,250.00)					
93.069 Public Health Bio-Terr	34333	00000	0500	Health Department	6250.00 Vantage Point Consulting Services
Fund: 9153 (1 Items, 2,107.26)					
Veterans Court Grant	12400	00000	0029	Probation Department	2107.26 Benefits paid back to County for December pay
Fund: 9154 (1 Items, 2,096.16)					
Family Recovery Court Grant	12400	00000	0029	Probation Department	2096.16 Benefits paid back to County for December pay

MATTER OF COUNCIL DISCUSSION

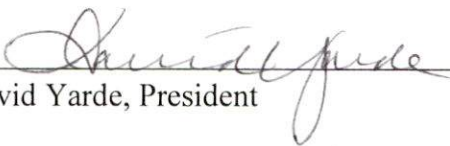
David Yarde thanked the Council for the having the confidence in him as President.

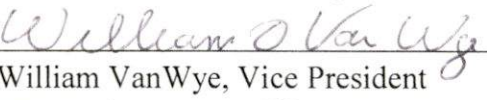
Rick Ring briefly discussed wheel tax and if anything is going to be done it would need done prior to August to be receiving the income by January 2025, however he feels that the Council needs a plan from the Commissioners. Robert Krafft asked if the Council would know if the State is going to pass any new taxes/income for the Highway Department. David Yarde asked if the Commissioners could put a plan together, Commissioner Hartman stated that Ben presented a plan to everyone and if the Council wants to know more to talk to Ben Parker. Councilman VanWye would like to see what is needed and if it will be worth raising the taxes for the outcome. President Yarde brought the discussion to a close and expressed that both bodies just need to work together to come to a resolution. Rick Ring thanked everyone for the ability to be the chairman of the Council and appreciates the change of leadership as change is good.

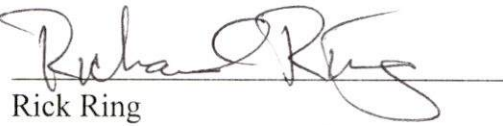
MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

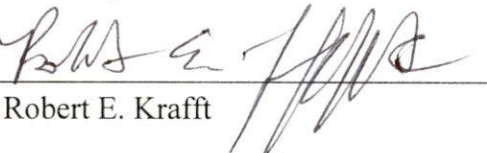
Rick Collins made a motion to adjourn at 11:45 a.m. Amy Prosser seconded and all approved.

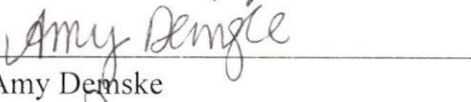
DEKALB COUNTY COUNCIL:


David Yarde, President


William VanWye, Vice President


Rick Ring


Robert E. Krafft


Amy Demske


Amy Prosser


Rick Collins

ATTEST:


Susan Sleeper
DeKalb County Auditor