

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

July 13, 2020

Commissioners Present: President William L. Hartman
Vice President Donald D. Grogg
Vice President Jacqueline R. Rowan

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman
Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

The Employee Handbook is continuing to be actively reviewed.

The Weights & Measures position was discussed. The pay should be less than what David Swogger earns currently since he or she will not be as experienced. Also, an hourly rate needs to be determined, number of work hours per week needs to be determined, and the job description needs to be changed. Next week there will be an Executive Session to interview candidates and then reconvene afterward to hire the person. The Job Classification committee will need to approve changes to the position, Council will need to approve the salary ordinance amendment, and the State needs to approve the position. Finally, the issue with the trailer is getting resolved.

Also discussed was the new Code Compliance Technician position. Dotty Miller, Chris Gaumer, and Jim McCanna met last week to discuss the position and what it would entail. This person would work 10 hours per week and be paid an hourly amount. Who would this person best report to? Attorney McCanna suggested that Development Services would be the department. President Hartman mentioned that Development Services gets a number of phone calls regarding complaints. The Compliance Officer would not be deputized; he or she should not have authority to arrest.

The AIC Conference that Dotty is attending was supposed to be in person in South Bend, but it is now going to be virtual.

There is a new potential COVID case with an employee. That employee has been tested and is self-quarantining.

The Commissioners were briefed on hires and terminations.

Later in the meeting the Weights & Measures position was discussed more. The Commissioners determined that the position should not be hourly. It will be considered part time and salary.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the minutes dated July 6, 2020 as presented. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of July 13, 2020. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF ROOF INSPECTIONS

Larry Lane reported that Hydrotech inspected the courthouse, 220 East 7th, Plan Commission, and 9th Street Annex building roofs. They gave quotes so the Commissioners could have an idea of how much it will cost to repair them.

The courthouse roof is in good shape and should only need sealed for maintenance. On an A-F scale, the courthouse received a "B."

The 220 East 7th building roof is very poor on the south side, and it is ok on the north side. It was given a "D" grade. The estimate to fix this roof in its entirety is \$43,422. To fix only the part of the roof that is very poor would cost approximately \$19,000. The Commissioners want to know the snow load first before repairing.

The Plan Commission building roof was graded at "C." Repairs would cost approximately \$27,000.

The 9th Street Annex roof is very poor. It was given an "F." This will cost approximately \$70,000.

The Commissioners would like to get one more quote for all of the buildings but will hold off actually re-roofing the 220 East 7th Building so they have time to research its snow load.

MATTER OF PARKING LOTS

When the parking lot at 220 East 7th was repaired on July 9th, a large pot hole was missed and not all of the cracks were filled. They were told not to stripe that lot until it is completely repaired.

It was decided not to do the main parking lot across from the Sheriff's Department and instead stripe the Plan Commission and Annex parking lots.

Donald Grogg made a motion to accept the two new quotes that were given for the Plan Commission and Annex parking lots for \$450 each. Those will done at the same time the 220 East 7th parking lot is done. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve payroll for the period June 23-July 6, 2020 as presented. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF LAW LIBRARY TO BE CONVERTED INTO LARGE JURY ROOM

Judge Wallace from Superior Court I spoke on behalf of all three judges. Each of the court's jury rooms are too small, especially when social distancing must be followed. The judges are suggesting that the law library be opened up to make one large jury room. The books haven't been updated for four years. What would be done with the wood shelves? They really have no value. State Board of Accounts could still use the new jury room when they come to audit, and if a jury is using it, State Board of Accounts could use Superior Court I's current jury room instead. Donald Grogg made a motion to renovate the law library by disposing all of the books and shelving, offering it to any other department that could use them first. Attorney McCanna will check into the statute regarding disposal of public property before anything is disposed. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved. Judge Wallace will be glad to write a letter confirming that the books have no value. One volume, a dictionary, may have value, and Judge Wallace is going to have a knowledgeable local person evaluate it.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Director Kellie Knauer spoke to the Commissioners about the overall project cost, soft costs, and utility costs. Ms. Knauer, Elevatus and Mosaic met last week to go through the punch list items. The Commissioners expressed frustration about how long it is taking to get things done. Is there any recourse other than withholding final payment? They also discussed the issue about utility costs. Elevatus is doing more research on e-mails from last October for issues Mosaic brought up. Mosaic is contesting the idea they are responsible for those utilities.

Auditor Bauman had created a spreadsheet last week to reconcile actual project costs with original estimates. It was discovered that not all of the committed LITED money was actually used toward the project. Donald Grogg made a motion to re-appropriate the \$51,275.50 that had been committed by the Commissioners at the beginning of the project but was not spent from LITED, and to allow Community Corrections to spend it on soft costs and pay for them out of LITED #62. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CARES/COVID FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT FORMS FOR SIGNATURE

Donald Grogg made a motion that the President sign reimbursement requests #1-11 for CARES/COVID funding. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER CONTRACTS

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion for the President to sign the three School Resource Office contracts with DeKalb Eastern, Garrett-Keyser-Butler, and DeKalb Central. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved. These are 5-year contracts.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben Parker had sent a bid tab to the Commissioners last week for their review. It detailed the bids from 3 companies for the County Road 40 Resurfacing Project, located between County Road 55 to State Road 1. They were sent to Attorney McCanna for legal review last week. Mr. Parker recommends going with Brooks 1st Construction at a cost of \$467,389.

Donald Grogg made a motion to accept the low bid from Brooks 1st Construction at a cost of \$467,389 for the 2020 County Road 40 Resurfacing Project from County Road 55 to State Road 1 and for all three to sign. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

Mr. Parker distributed the draft Special Extra Heavy Duty Vehicle Permit No. 1-2020 for Edwards Moving & Rigging. It is to move transformer boxes to SDI. The designated route is 4598 County Road 28 to County Road 47 south on County Road 47 to County Road 40-A East on County Road 40-A to County Road 55. South on County Road 55 to drop off location. Restrictions on County Road 55 for small structure #393 to be bridged over and Bridge 23 to be jumped per plan. Mr. Parker also required a million dollar bond in case of damages. Donald Grogg made a motion to allow Ben Parker to sign the Special Extra Heavy Duty Vehicle Permit No. 1-2020 that Ben has designed, recommending the 21-axle, but allowing 18-axle if 21-axle cannot be used. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS' RADIO PROJECT

Director Brian Humbarger said the Governance Board met and saw presentations from both companies and believe there is even more urgency to go with Motorola. Mr. Humbarger presented a Radio Project Fact Finding Comparison by power point that he prepared between the Motorola radio system and the J&K radio system.

The Commissioners, until now, have not been comparing apples to apples between the two systems. Vice President Grogg has his reservations about going with J&K now that he sees the differences between the two systems. He would like to speak to some more individuals about their experiences with J&K. The State is siding with Motorola, but the Commissioners are frustrated with that because it does not allow competition to drive the cost down.

There was discussion about whether this could be paid in 2020 so that the project could be submitted as a COVID expense. COVID expenses must be incurred and reimbursed by December 30, 2020.

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to rescind the Commissioners' previous motions to go with J&K Communications for the Zetron radio system and for the radios for desktops so that the Commissioners' due diligence can be continued and the radio project can be opened up for further consideration. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

Sheriff Cserep added that when you are actually comparing apples to apples with features, the costs become very much in line with each other. Tony Ehler from Huntington County was present and said the issues discussed today are a fresh reminder for what they have contended with in his County and the reason why they have changed from J&K to Motorola.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: County parking lot across from the Sheriff's Department.

William L. Hartman – President

Donald D. Grogg – Vice President

Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor