

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 17, 2020

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

Others Present: First Deputy Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney James P McCanna

Absent: Auditor Jan Bauman

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty Miller began her session discussing the Soil & Water Reorganization of their department. President Hartman asked if the reorganization would be adding employees or the same amount. Ms. Miller explained that it would be the same number of employees but shifting duties and titles of the positions. Allen Haynes explained how office logistics have been working and currently work. Allen explained the biggest change, which was his suggestion is that the Rule 5 duties be given to the part-time position as these duties have grown and would be a good fit for the part time employee. The Commissioners verified that the Soil & Water Board was on board with the restructuring of the department and are supportive of the plan presented. Ms. Miller will now start recruiting and working with the Sub-committee. Ms. Miller also discussed the Weights & Measurer position, in regards to the applicant first chosen who has received the booklet for testing with the State and is ready to take the exam. The full-time/part-time decision is still on going, as the State cannot give Ms. Miller a definitive answer. Ms. Miller has a phone call with Shane on the small tweaks from the department heads on the proposed employee handbook, which is getting closer to finalization. Ms. Miller also has been working on some strange unemployment claims; she is receiving claims from employees that have not worked with the County for many years. Ms. Miller does protest all of the claims that come through the County. The Highway department has job postings open and Ms. Miller will be working with Ben Parker on getting the positions filled. Ms. Miller reported that Community Corrections filled their Kitchen opening, which now leaves two positions left to fill. Ms. Miller informed the Commissioners that she is submitting for 2 desk risers through the IPEP Safety Grant for 2021 and also was informed in budget presentations that she may ask for more than a 1.5% increase for her assistant.

MATTER OF EMS AGREEMENT

Randy Fox, former EMS Director, was present to assist the Commissioners with the proposed EMS Agreement. The current 3-year agreement expires at the end of 2020. Auditor Jan Bauman had reached out to Mark Pepple at Parkview and asked him to provide the Commissioners with statistics of the current EMS program over the course of the last year. Types of information requested include number of runs, time of day of the runs, destinations, and staffing patterns. Mr. Fox had presented two documents to the Commissioners; the first one was the 836 IAC Definitions. The Second document was a letter from Dr. Kaufman that had been sent to the EMS Providers, and Mr. Fox pointed out the section on Paramedics, specifically stating:

“Although a few specific paramedic level skills were discussed, ultimately the EMS Commissioner reiterated that there is no cap on the paramedic skill, so long as the provider organization and medical director have an approved written protocol and then provide skills training and credentialing”.

Mr. Fox also provided a graph that listed different skills and what level of training one needs to perform these skills. (EMR-Emergency Medical Responder, EMT-Emergency Medical Technician, AEMT-Advanced EMT, Paramedic) Mr. Fox noted that a Paramedic has the training and qualifications to do all skill sets. Mr. Fox does not expect the operation protocols will change much and the amount of runs performed have increased around 1000 runs compared to when Mr. Fox was the director. Discussion continued between the Commissioners and Mr. Fox. Having a Paramedic available is the matter of life or death in many situations, according to Mr. Fox and he feels the need to have the 4th ambulance available in DeKalb County as there are always times that the 4th ambulance is needed. President Hartman inquired if there was any other ambulance service available to the County besides Parkview. Mr. Fox said there is not anything that would preclude a private ambulance company but that Parkview has been deemed the service for our area. Don Grogg is concerned on Parkview's dispatching of moving their ambulances around to different locations. The Commissioners are having Mr. Fox look at the proposed contract.

MATTER OF BODY CAMERAS FOR SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

Over the course of the past week, Roger Powers was able to obtain a new quote from Watch Guard in the amount of \$46,945 for 30 body cameras. This reduced quote includes a 1-year warrant only. President Hartman asked if there was another company that could quote, but the Sheriff explained that with the cars being equipped with Watch Guard equipment it is highly advisable to stay with Watch Guard Cameras. The Sheriff has \$30,000 in a donation fund, so his request is that the Commissioners pay the difference of \$16,945. Don Grogg made the motion that the Commissioners pay \$16,945 toward the cost of body cameras for the Sheriff's Department, and to pay for it out of LITED #61, Equipment. Second by Jacqueline Rowan, and all approved.

MATTER OF SEPTIC ORDINANCE

Cathy Manual attended to discuss the possible changes being made to the DeKalb County's Sewage Ordinance. Ms. Manual read from a prepared document on the changes that have happened since she came on board with DeKalb County. Ms. Manual handed out the Ordinance 2017-R-16 to the Commissioners, she stated there will always be individual situations and that is why there is an appeals process. Ms. Manual requested on behalf of the DeKalb County's Board of Health that the Septic Ordinance remain unchanged. Ms. Manual asked the Commissioners three questions: When was the Board going to be notified, what changes are being made to the ordinance, and why are the Commissioners changing this now? Don Grogg explained the Commissioners had issued a moratorium on the ordinance. Discussion took place and Ms. Manual was adamant that it is the Board of Health's duty to determine if the system is in compliance. Jeffery Stephens requested that this issue be sent back to the board to clean up the language and he feels the issue will be resolved with updated language and then bring that back to the Commissioners for approval. President Hartman expressed his concern on the number of years stipulation along with 150% cost being a burden on the homeowners. President Hartman also expressed his concern on when properties change owners of records that the failing systems will be missed in the process. The Board of Health is to bring back changes for the Commissioners to approve. Ms. Manual stated that the public does not reach out to the Health Department and President Hartman told Ms. Manual that if they would reach out to the public and ask why they are not contacting the Health Department and the public will tell them. Alan Haynes stated that he feels most patrons do not reach out to the Health department because it is very expensive to update and fix septic systems. Don Grogg's opinion is for the Commissioners to red-line the ordinance and give back to the Health Department Board

to agree or disagree and work back and forth until an agreement is reached, until an agreement is reached the moratorium placed on the ordinance at the August 10th meeting remains.

FROM 8-10-20:

Donald Grogg made a motion that the Commissioners put a moratorium on the DeKalb County Septic Ordinance, specifically the portions of the ordinance that 1) requires tap-ins for septic system older than 20 years and 2) the estimated cost of 150%, until we have the City of Auburn's feasibility study for properties on County Road 427 North, and the moratorium will cover everyone in the County under the DeKalb County Septic Ordinance—not just the properties on County Road 427 North. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved. The items referred to in this motion are covered under Section III of the Ordinance.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Chris Gaumer was present and available to discuss the Maintenance Bond submitted by Brooks Construction for Bear Creek Estates Section VIII. Motion by Don Grogg to approve the \$19,438 Maintenance Bond for Brooks Construction Company, Inc. for Bear Creek Estates Section VIII – Stone, Asphalt, Curb: Rolled, for the period August 7, 2020 to August 7, 2023. Second by Jacqueline Rowan, and all approved.

Brooks is starting on County Road 40 today and hope to be completed by next Wednesday. Ben received a call from Schmucker on County Rd 68 and he has fulfilled his part of his deal, so Jim can release the lawsuit without prejudice, which means if needed we can open the case back up again.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 10, 2020. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of August 17, 2020 as presented. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF COURTHOUSE LAMPOST REPAIR

Donald Grogg motioned to approve the C&S Masonry Restoration quote for \$38,250.00 to repair the lampposts surrounding the courthouse, coming in with the highest bid, the scope of work C&S quoted is more in line with what the Commissioners want done and their reputation follows their higher quality of work. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF FUNDING RENOVATION OF LAW LIBRARY INTO JURY ROOM

In budget presentations last week, Auditor Bauman suggested moving forward with making plans, getting quotes to renovate the Law Library into a large jury room (to allow for social distancing) so that the costs

can be submitted for reimbursement through the CARES Relief fund. Don Grogg made the motion to pay for the renovations to the law library out of LITED #24 and/or #61 if funding of the renovations is rejected for reimbursement through the CARES Relief fund. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PRE-PAYING MOTOROLA RADIO CONTRACT

First Deputy Susan Sleeper explained that the Auditor learned last week that we can submit quotes for reimbursements to the IFA for pre-approval if we are concerned that something may not be reimbursed. Because of this, Brian Humbarger was able to submit the necessary information regarding the contract, including his explanation as to how it is a reimbursable expense through the CARES Act. Auditor Bauman has sent all of the documentation to the IFA for pre-approval. No letter is needed yet for a 30-day notice for prepayment of the contract. We will wait to learn what the IFA determines before proceeding. No action taken.

MATTER OF SURVEYOR'S OLD TRAILER

Jacqueline Rowan motioned that the Surveyors old trailer be taken for scrap metal as it is deemed of no value. Don Grogg seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RECORDER'S BULK USER AGREEMENT WITH AUBURN ABSTRACT

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve and for all three to sign the Bulk User Agreement with Auburn Abstract Co. Inc. Second by Donald Grogg, and all approved.

MATTER OF UNDERCHARGE BY AUBURN CITY FOR JAIL ELECTRIC ACCOUNT

The City of Auburn found a billing error that began in 2019. The amount that has been undercharged to Account 800810-001 is \$58,368.39. Auditor Bauman had requested information on the rules and regulations that allows the City to recuperate those charges in spite of it being an error on their part. That information was provided to Auditor Bauman, which was then passed along to the Commissioners and the Sheriff. The Sheriff is working with the City to try and find out how the jail can be categorized other than commercial, as the jail generator is not for revenue.

MATTER OF REQUEST FOR ACCESSING ANNUAL AIC CONFERENCE IN SEPTEMBER

The AIC has canceled its in-person 2020 Annual Conference and replaced it with a virtual one September 20-22. It is allowing all County officials and employees of DeKalb County to view the various sessions for the flat fee of \$500. Payment is allowed to be made from the County Elected Officials Training Fund. Don Grogg made a motion to allow the Auditor to pay the flat fee of \$500 for DeKalb County officials and employees to be able to access the conference sessions for the Annual AIC Conference, and to be paid from the County Elected Officials Training Fund. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF APPRAISAL FROM JOHN GOOD

Don Grogg motioned to pay for the appraisal on the concrete plat from LITED #24. Jacqueline Rowan seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS TEMPORARY UTILITIES ISSUE

Steve Fetters said that he could only go by what the specs say on who should pay what. Tony Vie from Elevatus spoke on the specifications and on Jan’s email detailing out the costs. Steve stated that discussion took place a few years ago on the utility hook up, and the City of Auburn did not give the assessment quote for bid time, and that Jake Fetters has emails stating that the County agreed to pay for those fees when they come out, as owner. Jake Fetters stated that typically tap fees are usually covered by the Owner, but with this being a City-County deal there could have been other parameters put in place that the Contractor would not have been aware of. Jake Fetters states that the utility companies did not have the assessment fee available at bid time, but Tony Vie states that other bidding companies HAD the fees in their bids. Jake states the other bidders would have been guessing and could have pocketed the money if the ‘guess’ was over. Jake Fetters states we had this discussion in 2018 and it was a done deal. Attorney McCanna disagrees. Contentions between Mosaic, Elevatus, and the County continued with no resolution.

Don Grogg proposed that we speak with the City to see what kind of resolution can be agreed upon and to table this matter until they hear from the City.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: Quality Correctional Care contract verbiage for Section 3.6 and disposing of Surveyor’s trailer that has no value.

William L. Hartman – President

Donald D. Grogg – Vice President

Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor