

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

September 28, 2020

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

Others Present: Auditor Jan Bauman

Absent: Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of September 28, 2020, and General Claims dated September 28, 2020, consisting of warrant #131110 through #131118 in the amount of \$16,494.52, and wire transfer #15911 through #16011 in the amount of \$1,700,067.53. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Mr. Parker is working on the Community Crossings grant application. If the application is not amended prior to submitting, the total will be \$1,310,890 to resurface 7.49 miles of road. The roads included in this application are: Priority 1: CR 27 north of US 6 to County Road 4. Priority 2: CR 10 from 27 to 19. And Priority 3: CR 19 from CR 28 to US 6.

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to allow Ben Parker to register for the virtual Transportation Asset Management Conference and to pay the \$75 charge with his credit card. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

The covered bridge bid documents will be ready next week. Anticipated opening of submitted bids is October 26th. Also regarding the covered bridge, President Hartman wondered if a "No Smoking" sign should be posted on both ends of the bridge. Finally, there was discussion about the best method to implement to prevent oversized vehicles from traveling on the bridge.

Auditor Bauman requested there to be one payment to the contractor that does the repair work to the covered bridge in 2021 if possible. Ben Beer from USI said that it could be written into the bid package. Ms. Bauman will work with the Friends of the Bridge to set a final deadline for receiving their donation to the Covered Bridge Donation Fund; this will most likely be in mid-December. There has to be a cut-off date for accounting purposes.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the minutes dated September 21, 2020. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved. Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the minutes for the Joint Public Hearing with the Council dated September 14, 2020. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS PUNCH LIST ITEMS

Director Kellie Knauer had informed the Auditor that two items are not complete: An exterior door in Unit C was not installed correctly; a technician will be coming to look at that. Also, the signage on the building will not be installed until about the end of October. It was ordered on September 14th and will take 4-6 weeks to be fabricated and installed.

MATTER OF AFFIDAVIT OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP FOR 208 EAST 7TH STREET

Donald Grogg made a motion for the President to sign the City of Auburn Affidavit of Private Ownership for David Hefty, 3:16 Real Estate LLC, to be able to go before the City of Auburn's Plan Commission to receive plan approval on behalf of the DeKalb County Commissioners since the property has not yet been sold by the County. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF USE OF COUNTY CREDIT CARD FOR HR DIRECT TRAINING APP

Donald Grogg made a motion to allow the HR Office to charge the HRDirect Smart App Harassment Training on a County credit card since that is the only method of payment the company will accept, and not to allow the charge on an auto-renewal basis. 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 #8, 9, and 10 for CARES/COVID funding. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CITY OF AUBURN BACK-BILL FOR ERROR ON JAIL ACCOUNT

Chris Schweitzer from the City of Auburn was present to discuss the back-billing error on the jail's electric account. He explained that the error was not intentional.

In the industry, for safety's sake, a VPac is installed in the meter base to bring the voltage down 2.5 times (the multiplier). This was done in July 2019. Mr. Schweitzer said the multiplier did not get applied properly. The cause for the oversight has been identified and corrected. Unfortunately, this account was missed when accounting for the multiplier.

The billing is based on the delivery characteristics of the power instead of whether the account is classified as "industrial" or "commercial," or the like. Residential is classified differently. The County is considered a "demand" customer. Rate class assignment is based on the consumption characteristics, and the rate class assignment is based on the amount of power used.

President Hartman asked what the Mayor has been talking about lately. Mr. Schweitzer said he has been looking at how much it costs to acquire power, and how much it costs to serve each type of customer.

Mr. Schweitzer had provided a couple of reports. One showed monthly billing going back to August 2019, both originally using a multiplier of 120 and as corrected using a multiplier of 300. The other document was a graph of usage going back to August of 2017.

President Hartman disputes the delivery charge aspect of it. He believes residential customers should be charged higher than what we are.

President Hartman asked about solar panels. Mr. Schweitzer explained several aspects of it, including how the retail rate is not the same as what the City would be paying us.

The Commissioners understood the issue after discussing it with Mr. Schweitzer.

First Deputy Auditor Susan Sleeper explained had reached out to the OUCC last week. They are looking at the County bills to make sure the account is being charged the correct tariff. This information will help us confirm that we are in the correct rate class.

MATTER OF PAY FOR CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Donald Grogg made a motion to increase Central Communications' Director Brian Humbarger's pay to \$2,534.65 beginning with 2021 as approved in the 2021 Salary & Hourly Wage Ordinance by Council. William Hartman seconded. After a little more discussion, a vote was taken, and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: Central Communications director's performance evaluation; additional quote for Annex Building Red Room for insulation, etc.; irate patron because Surveyor's Office was closed last week; St. Joe Gun Club; and County property Mr. Jeff Ryneerson would like to purchase would have to be surveyed and split, and a determination would need to be made whether there are valuable trees in the wooded area;

William L. Hartman – President

Donald D. Grogg – Vice President

Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor