

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

August 10, 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

Dotty Miller said the Surveyor's Office is getting pressure from the Drainage Board to add another position to its office because of the backlog of work that keeps growing. A draft of a job description had been presented to the Commissioners in their meeting packet for a Surveying Technician. Council may not approve a new position for next year. Nathan Frye was present and said the Surveyor's Office is at full capacity with staffing currently. There are two definitive types of skill sets in the Surveyor's Office: field work and inspections, and drafting, engineering design, and mapping. Initially President Hartman had suggested a 40-hour work week to alleviate some of the work, but it has not been implemented yet. Mr. Frye said that could be a viable option. The department is reactionary right now—fixing drains when they have broken. The drains need to be proactively maintained. Being able to plan drain maintenance before there are problems would be a cost savings to the taxpayers and would be worth the cost now for the added labor.

The Commissioners are concerned about the proposed changes to Soil & Water positions and office structure. They think one person may be driving all of the changes instead of the whole Board. Ms. Miller is going to try to have Board President Jeff Conrad as well as Allen Haynes present next Monday at 8:30 a.m. to discuss this with the Commissioners.

The Commissioners had received information from the State Health Department that indicates the Weights and Measures position may need to be a full time position. Ms. Miller has searched the Indiana Code and does not see that a full time employee is required by statute. She is asking her contact at the State to provide the code citation. Attorney McCanna said that it may be under Indiana Administrative Code which fleshes out Indiana Code further.

Other HR topics covered were three particular open positions being difficult to fill, employees terminated last week, the IPEP Safety Grant open for applications, PHP educational sessions for employees, and a raise for Lauren Deutch.

MATTER OF SEPTIC ORDINANCE

Aaron Quick returned to discuss the sewer project near his home on County Road 427. He received a letter from the Health Department about options for preparing to hook in to the city's septic. The letter gives options to file for an exemption or appeal or to hook in to the city's septic. Until the ordinance is changed, the Health Department is moving forward according to guidelines in the current ordinance. The understanding for the last few months had been that there is a moratorium on requiring the hook-in until the City of Auburn completes their feasibility study, so Mr. Quick was surprised to receive the letter from the Health Department. The Commissioners believe it is time to change the ordinance because there are many homes with septic systems older than 20 years old that are still functioning just fine. Another

possible addition to the ordinance would be to require a home to pass a certified septic test before the home is sold.

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.

Because this motion has been made, Mr. Quick does not need to file an appeal with the Health Department as was stated in the letter he received.

Attorney McCanna is going to draft a resolution ratifying this motion. He is going to also draft changes to the DeKalb County Septic Ordinance that the Commissioners want to change.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve the minutes dated August 3, 2020. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve Special Claims for the week of August 10, 2020 as presented. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Jacqueline Rowan made a motion to approve payroll for the period July 19-August 1, 2020 as presented. Donald Grogg seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve the following travel requests:

- 1) Thomas Olinske and Derek Bergdall (Sheriff) to travel for Johnson County First Line Supervision training November 2-4. No expenses will be claimed.
- 2) Cathy Manuel (Health Dept) to travel to Bluffton for the On-Site Workshop for Site Preparation on August 14. No expenses will be claimed.
- 3) Jeff Martin (Development Services) to travel to South Bend for Electrical Code – Solar Panels training on August 13. No expenses will be claimed.

Seconded by Jacqueline Rowan, and all approved.

MATTER OF DONATION FUND FOR THE SPENCERVILLE COVERED BRIDGE

Donald Grogg made a motion to approve Ordinance No. 2020-R-17, DCC 28-9-9, An Ordinance Establishing a Restricted Donation Fund for Repairs and Restoration of the Spencerville Covered Bridge, on the second and third readings. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF BODY CAMERAS FOR SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES

Roger Powers presented a quote from Watch Guard in the amount of \$72,895 for 30 body cameras. A donation had been made to the Sheriff's Department at the end of 2018 for body cameras in the amount of \$30,000. A 5-year lease payment is available according to the quote. There was discussion about warranty options. The Sheriff would like a 5-year warranty because technology changes so quickly. I.T. Director Jack Smith was also present. He agrees with President Hartman that a lot of new units can be purchased for the \$25,950 they are asking for warranties. The Sheriff will talk with the representative about shaving off the warranty cost. The Commissioners intend to pay for the difference between what the final cost is determined to be and the \$30,000 the Sheriff has in his donation fund, but no motion was made today.

MATTER OF CARES/COVID FUNDING REIMBURSEMENT FORMS FOR SIGNATURE

Donald Grogg made a motion that the President sign reimbursement requests #75-76 for CARES/COVID funding. Jacqueline Rowan seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF LAW LIBRARY

Larry Lane said that he is going to have to take the shelves apart that are in the current Law Library. He expects them to be junk because they are glued together and will not come apart neatly. A few books will stay, and one book will go to the Circuit Court judge to be used. The Commissioners received a letter from Judge Wallace explaining that the bulk of the law books in the library have no value. Those books can be disposed.

The Commissioners left Commissioners Court to go up to the Law Library at 10:55 a.m. to look at the situation with the shelves. All attending, including the press, were invited along. All reconvened in Commissioners Court 10 minutes later at 11:05 a.m. The Commissioners want a week to see if someone might be interested in the shelves before instructing Larry Lane to dispose of them.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Ben Parker received a \$602 claim from Frontier for damage due to a Frontier cable by Highway Department employees. The Commissioners and Attorney McCanna believe the Highway has a good defense due to the placement of the cable, and Mr. McCanna will write a letter with details to Frontier.

There was a crash into a guardrail by a citizen on County Road 23 south of County Road 11-A a couple months ago. The individual does not have insurance. Since the cost of the damage is less than the County's deductible, the County's insurance company will not go after the person who caused the crash.

Mr. Parker received a more reasonable quote to repair one of the round Highway Department buildings that is damaged. He is still waiting for one more quote.

Mr. Parker met with Pavement Solutions about the problem with oil at the intersection of County Road 39 and County Road 00. There is a solution that will cost \$15,000-\$20,000 to fix.

President Hartman said that there is a lease currently on the property that the Commissioners would like to possibly purchase for the new Highway Department location. One of the appraisals of the property is \$530,000. Can the County buy out a lease? The Commissioners need to move very carefully because of the lease. Ben Parker has asked that a study be done for the stop light near at County Road 27 and U.S. 6.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Other discussion topics included: billing multiplier error with Jail's utility account with the City of Auburn; quote to repair light posts; next week's meeting to hash out utilities and the Community Corrections' facility contractor, Mosaic.

William L. Hartman – President

Donald D. Grogg – Vice President

Jacqueline R. Rowan – Vice President

Attest:

Jan Bauman, Auditor