

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

March 7, 2022

Commissioners Present: President William L Hartman
 Vice President Michael Watson
 Vice President Todd Sanderson

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney James P McCanna

MATTER OF 2022 AGREEMENT | DEKALB COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP INC

Anton King handed out the 2021 Annual Report. Anton highlighted that 2021 had a total investment of \$176.89 Million, the highest since SDI came in the 90s. DCEDP continues to work on their housing strategy and broadband development.

Anton presented the Fee for Service contract for 2022. Jim McCanna explained this is something that we need to not be subject to open door laws. For 2022 a total of \$181,376 will be received for the annual Fee for Service agreements with the municipalities and also will receive income from private investment. In 2021 private investment totaled \$110,450.

Michael Watson made a motion for the president to sign the 2022 Fee for Service Agreement with the DeKalb County Economic Development Partnership, Inc for \$95,000 covering the period from January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF DONOVAN INSURANCE PROPOSAL

Tim Petre from Stewart, Brimmer, Peters & Donovan Insurance would like to obtain information on the County to be able to present a quote for the Liability Insurance for the County. Michael Watson agrees to allow the county to provide the Declaration Pages of the current policy redacting accordingly.

Todd Sanderson made a motion for the Auditor's office to supply Tim Petry the declaration pages of the current policy with redactions as necessary. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF LARE GRANT & DOC COLEMAN LANDING

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and all to sign the Inter Local Agreement between The Municipal City of Auburn, Indiana and The Auburn Parks Department and The County of DeKalb. Seconded and all approved.

LARE will pay 80% up to \$100,000, the 20% is split between the County and the City. The Cedar Creek Maintenance Fund and the City will take care of the remaining amount due after the \$100,000.

Nellie Peffley is hoping to apply for a Nipsco grant for the seeding at the Doc Coleman Landing. This is the 2nd year of the site preparation. The mowing and maintenance will be taken over by Soil & Water

MATTER OF MAYORS AND COMMISSIONERS CAUCUS OF INDIANA DUES

This includes an 11 County area of Northeast Indiana of Mayors and Commissioners, advocates for the NE Indiana communities through an ongoing presence at the Statehouse during the legislative session, they have a voice in key regional initiatives as they appoint members to the NE Indiana Strategic Development Commission and collaborates with the RDA in pursuit of READi funds. The primary purpose of the dues is for contracting with a lobbyist, meetings with legislators, and other related ventures to ensure that we continue to receive their fair share.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve paying the \$1,500 dues out of LITED #24. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF RENEWABLE ENERGY SYSTEMS

Eric Heshner and Josh Metcalf are following up from a prior meeting, they handed out a presentation of different places that they have installed solar systems and their build for the Community Corrections Facility. Renewable Energy Systems is based in Avilla, Indiana and have been in operation since 2008. RES has installed solar systems at the following locations: Squire Pallets (447kW), Kruse Plaza (322kW), and the City of Kendallville Waste Water Treatment Plant (1.5MW) to name a few. They specialize in engineering of the systems and how the local energy companies operate. Josh Metcalf reviewed the current County electric bills from 2020 and some recent bills from 2021. Josh went on to explain his findings on the Auburn Electric bills, 42% of the electric bill is the demand charge that is applied when demand is over 50 KW per month. Eric explained the 3 different options based off the analysis of the Auburn Electric bills.

MATTER OF ONLINE PAYMENT VENDOR FOR TREASURER

Sandi Wilcox presented a Payment Processing Services Statement of Work between Value Payment Systems, LLC (GovTech) and DeKalb County Treasurer for the new online payment vendor for the Treasurer to have the ability to accept online tax payments. She also explained the reason for needing to change and the criteria by which the Treasurer's office used in finding a new company.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve and the president to sign the Payment Processing Services Statement of Work with GovTech. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Michael Lapham explained the process that has happened to find an Executive Director for Community Corrections. Combined approach with Probation Officer requirement as part of the Executive Director Job Description with Community Corrections. The combination of DeKalb County Community Corrections and the Probation department will result in great benefits, a few listed below:

~Structure: Shared Mission, Vision, Procedures, Planning, Continuity of Service, Shared Systems and Information, an integrated system of incentives and graduated sanctions for the use of DCCC programming.

~Financial: Shared contracts for Drug Screening, the opportunity for shared grants without supplanting, shared resources, cross training for coverage, shared spaces, shared equipment, training with a larger number of people in house to reduce travel, WEEKEND DRUG SCREENS.

~Making Case Manager's into Probation Officers: Staff retention, probation departments don't typically have a revolving door, the stability is desperately needed in order for DCCC to meet the goals they have set before them.

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the proposal of the new Probation Officer position and the combination of the two departments going forward. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve Officer Michelle Ann Fosnaugh as the Executive Director of DeKalb County Community Corrections as proposed from the Advisory Board of Community Corrections. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF HIGHWAY

Michael and Susan Carpenter submitted a letter/claim as to how/why their property will be affected by the purchase of property on CR 56. Their proposal of \$5,140.00 for landscaping cleanup and a natural sound barrier can be denied but Butler Fairman Seufert recommends that we do NOT deny and move forward with the proposed claim.

Todd Sanderson made a motion for the president to sign the settlement with Michael & Susan Carpenter in the amount of \$5,140.00. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

The letting date is being moved out for the CR 56 project because INDOT says they have no Federal money available in 2024, and will need to move the project out to 2025 to insure our project can still be funded.

Ben talked about the logistics of his department after the retirement of Dennis Ferguson. Ben would like to replace an operator position and NOT replace the maintenance position to have an extra operator vs. 3 maintenance employee at this time.

Todd Sanderson made a motion to allow Ben to hire an operator to replace the Maintenance position that retired. Michael Watson seconded and all approved.

Bridge #9 is still being worked on with USI, and Ben is still going through the documents that were presented last Friday. As of right now USI's recommendation is to declare the bridge as an emergency in order to move forward without the permitting requirements.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Todd Sanderson made a motion to approve payroll for the period January 30 – February 12, 2022 that was pre-approved by Michael Watson due to Presidents Day falling on a Monday and Commissioners meeting not held and to approve payroll for the period of February 13-26, 2022. Michael Watson seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

Michael Watson made the motion to approve the minutes dated February 28, 2022 with the date change. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF TRAVEL REQUESTS

Michael Watson made a motion to approve the following travel request:

- 1) Effie Campbell to attend New 4-H Educators Training in Noblesville on January 25-27, 2022. Estimated cost of \$109.12 to be paid from Department Travel.
- 2) Ronda Hunkler & Becky Marcum to attend District County Veteran Service Offices held at Whitley County Government Center held on March 9, 2022. Estimated cost of \$24.81 to be paid from Department Travel.
- 3) Mike Watson to attend AIC District Meeting and Institute for Excellence class held in Columbia City on March 30, 2022. Estimated cost of \$129.46 to be paid from Commissioners Travel.
- 4) Lori Haase to attend SRI Tax Sale Seminar at Keystone Crossing held March 25, 2022. Estimated cost of \$118.80 to be paid from Department Travel.
- 5) Susan Sleeper to attend ONLINE version of the AIC Class: Budget & Finance I 2022. Estimated cost of \$60.00 to be paid from County Elected Officials Training Fund 1217.
- 6) Sheila Stonebraker & Tammy Warstler to attend NE District Assessor's Meeting in Fort Wayne held on April 6, 2022. Estimated cost of \$20.24 to be paid from Department Travel.
- 7) Ronda Hunkler & Becky Marcum to attend Indiana Department of Veteran's Affairs (IDVA) Annual Service Officer Training Conference held in Indianapolis on June 1-2, 2022. Estimated cost of \$897.06 to be paid from State Called Meeting account.

Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

MATTER OF ORDINANCE 2022-R-4, DCC 9-4-1 AN ORDINANCE REGULATING THE OPERATION OF OFF-ROAD VEHICLES IN DEKALB COUNTY


Michael Watson made a motion to approve Ordinance 2022-R-4, DCC 9-4-1 an Ordinance Regulating the Operation of Off-Road Vehicles in DeKalb County on the FIRST reading. Todd Sanderson seconded and all approved.

ARP REQUEST FOR STRATEGIC PLANNING STUDY

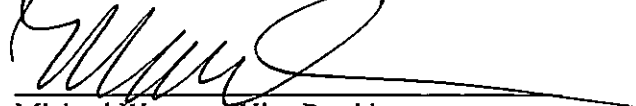
Michael Watson would like the Commissioners to approve the request of up to \$30,000 of ARPA dollars to pay the County's portion of the Strategic Planning Study. Discussion took place on the need of having a study done. Commissioner Sanderson and Hartman do not feel we need to have an outside source do a study for us. Commissioner Watson is in favor of the study and explained that the important needs may not match what Hartman and Sanderson's important needs may be. Commissioner Hartman and Sanderson would like to wait to see how much the Highway Department is going to cost. Commissioner Hartman said he is not ready to make a vote at this time on the study. Commissioner Watson feels that this is a very short-sided decision to not even invest \$25,000 for the plan. Commissioner Hartman and Sanderson feel it is a difference of opinion.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

Topics included:



William L. Hartman – President




Michael Watson – Vice President



Todd Sanderson – Vice President

Attest:


Susan Sleeper, Auditor