

Decatur County Council

Tuesday, April 15, 2014 Room 109

Present: Ernie Gauck, Bill Metz, Geneva Hunt, Larry Meyer, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters, Kenny Hooten

Ed Fox led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes were approved as presented.

A Treasurer's Report was distributed on behalf of Treasurer Mary Vail.

Mark Mohr, Decatur County Highway Superintendent was present to discuss equipment needs at the County Highway Department. He reported that he had worked with Frank Cummings to review the balances in the various highway accounts but cautioned the council to remember that dollars spent on equipment wouldn't be available to work on roads with. Road conditions across Indiana were severely impacted by the long winter season. Mr. Mohr discussed current and future projects in the works and explained in detail a project involving a historic stone arch bridge. He wanted to let the council now that he will be approaching them at some point to ask for an additional but wants to get their support before spending his time doing the legwork. After brief discussion, Mr. Kenny Owens moved to give Mr. Mohr a "Gentleman's Agreement" that the Council will help find around \$400,000 for the Burney Bridge Project. Mr. Metz seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mohr thanked the Council.

Mr. Mohr then stated that budgets have gone down and costs of materials have risen. As a result, the highway department has struggled with equipment issues in order to be able to address as many road problems as possible. However, repair costs have been very high and "push has come to shove". Mr. Mohr discussed the department's needs and wants and the current condition of the three backhoes and two graders that need replaced. He estimates that it will be between \$800,000 – 900,000 to replace the equipment. Mr. Gauck asked if the purchases could be made over a number of years instead of all at once. Mr. Mohr said he could look into lease-purchasing. Mr. Meyer asked what the average usage of a grader is and about the possibility of buying used equipment. Mr. Mohr explained with the great deals that the government discount gets, it makes more sense to purchase new. Mr. Mohr discussed repair costs to current equipment and asked for some support in obtaining some sort of new equipment. The Council all nodded in agreement when Mr. Gauck suggested that he should continue gathering information and come back with a plan. The next meeting is scheduled for May 20th.

After a brief discussion, Mr. Meyer moved to reappoint Rob Duckworth to the Library Board for a four year term. Mrs. Hunt seconded the motion and Mr. Duckworth was unanimously reappointed to the Greensburg – Decatur County Public Library Board.

Tami Wenning presented paperwork regarding an additional appropriation. Ms. Wenning said the advertisement was run and there was no one present who had any public comment. The request was for an additional \$30,000 to fund a full-time health and human science extension educator. Mr. Metz

made the motion to do so and Mr. Owens seconded the motion. The motion carried and the council signed the ordinance for Tami to forward to the state for their review and approval.

Rob Duckworth, EMA Director gave a quarterly update. Mr. Duckworth explained the points system and pointed out that the county has already exceeded the minimum requirement and is eligible not only for the 50% reimbursement but an additional grant as well.

Mr. Duckworth reported that the winter months were spent working on the 800 megahertz radio system. There are 230 in the county and there needs to be 100% accountability. The county got reimbursement for the cost of that project and there is an incentive grant paying for a radio for the mobile command unit. Mr. Duckworth demonstrated the "smart screen" board and explained the cost of it and how it was paid for with a grant.

8 members of the CERT team from the northeast corner of the county were present and Mr. Duckworth explained the idea behind the pullovers with the EMA symbol. If an event occurs and team members need to go to homes, the EMA symbol lends to their credibility, especially if they are collecting data.

Mr. Duckworth gave a report of the winter emergency response activities and the coordination of efforts through the emergency operations center to get help where it needed to be.

Mr. Duckworth explained that EMA salary for the last year was \$19,000 so the county will get half of that back. Since the Auditor's office is serving as the fiscal agent for 12 counties, 3% of that money will be paid to county. Mr. Duckworth stated that the county will receive a 40 kw towable generator. Mr. Duckworth was asked whether the "smart board" could be used in other counties and replied yes.

He also distributed refrigerator magnets with the travel status update levels explained. Someone asked a question about NIXLE and he explained how to change settings so that Franklin counties updates won't appear.

Ms. Wenning distributed copies of the Circuit Breaker reports to all of the council members for their use in the event that they are questioned about it.

Mr. Gauck announced he is planning on attending the AIC meeting held at Bel Terra.

Ms. Wenning stated she had gotten a contact name from the State Board of Accounts and was expecting an answer soon regarding the special audit and the payback.

Ms. Wenning discussed the Indiana Public Retirement System and how to go about getting additional positions to become covered by PERF. After some discussion, the Council agreed that Wenning could move forward on preparing paperwork to "enlarge" the positions covered. None of the council was interested in being covered but stated that if there were other positions, that Wenning should include the positions on the paperwork.

Mr. Hooten moved to adjourn. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ernie Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____