

Decatur County Council

APRIL 17, 2012

7:00 P.M.

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

Minutes were approved as submitted with Kenny Hooten moving to accept and Rheadawn Metz seconding the motion.

Decatur County Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr – Mr. Mohr came before the council and announced that with the help of Honda TIF money and the council, last year was the most successful paving year he could remember. He discussed the possibility of rolling over last year's contract to retain last year's pricing because the cost of emulsion and asphalt is going up. Last year, around \$600,000 was available and this year's budget has around \$400,000 in it for paving. In his position, his opinion is that the pricing from a contract rollover would be a much better cost than the bid process. Councilman Meyer thinks roads in Decatur County are better than the surrounding counties and we should continue that trend. Not sure where money will come from but the Council will find \$300,000 to help bolster the County Highway paving budget. After some discussion of the different money that may be coming in, there was a "Gentleman's Agreement" that Mr. Mohr could investigate the possibility of a contract rollover and the council would support that decision. Auditor Wenning will provide a better report of the county's financial standing at future meetings.

Tim Ortman – GIS Coordinator and Andy Scholle, County Surveyor – Mr. Ortman brought the GIS Committee's consensus before the board concerning the backlog of work in the Auditor and Assessor's offices. It was the consensus of the GIS Committee that someone with the education and expertise could much more effectively deal with the issues that have arisen due to technology. The committee agreed that County Surveyor Andy Scholle would be much more efficient and qualified to do the research work and would know what steps would need to be taken to make the needed corrections. Both gentlemen came before the board to discuss how Mr. Scholle might be compensated for the additional workload. An attempt was made to determine what the average county surveyor salary might be but with different levels of education, different expectations from county to county and different hours, it wasn't a fair comparison. Council members asked for an estimation of the time it would take to correct the backlog. Mr. Ortman replied that it could take years because the issues weren't created overnight but throughout the history of Decatur County. It was discussed whether to raise the salary of the County Surveyor position or to contract out the work separately. There was much debate and it was decided that the State Board of Accounts and possibly Frank Cummings be contacted. Since most records are located in the courthouse, potential office set-up and location was discussed as well as the number of hours that might be expected for Mr. Scholle to work on the backlog. If charged as a professional fee, a surveyor makes \$50 an hour. A log could be kept to track progress in. Mr. Hooten stated that the council needs to know the plan so they can plan budgets accordingly. Mr. Gauck asked how many hours Mr. Scholle works as County Surveyor. He estimated 0 – 5 hours a week. Mr. Gauck then asked if 20 hours per week would be enough to make progress on the backlog. Mr. Scholle stated that the backlog work does not fall under County Surveyor jurisdiction. Mr. Ortman said the council does approve budgets year-to-year so the council would have the ability to control the rate of pay based on the amount of

work. Auditor Wenning will check with the State Board of Accounts to see what they feel is appropriate and also with Frank Cummings.

Wenning distributed copies of the reports she created to distribute the money received back from the state. She then reviewed the distribution with the council.

Mr. Peters discussed the EMA director position and his hesitancy to make it a full time position. Mr. Gauck reported they agreed to fund it full time for this year and to review next year at budget time. Mr. Nobbe restated his perception of the EMA board's overall position and where the money would come from this year and where it would come from next year, through council funding for 2013. Mr. Nobbe stated that he had learned today that he feels almost the same level of hesitancy on the issue. He is uneasy about whether to go full-time or part-time as well. Being on the EMA board has made him aware that the county needs to either hire a full time or have the EMA board step up and take on more responsibility, with grants, training, and paperwork. With a volunteer board it is hard to get everything done. He also learned that the Department of Homeland Security is looking at changing how they reimburse funding in 2014. If you have a part-time you'd get a smaller percentage than if you have a full-time. That is just what they are discussing now. There may be more funding available for 2014. The EMA Board will be meeting on the 20th to discuss job description, salary, benefits etc. The whole issue is still being discussed and nothing is carved in stone. Mr. Nobbe did point out that city people pay county taxes so asking the city to kick in more money might not be the best idea. Mr. Hooten is worried about budget cuts and how would the county fund the position if money gets tighter. Mr. Gauck suggested keeping the options open.

Firemen, police and ambulance drivers are the people who respond when disasters happen, but they aren't coordinating the stuff that gets money brought back into the county through FEMA. Mr. Nobbe said that is one of the reasons the makeup of the board was changed. He suggested if we stay modest on this, we can get the individual to report to the council and with the help of grants this could take care of it. Mr. Hooten warned about relying on grants.

Mr. Nobbe also shared with the Council that money from Plans and Implementations will be used to pay for the generator that was originally going to be paid out of encumbered funds from Work Release and the Sheriff's repair line item. That didn't happen because there wasn't an invoice so the money went back into the general fund. He was just making the Council aware that they will be paying for out of Plan and Implementations but if there is a shortage later on in the year, the EMA Board may come back to the council with a request.

Mr. Hooten mentioned a county citizen wearing a hunting knife into the courthouse and his unease with the situation. He is worried about protection during the meetings. Mr. Gauck mentioned that if future meetings elicit that sort of unease, the Sheriff's department could be contacted.

Council President Gauck mentioned that he is attending the AIC regional meeting and requested the board's approval for payment of his claim. No one had an issue with his attendance.

Meeting ended. Next meeting is scheduled for May 15th.

Ernie Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____