

## **Decatur County Council Meeting**

Tuesday, April 17, 2018, Room 106

**Present:** Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Judge John Westhafer, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, and Kenny Hooten.

**President Gauck** called the April 17<sup>th</sup> meeting to order. Brad Speer led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After reviewing the March 20<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr. Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**Commissioner Rick Nobbe** gave an update on the maintenance of the courthouse. There was walk thru on Thursday going around all the outside of the courthouse and into the tower. There are still about 6 items that still need to be completed that was not done to their satisfaction. The crew will be back in a week to ten days to finish those up. Mr. Nobbe stated that we would be getting a refund back on some of the money spent and then we will get our final bill. Once final bill is received it will be reported to council. He also reported that both east and west doors are back open and parking is back to normal. The city is working on a schedule to stripe the east side. Mr. Nobbe believes everything is in good shape. Bill Meer from Bruns-Gutzwiller was included on the tour to get his opinion on the work along with Doug Ellerman who is the roofer the county uses. There were about four holes in the roof that were created by the construction process. Bulley and Andrews will pay to fix that. Mr. Nobbe said that everyone patience was appreciated

**Philip Deiwert Employment Coordinator for the Rural Works Program** spoke to the council the Rural Works Program which is a job readiness workshop for people who are not unemployed or are under employed. Mr. Deiwert said one of the conversations he has been having a lot lately is there is a difference between getting someone a job and keeping that job and that is what the goal of his program is. To date they have had 122 orientations with people in the community. Some come from community corrections office, prosecutor's office, child support division, and protective services, basically anything in the community where people need help. Mr. Deiwert come before the council to ask for funding in the amount of \$10,000. The first program year was fully funded by the Community Foundation. The 2<sup>nd</sup> and current year is being funded by United Fund, Community Foundation, and Community Corrections. Year three will start July 1, 2018. So far there is funding by United Fund, City of Greensburg EDIT, and Community Foundation however there is still a shortage of \$15,000 to \$20,000. The reason Mr. Deiwert wanted to ask the council for funding is because it's something that generates tax payers and people who are no longer living off the system by taking welfare or social services. One of the things they teach in the program is just how important it is to keep the jobs. **Jail commander Tony Blodgett** also spoke on behalf of the Rural Works Program and said that this is something he would like to get into the jail. Mr. Blodgett is hoping to get Mr. Deiwert into the jail to help with people being released to get jobs and learn skills. Mr. Blodgett said it's a focus of rehabilitation program when transitioning from jail. Mr. Gauck stated this would have to be something looked at around budget time and asked Mr. Deiwert to submit a letter to council at budget time. Mr. Gauck thanked Mr. Deiwert for coming in early before budgets to give them the information. Mr. Gauck advised him to continue to look at other options also.

**Dr. Burns Superintendent of DCS Corporation & Lieutenant Rob Duckworth** come before the council to ask for additional funding for an extra school resource officer for Decatur County Schools. The importance comes from two reasons. The first is due to declining enrollment. Five teaching positions will not filled next year. There was a demographic study done in the fall and they are projected to lose 192 kids in the next ten years. Right now they do not have the money for extra SRO in their budget and the SRO is of great importance. This will help to put parents at ease. The two SRO's that are employed currently are busy dealing with their duties, students, and mental health issues they are split considerably. Dr. Burns told the council this is greatly needed. Lt. Duckworth told the council that the SRO have 3 roles. The first is a counselor, the second is an educator for good decision making, and third is the enforcement role. Their mission statement is to provide a safe and secure learning environment so

students can thrive to their fullest potential while getting prepared for the world beyond. **Rob Smith Building Administrator** said that the students look forward to seeing the SRO's in the building and the SRO's are involved in day to day activities. Things have changed in 5 years. Before he was worried about upsetting a parent and now the worry is if the parent is going to be upset and come in and cause violence. Having the SRO's there makes a big difference in the school's safety. Dr. Burns said he would like the 3<sup>rd</sup> office to be supported/paid for by council. Lt Duckworth said they are requesting support of additional SRO officer for 2018 and 2019 appropriation each one being \$50,000 to the County SRO fund. They understand that additional appropriations have to be advertised and they asked for the council to direct the Auditor's office to advertise for the additional. They asked that the Public Safety Fund be regenerated and put back into the public's safety. Mr. Meyer felt it deserved more consideration. The council agreed to address it later in the meeting.

**Ray Sweet** came to speak with the council about serving Decatur County. He said he would love to work with the Decatur County Sheriff but he feels that a lot of money is going out of the county to other wrecker services. Mr. Sweet said he and Sheriff Allen were to have a meeting and he has called the sheriff but there has been no meeting. Mr. Sweet said he has been in the county since 1994 and has had a heavy wreck since 2008 and it doesn't get used at all by the sheriff's office. Mr. Gauck said they do not want to get involved and that it's not the council position to get involved. Mr. Gauck asked the council if they wanted to do anything different or if they had any ideas. The council agreed that it is a private business and there isn't much they could do.

**Decatur County 911 Director Erika Free** came to let council know that they had a quarterly 911 meeting and it was thought they would be coming to council to ask for an additional but she wanted to report that will not be asking for one.

**Jeff Lyons with Maxwell Construction** brought a jail presentation for the council. Mr. Lyons wanted to give a recap of where the process started when they got the jail study from DLZ and walk through the steps of where they have been through the last year and at the end they will present their estimated cost along with a discussion with **Matt Eckerle from Umbaugh and Associates**. Mr. Lyons to please ask any and all question throughout the slide as they are expected and welcomed. Mr. Lyons went back over previously discussed points such as inmate bedding, and sending prisoners out to other jails due to lack of bed space. Mr. Lyons pointed out where the study showed the process would be a year ago being around \$23 million to \$25 million in cost. Mr. Lyons also compared surrounding counties in what they have spent on jail expansions. Mr. Lyons pointed out that there would be 3 less jailers needed with the new jail. Mr. Lyons quickly went over the Adams County Jail that Decatur County will built like with a few changes. The council felt they were up to date on the slides. Mr. Lyons went over a few more points on the presentation making sure the council are caught up.

**Matt Eckerle of Umbaugh and Associates** provided to the council what he had presented to the county commissioners the prior day which was taking the preliminary cost estimate that Maxwell had put together and illustrated how it can be funded utilizing the half percent special income tax that was out into place. Mr. Eckerle went over the packet with them explaining each page.

**Prosecutor Nate Harter** informed the council that he has been working with the Auditor's Office on getting an additional advertised and to let them know he will be asking for one at the May meeting. For the 2018 budget Mr. Harter had asked the council for three additional personnel and the council gave him \$40,000 total to spend towards an attorney. Mr. Harter went through the hiring process with two applicants and was met with a resounding no from his office and they applicant would not do it for that amount of money. There was a third applicant from out of state but Mr. Harter couldn't match his current salary. Mr. Harter put together a proposal for the council letting them know what he needs as well as an administrative person. Mr. Harter presented the council with a packet with the projected numbers for the increased caseloads that the prosecutors have and amount of support staff that is actually needed. With what they have they are having a very hard time getting cases resolved in a timely manner. Mr. Hater understood nothing could be done today but wanted to know if the council would entertain appointing 2 or 3 members for an ad hoc committee to come to his office and talk and see his office, go over numbers, and maybe come up with a plan to execute. Mr. Gauck asked if anyone wanted to volunteer to work with Mr. Harter. Mr. Westhafer and Mr. Hooten volunteered to do it.

**Brian Robbins with the Economic Development Corporation** came with Michelle and Shawn from NCT Technology to present an SB-1 form for a personal property abatement for an assessed value of up to \$400,000. Mr. Robbins explained to the council what the company does. Shawn spoke with the council more about the company. He explained it a family owned company for about 40 years and had started near Dayton Ohio and now have 4 locations. NCT started in Greensburg on May 30 of 2017. Shawn also explained how they appreciate their customers and want to work for them. Shawn invited all the councilmen to stop by NCT anytime they wanted to check out what they do. Mr. Metz asked Shawn how many people are currently employed and the answer was 6. Mr. Gauck asked if the equipment was new, Michele said some is new some is used. Mr. Robbins explained that last year there was a hiccup and it was thought that the abatement paperwork was already filed and it has not been They had hired a project manager and his task was to get paperwork filed and he did not get it done and did not work out in the position and was let go. **Reuban Cummings from Government Financial Consultant** informed the council he was not sure they could legally retro-actively apply an abatement. Mr. Gauck said the incentive of tax abatements are to get new people to come here but NCT is already here. Mr. Gauck said that he didn't want to approve it then have everyone else in Greensburg coming to council wanting them to retro-activate a tax abatement. Mr. Robbins said they understood the legality if it and didn't know since the project manager didn't get it filed if they council would approve and he wanted to do whatever he could to get abatement approved. Mr. Hooten said he felt if legally they could do it should be looked into. Mr. Robbins added Indiana allows for equipment that is new to the state to be counted as new equipment. Council agreed to let **County Council Attorney Lora Williams** to look at the paperwork so see if it would be legal. If she feels it would be legal then NCT should come back and it should be reconsidered.

Mr. Metz made motion to approve additional of \$45,000 for Community Corrections. Mr. Owens second. Motion passed 7-0.

Mr. Hooten made a motion to approve transfers. Second by Mr. Peters. Motion passed 7-0

Mr. Gauck told the council that visitors fund has around \$700,000. Council agreed they need to see what can be done with the money. Mr. Nobbe said he would join with a councilman to see if they can figure out a way to use money. Mr. Gauck agreed to join Mr. Nobbe to see if they can find a way.

**Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley** presented council with the 2018 Salary Ordinance to be approved. Mr. Peters made motion to approved salary ordinance from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018. Seconded by Mr. Owens. Motioned passes 7-0.

The Council's next meeting will be May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 9:00 am.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr. Peters moved to adjourn and Mr. Hooten seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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Ernest Gauck, President

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