

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2017, Room 106

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

President Gauck called the meeting to order. Ben Buening led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After Council members reviewed the March 21st meeting minutes, Mr Owens moved to approve the minutes as corrected and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

Mr Gauck reported he had checked with the local **Bureau of Motor Vehicles** and there are over 800 vehicles (any vehicle over 25 years old) eligible for the 'antique or classic' license plates. If Council members want to amend or change the surtax/wheel tax, they need to do that before June 30th in order for it to go into effect on January 1, 2018. He also reported the **County Redevelopment Commission** has agreed to pay the \$12,000 attorney fees for the **Assessor's office** during the **Honda appeal**. The **DLGF** only approved \$26,195 of the **Health Department's** \$50,000 request for additional budget appropriations.

Superior Court Judge Matthew Bailey introduced current **Adult Probation Officer Ben Buening** as the new **Community Corrections Director**. Mr Buening will continue his probation duties through June 8th and also serve as interim-director at the Community Corrections office. A new position, case manager, will be added to the **Community Corrections Department**. This position will be funded by Community Corrections' DOC grants and will not use any tax dollars. Beginning July 1st the **Probation Department** will be adding a third **Adult Probation officer**- also to be paid through **DOC** grants. Judge Bailey hopes to add a fourth adult probation officer in the 2018-2019 grant cycles. The Probation Department will be moving to the Sheriff's Building in order to use resources and personnel more effectively. The Community Corrections' programs have the ability to raise/increase fees while the Probation Department cannot. Currently there are 528 probationers and the Community Corrections programs are providing more 'jail relief'. Judge Bailey stated 10 Sheriff Deputies have been added since 1991 and the Probation Office still has 2 adult probation officers since 1992. The Greensburg Police Department has added officers as well.

Sheriff Greg Allen requested permission to spend \$3,470 out of his **Firearms Training Fund** to purchase four rifles. Mr Metz moved to approve Sheriff Allen's request to spend the \$3,470 and Judge Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carried, 5 – 0.

Health Department Office Administrator Carol Beck reported the Health Board is working on reducing their budget to meet the **DLGF's Budget Order**.

Mr Gauck report the E911 Board is considering three proposals to restructure: changing the Communications Center Director position to a Public Safety Director with a Deputy 911 Supervisor and a Deputy Emergency Management Supervisor hoping to save \$13,000 by combining; EMA salaries are reimbursed at 50% by the State. These three positions are full-time positions.

After reviewing several requests for transferring of monies, Mr Meyer moved to approve and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

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

The next County Council meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on May 16th, 2017.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____