

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, April 18, 2023, Room 106

Present: Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ashley Hungate, Deanna Burkart, Kenny Hooten and Ernie Gauck.

President Peters opened the April 18th Council meeting and Todd Houk to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mr Metz made a motion to approve the March 21st meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Council members agreed to put the topic of reducing the tax rate for the **Special Purpose Jail Fund** on hold so Financial Consultant Reuben Cummings could check on some line items for the 2024 budgets.

Mr Peters explained the Commissioners set the tax rates for the **Cumulative Capital Development** and **Cumulative Bridge Funds** and at Budget Adoption Council may approve budgets up to those tax rates. Both Cum Cap and Cum Bridge will each have maximum tax levies of \$0.0333. He did remind Council members these increases will be made up out of other County tax levies.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve Addendum #16 - \$9,000 - for a storage building for the Animal Shelter and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten made a motion to approve the Sheriff's request for additional monies- \$10,838.24 - for part-time help and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. The \$10,838.24 is from Commissary monies reimbursing County General for pay and FICA.

Technology Network Engineer Josh Tressler proposed to the Council a multi-year project for transitioning the old email system to a better solution- a government edition of **Microsoft Office**. Some departments include **Microsoft Office** licenses in their annual budgets while others do not plus not all use the same version of **MS Office**. **American Recovery Act funds** may be used for the initial implementation of this project, but there will be reoccurring costs to support. The **Tech Department** may include those reoccurring costs in their future annual budgets since the **Greensburg City** and the **County** share funding the **Technology Department**. **Greensburg City Council** has conditionally approved funding this project if the **County Council** approves funding for it, so hopefully by June details will be agreed upon to move forward in getting a uniform standard for email security, shared calendars and a policy for email retention.

Sheriff Bill Meyerrose gave Council Members copies of the **Annual Federal Jail Report** and the **Annual Jail Inspection Report**.

Local citizen **Bill Corya** asked Council members about the status of the **Food and Beverage Tax**. Mrs Burkart said it is included in a bill waiting for the Legislators to pass. The Council will have an opportunity to adopt it if the bill is passed, but that won't be known until April 29th when this Legislative Session ends.

Highway Superintendent Todd Houk told Council members his department has been approved the **2023 Community Crossings Grants** in the amount of \$999,997.85, which is a 75/25 match grant requiring the Highway to fund \$333,325.95 for a grand total of \$1,333,303.80 to be used for the approved CCG projects.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe said the Form 11's for the 2023 pay 2024 property tax values would be mailed April 28th and property owners may appeal those values by contacting the Assessor's Office.

The next Council meeting is May 16th, at 9:00 am, in Room 106, in the Courthouse.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Gauck made a motion to adjourn and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Council's regular meeting is adjourned.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____