

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2016, Room 106

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

President Gauck called the meeting to order.

Tourism Director Gary Herbert led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After reviewing the June 14th meeting minutes- Mr Owens moved to approve the minutes and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

County Attorney Drew Young, standing in for **EMA Director Rob Duckworth**, answered the Council's questions on the communications equipment to be placed on a radio tower located near the town of Letts. There is a 'dead spot' for radio communications in that area and the proposed communications equipment to be placed on the tower would provide a broader coverage in this area plus would be a 'back up' to the tower at the County Jail. Mr Gauck requested copies of the lease/plans since the lease on the land would be \$450 a month plus another \$450 a month to lease the antenna equipment. A building to protect the back-up generator is to be built and paid for by the **County Redevelopment Commission**.

Tim Ortman gave updates on the progress of **Decatur County's Proposed Comprehensive Plan**. The final draft was scheduled to be reviewed on September 6th by the Committee; then would be presented to the **Area Plan Commission** on October 5th. Upon learning the **APC** is not 'made up' correctly per statute, Mr Ortman stated the current **APC Board** needs to be dissolved and those appointed people need to be reappointed or new appointments made. **Currently the County Council has one appointee and the statute states the Council should have two appointees: one citizen member appointed who is in an unincorporated area or a resident of the county who owns real property in an unincorporated area plus a second appointed person.** Mr Ortman also suggested establishing the **APC Board with seven voting members- by Statute- plus one to three non-voting members within Greensburg Corporation limits since Greensburg does have their own Area Plan Board**. Mr Meyers asked why have three non-voting members. Mr Ortman believed having someone from the City Council would provide shared information. Mr Ortman asked Council members to decide who their appointments will be by their September 20th meeting.

Sarah Brichto of Children's Advocacy Center outlined services provided by the **CAC**. **County Prosecutor Nate Harter** stated law enforcement as well as Prosecutors' offices prefer to use **CAC's** services for interviewing juvenile victims/witnesses hoping to reduce the trauma they've already been through.

Tourism Director Gary Herbert explained financial information on the local **Innkeepers Tax**, from the various local hotels, 'is not for public information'. He did contact the **State's Public Access Counselor** who did tell him if the County Commissioners and/or County Council members would individually sign a 'confidentiality agreement' Mr Herbert could give them financial reports on what hotels have paid each month. Council members agreed they didn't need to know how much each hotel remits to the County Treasurer on a monthly basis, only the current balance (which may be disclosed to the public). Mr Herbert reported the **Visit Decatur County Inc** has approximately \$200,000 in a bank account. Mr Herbert hopes to learn if and how much debt/financial obligations **VDCI** has for 2016 when he meets with **VDCI's Board** on August 18th. Mr Herbert shared **Tourism Board member Bill Smith's** thoughts there may be some positive in keeping the **VDCI** going; but per the **Reorganizational Plan** submitted to the County Commissioners and County Council **the use of the service corporation- VDCI- is eliminated after July 1, 2016**. There was some discussion what projects the **Innkeepers Tax** might fund. Mr Herbert stated "anything related to tourism, these funds can be used.

Mr Metz moved to approve all transfer requests and Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passed, 6-0.

After some discussion on the new requirement for the 2017 Budget Cycle, **Mr Peters moved to recommend to the County's Taxing Units: Decatur County; Adams Township Trustee; Clay Township Trustee; Clinton Township Trustee; Fugit Township Trustee; Jackson Township Trustee; Marion Township Trustee; Saltcreek Township Trustee; Sandcreek Township Trustee; Washington Township Trustee; Greensburg Civil City; Millhousen Civil City; New Point Civil Town; St Paul Civil Town; Westport Civil Town; Decatur County Community School Corp; Decatur County Contractual Library and Decatur County Solid Waste Management to be aware of your 2017 Estimated Property Tax Cap Impact Report as stated by the Department of Local Government Finance and not to exceed the maximum levy which may create a loss in revenue.** Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carried, 6-0.

The next County Council meeting will be held at 9:00 a.m. on September 20th, 2016. **The Public Hearing for the proposed 2017 Budgets will also be held during this meeting.**

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____