

**Commissioners Meeting**  
**January 9, 2025**

**Present: Jeremy Pasel, Gabe Nobbe and Brian Wenning**

The Commissioners January 9th meeting was opened by President Pasel who welcomed everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill them out and turn them in at the Auditor's office.

Todd Houk led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and Pastor Greg Redd then offered a prayer.

(Meeting minutes, payroll and claims are emailed to each Commissioner each Thursday before their Monday meeting)

Mr Nobbe made a motion to approve the December 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Wenning seconded and Mr Pasel concurred.

Mr Wenning moved to approve the claims, Mr Nobbe seconded and Mr Pasel concurred.

Mr Wenning made a motion to approve the January 3rd payroll of \$378,786.65, Mr Nobbe seconded and Mr Pasel concurred.

**Highway Superintendent Todd Houk** gave his 2-week report: highway crews continue to do general maintenance, survey work/lay out, bridge maintenance along with the winter storm clean up this week. He will start working on the CCMG 2025-1. They will be addressing 116.3 miles of road with chip and seal. Todd presented the **PM contract for building maintenance quotes**. Koch Mechanical \$9,450.00; Peine \$9,644.00. Koch Mechanical has their preventive maintenance set at four times a year. Commissioners feel it should be done more frequently and also done in house. Peine already does work for the County and they know their reputation. Mr Wenning moved to approve Peine, Mr Nobbe seconded and Mr Pasel concurred. Mr Houk introduced John SanGiorgio as the Bridge Inspection Consultant with United Consulting. They were awarded the 4-year contract for 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2028.

Mr Wenning thanked all Highway crews for their hard work during the recent snow storm. Mr Pasel stated the highway crew had 776-man hours logged between Sunday, January 5<sup>th</sup> through Tuesday, January 7<sup>th</sup>. They applied approximately 200 tons of salt and sand. They helped get over 636 miles of road cleared.

**Tim Kramer, County Building Inspector** gave his report for December 16 – January 3: he conducted 44 building inspections which only 35 of those 44 passed – he found problems on the other 9; Issued 4 new building permits. The office has been working on setting up the Geo Permits for contractors to go on and set up their inspections, permits and see results all online. The new Area Plan Director will start January 13<sup>th</sup>. There were 2 complaints made anonymously on properties. Mr Kramer asked if they should be required to attached their name to the complaint? Mr Wenning said it does make it more valid with a name. After review of the property, they do not feel it is bad enough to pursue. It will be kept on file for future reference if there are any more complaints.

**Sheriff Meyerrose presented the Commissary Report** from the Detention Center for the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2024. The ending balance is \$86,832.28; however almost \$49,000 is committed. **Decatur County Foundation received a \$5 million Crisis Intervention Grant**. In April of 2023, Jail Commander Mike Eggleston started working on a Crisis Intervention Team and trained with Johnson County Sheriff Department. Community Foundation Executive Director Tami Wenning started looking for programs to submit for this application. Mr Meyerrose is looking for Council's support to fund the program once the grant is finished, which most likely will be in 5 to 6 years. **Mr Eggleston** explained this is not just a law enforcement program. It is a community wide program. The goal is to get the proper response for someone that is in a mental health crisis. The team is designed to find where the best place for the individual to go, whether it's the ER, jail, or a mental health facility. This will help create a safer response for the first responders by getting them the help they need instead of waiting until they become a burden on the system. These techniques are being used in the Detention Center. In 2022, there were 128 use of force reports. In 2023, there were 23 use of force reports. Mr Eggleston says this is a tremendous program that he hopes will be supported. Mr Wenning asked how the program will work budget wise after the grant has ended. Mr Eggleston explained the grant is broken down into 3 main sections; First section: Personnel, vehicles, training; Second section: transportation (getting participants to appointments); and Third section: follow up and add ons for expansion. There will be a front load of equipment and personnel. The following expenses will fall on the department that is using the resources. This is not solely a county burden, but a community wide program. Mr Pasel stated the Solid Waste District will be moving to the old City Street Department. The Crisis Intervention Team can be housed in the Annex building after they move locations. Mr Pasel stated he has experience with this program as a Shelby County Prosecuting Attorney and most surrounding counties have it as well. **Sheriff Meyerrose is asking for 3 new vehicles**

now since it takes so long to get them in. Again, he reiterates this is Foundation money, not County money. Each vehicle will cost \$56,076. The goal is to have the program up and running mid-February. Mr Nobbe made a motion to approve 3 vehicles, Mr Wenning seconded and Mr Pasel concurred.

**County Attorney Chad Smith presented an Alternative Solar Moratorium.** The Comprehensive Plan is almost 10 years old and people would like to see it updated. This moratorium will give the County and community time for discussion on the current ordinances and update as needed. Mr Smith stated Decatur Couty instituted their ordinances before the State made their statutes. Purdue University conducted a study of all counties in the state as to their ordinances versus State statute and found Decatur County lacking in 4 categories of solar and 6 categories of wind. This makes us behind the curve. Mr Pasel read the proposed moratorium ordinance 2025-1. Mr Nobbe made the motion to approve; Mr Wenning seconded and Mr Pasel concurred. The moratorium will not affect the current 2 petitions for solar farms. Mr Pasel doesn’t believe it will be a complete rewrite to get it to the values they are seeking. There will be a group established to guide the ordinances to include what the community wants along with the statutory requirements. This does not include any private use of solar panels. Mr Nobbe made a motion to move forward with a 24 months’ time period. Effective 1/9/2025 through 1/9/2027 at 4:00 P.M. Mr Wenning seconded; Mr Pasel concurred.

**Board of Health Director Sean Durbin** asked for the approval to sell their 2013 Dodge Caravan and purchase a 2025 Toyota Sienna Minivan. The total cost of \$46, 991 will be funded through a grant. The van will be used for a new program called 4 Corners in which the nurses will be traveling for routine medical checks, blood pressure checks, blood sugar, cholesterol and immunizations to underserved communities. Commissioners think this sounds like a great program, Mr Wenning made a motion to approve the purchase of the van, Mr Nobbe seconded the motion and Mr Pasel concurred. Mr Durbin received the resignation of one of the Board Members. He will bring the required 5 recommendations to the next meeting.

**Board of Appointment for Lake Santee Water District** gave a nomination for Larry Nicks. Mr Nobbe made a motion to appoint Mr Nicks to the board, Mr Wenning seconded and Mr Pasel concurred.

**911 Director Leigh Ann Dashiell** gave an update on the most recent snowstorm. She said they were busy and added additional coverage to handle the calls. A lot of long hours but everything went smoothly.

**Washington Township Trustee Bev Rivera** thanked everyone for all the hard work in keeping the community safe. The office only had 1 emergency that came up that was able to be resolved quickly.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Nobbe made a motion to recess, Mr Wenning seconded and Mr Pasel concurred. Meeting recessed.

**The next Commissioner’s meeting will be January 21st, beginning at 8:00 AM in Room 106.**

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_