

## Decatur County Council Meeting

**Tuesday, August 20, 2024**

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

President Peters opened the August 20<sup>th</sup> Council meeting by welcoming everyone; he then asked Chris Fogle 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 July 16<sup>th</sup> minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** presented a contract with **Ritter Strategic Services** for assistance in the search for a new 911 Communications Director. The scope of work sets out 60 days/48 manhours for a fee of \$7,200, to be paid out of the Statewide 911 fund. The Commissioners had approved and signed Exhibit B of this contract on Monday, August 19<sup>th</sup>. Barry Ritter who specializes in 911 job postings, interviewing and making recommendations to 911 Board, told Council the contract also includes an efficiency assessment/ review of the communications center. Mrs Burkart moved to approve the contract and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Animal Control Director Minde Myers** told Council the Shelter was awarded a \$56,000 grant from **Best Friends** last year. She has divided the \$56,000 into 4 areas: \$3,500 for a grant writer; \$15,000 Volunteer Coordinator; \$15,000 for adoptions and the remaining \$22,500 for TNR (trap, neuter and return) program. Ms Myers asked Council to approve putting the \$22,500 into her operating budget to pay for the TNR. Mr Metz moved to approve Ms Myers' request and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Sarah Brichto, Children's Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana Executive Director**, presented a request for \$10,000 from Decatur County to use as match monies for federal programs/grants. She told Council the local office has 2 full-time employees. Local Prosecutor Nate Harter said the CAC is invaluable in finding justice for children brought in for depositions/interviews resulting in minimal trauma while helping to close cases. Council will include Ms Brichto's request in their review of all of the proposed 2025 budgets.

**County Extension Director Chris Fogle** requested \$15,000 in 2025 funding for the 4-H Council which in part is used to purchase all 'place' ribbons for the participants in the 4-H Fair. The costs of the project books jumped due to several new manuals. Council will include this request when they work on all of the requests for funding in 2025.

**Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich** introduced **Rob DeHoff** who is the new **Recreation/Sports Coordinator**.

Per the requirements set by the DLGF, Mrs Hungate made a motion and Mr Hooten seconded it to recommend to each Decatur County Taxing Unit, they review the **Department of Local Government Finance's 2025 estimated maximum levy and estimated property tax cap loss revenue**. Taxing units failing to use this information may see a short fall in tax revenues in 2025. Decatur County taxing units include: **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**. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz made a motion to approve the 4 transfer requests and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the **Health Department’s request for \$1,045.12** in additional monies to pay for new phone upgrades and a new line of service for the extra nurse. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate made a motion to approve the **ARPA Addendum 29 - \$75,000** for upgrades to the Clerk’s voting machines and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the **ARPA Addendum 30 - \$134,000** to update the Sheriff’s mobile and handheld radios and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz made a motion to approve the **ARPA Addendum 31 – \$733.69** additional monies for over spent appropriation 31452 – READI match for pool study and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the **ARPA Addendum 32 - \$1,670,960.45** to reduce unspent appropriations back to the cash in Fund 8950 and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. -\$1,485,000 30790 READI Grant; -\$3,808.35 35087 Cyber Security; -\$148,420.57 35815 Fairgrounds Study; -\$33,731.53 35816 Website/Logo; -\$86,165.52 35819 EMA Code Red

Mr Hooten moved to postpone voting on the stipend for the Auditor as allowed in Indiana Code 36-2-5-3.7 and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Hooten will call *Ricci Hofherr* at the *State Board of Accounts*.

Mr Metz moved to postpone voting on a request for a stipend by the Clerk of the Courts so Council can find more information on stipends. Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mrs Hungate made a motion to appoint **Mary Lou Gauck to the Decatur County Community Foundation’s Scholarship Committee** and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**The next Council meeting will be September 17<sup>th</sup> , 2024 at 9:00 am at the Courthouse, Room 106. The Public Hearing for the proposed 2025 County Budgets will be at 9:15 am .**

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

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Danny Peters, President

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

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