

## Decatur County Council Meeting

**Tuesday, January 21, 2025**

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

President Peters opened the Council's January 21, 2025 meeting; he then asked new Council member Rick Nobbe to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Bill Metz made a motion to approve the minutes with the use of first and last names typed instead of Mr. and Mrs. moving forward, Deanna Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6-0.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose presented the second half of 2024 Commissary Report.** Jail Commander Mike Eggleston worked directly with Community Foundation Executive Director Tami Wenning on implementing the **Crisis Intervention Team** which is made possible through the \$5 million Crisis Intervention Grant the Foundation received. This program will put all resources under one umbrella and allow everyone to work together for the good of the community. This will allow faster and more accurate care. The team will assess what is the best treatment and where they need to be instead of just putting them in jail or the hospital. Mike believes this grant will get them through 5 to 6 years. He is looking for Councils approval of funding thereafter. The majority surrounding counties also have this program which will expand their resources and capabilities. Mike explained there are three sections to the grant: 1) funding of the CIT; personnel, training & equipment. 2) Transportation 3) Follow up along with money that will be available to the community. 2 new Field Officers will be hired along with an Administrator to start off with. Danny Peters stated this sounds like a good program and to keep them informed.

**EMA Director Brad Speer** asked for his part time deputy to be paid a rate of \$18.00 instead of the approved \$17.00 per hour rate. There will not need to be any additional funds put into the budget for this to happen. Bill Metz made a motion to approve, Kenny Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6-0.

**Animal Control Director Minde Myers** submitted her grant proposals for approval. The remaining final payment of \$32,000 of their \$60,00 Best Friends Grant needs to be appropriated along with The Greater Good (Hills) Grant for \$1,000. Deanna Burkart made the motion to approve, Rick Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6-0.

**Department of Health Director Sean Durbin** would like to change from having 2 part time employees to 1 full time employee and ask that her pay be made retroactive back to when she started the full-time hours. The salary will come out of the Healthy First Indiana fund. Ashley Hungate made the motion to approve, Ernie Gauck seconded. Motion passes. Due to a reduction in birth and death certificates rates, the Health Department is having to make more change. They would like to increase their petty cash drawer from \$50.00 to \$100.00. Bill Metz made the motion to approve, Ashley Hungate seconds the motion. Motion passes, 6-0.

**Director of Catch A Ride Michelle Guidice** provided a year end update. Rides are scheduled first come first serve from 6:00 A.M to 6:00 P.M. up to 30 days in advance. There were 7,854 one-way trips for 133 individuals. Internal and back up cameras were installed. Their annual oversight review came back with no findings or concerns. Passengers can now pay on website or send in a check/money order to prepay for rides. Received a marketing grant from Bethany Legacy Foundation of Madison. They have been working with a marketing team to develop social media posts, emails and short videos to help support service. They received 6 replacement mini vans. There is approximately a 175% increase in the cost of small transit vehicles since pre covid. Due to this and the 20% match, they are moving away from the transit vehicles where possible. In the end, they will have 16 mini vans and 16 small transit

vehicles. Will be replacing tablets in 2025. Michelle ended by thanking County Council for their continued support.

REMC Technology Manager Sam Ruff thanked the County for the ARPA funds given to them. Sam is asking for a letter of support for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant. This is a federal program that helps utilities expand high speed internet access to underserved areas. REMC is applying for all the available address in Decatur County and all surrounding counties in their electrical territories. Plan to provide internet services to all. The fiber will be hung on existing poles. The pricing to customers has not been released yet but will be comparable to other services. Kenny Hooten made the motion to write the letter of support, Bill Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6-0.

Additional: Soil & Water Board supports the two employees by supplementing their salaries along with PERF and FICA in the amount of \$23,974.66. Ashley Hungate made the motion to accept, Rick Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6-0.

Danny Peters introduced the new Area Plan Director Doug Westerfeld. Doug is looking forward to the challenge of putting plans in place and seeing projects through.

**The next Council meeting will be February 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Courthouse, Room 106.**

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

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Danny Peters, President

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

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

