

# Decatur County Council Meeting

Date & Time: 2025-09-16 9:00 A.M.

Location: Room 106

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

## Opening Remarks

- President Danny Peters called the meeting to order for the September Session session of the County Council.
- Pledge of Allegiance led by Sheriff Bill Meyerrose.
- Approval of Minutes:
  - Minutes were emailed prior to the meeting.

## Corrections to Previous Meeting Minutes

- A grant entry was corrected: for the community crossing grant, the \$250,000 grant's total from the state should be \$1,000,000 instead of \$500,000.
- Maintenance positions labeled "one, two, and three" should be clarified as park positions.
- Language around paying REMC for incorrect billing should be revised from "county paid back \$15,000" to "county paid \$15,000," removing "back" for clarity since the county paid REMC rather than being funded by it.
- A motion was made by Rick Nobbe, seconded by Deanna Burkart to approve three sets of minutes (normal August meeting, budget workshop, and executive session on September 5), motion passed 5-0.

## Budget Public Hearing

- Salary adjustments and raises
  - Clarification on raises: employees received either a 3% raise or a salary study bump, whichever was larger. If the salary study bump exceeded 3%, that was applied; otherwise, the 3% raise applied.
  - It was noted that last year there was a partial bump, and the remainder was intended for the next year consistent with the salary study approach.
- Deputy pay and FICA corrections
  - A corrected total for Clerks deputies' pay was provided after verification with the auditor's office. The corrected amount reflects adding a new deputy and includes updated FICA.
- Public hearing closure
  - A motion was made by Ashley Hungate, seconded by Bill Metz to close the public hearing; the vote passed 5-0.

## Vehicle Maintenance Budgeting

- A line item for vehicle maintenance was missing for a department that now has vehicles. The commissioners previously agreed to pay for Area Plans vehicle.
- Service costs this year exceeded \$1,000 on vehicle; the suggestion was to budget \$1,000–\$2,500 under vehicle maintenance.
- Consensus appeared to be that \$1,000 would suffice and that vehicle maintenance funding could come from the board as needed.

## **Clinic Update and Riverboat Funding**

- The clinic serves underinsured/uninsured patients at \$10 per visit for medical and dental.
- Recent achievements:
  - Fundraised for and installing new dental equipment next week; \$90,000 project via grants/donations, expected operational by mid-month.
  - Awarded a \$250,000 Lilly grant via Community Foundation to expand medical services space in Rural King Plaza; lease negotiations underway with target finalization in the next couple weeks. Grant is renewable for three years and includes rent coverage, a transportation vehicle, a website, and security features.
  - Two volunteer dentists continue to serve patients; outcomes are rising amid Medicaid cuts affecting patient access.
  - A low-key food pantry has operated for almost three years for clinic patients.
- Decision:
  - Bill Metz made the motion, Ernie Gauck seconded. motion passed 5-0 to add \$8,000 to the riverboat fund allocation for the clinic.
- Sustainability:
  - The \$250,000 mental health-related grant is sustainable for three years; there may be a future ask or plan for sustaining after the term. The clinic is pursuing qualified health care status, a process that takes about a year, and monitoring federal funding conditions.

## **Area Plan Commission Appointment**

- Request to reaffirm a council appointment (term ended December 31) due to lack of official action at year-end; confirmation would make this the first year of the new term.
- Rick Nobbe made motion to approve Ryan Kennelly to the APC Board, Deanna Burkart seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

## **Proposed 911 System Upgrade**

- Current system: Solacom, in use for over 20 years; lacks modern enhancements. Text-to-911 is on a separate system; mapping is fragmented across multiple vendors.
- Proposed solution: Motorola Vesta 911 with integrated CAD and universal mapping.
  - Benefits: Integrated text-to-911, future AI capabilities for call transcription and quick audio access to key details (addresses, “gun,” etc.), enhanced analytics and state reporting, ability to integrate video/pictures and push to officers, DOT camera and live radar integration, and console real estate reduction via a universal map.
  - Costs:
    - Vesta: \$223,000.
    - Mapping upgrade: \$12,500.
    - Software maintenance listed at \$12,600; first-year maintenance is included, reducing the initial base price. Current maintenance costs are about \$8,000 for existing systems.
  - Funding plan:
    - 911 board approved using cash surplus: \$125,000 from the state 911 fund and \$125,000 from the countywide fund (50-

- 50 city/county split), totaling up to \$250,000 to cover contingencies.
  - Current balances: approximately \$500,000 on the state side and approximately \$700,000 on the countywide side; this spend leaves substantial remaining funds.
- Support:
  - Unanimous support from the 911 advisory and executive boards (police chief, fire chief, sheriff, volunteer fire, commissioner, city council representative, etc.). IT supports the proposal.
- Training: In-person training included for this major change; otherwise training is typically online.
- Timeline:
  - Quote decision targeted for November; backend work by year-end; go-live goal in spring 2026 after build and configuration.
- Administrative steps:
  - Requires advertising as an additional since using cash; letter for the additional will be prepared, with return next month after advertisement.
- Equipment disposition: Little expected resale value; IT may evaluate parts if any value exists.
- Related infrastructure: Building roof needs major repair, but 911 space likely requires no remodel; windows already replaced with special units. Tower upgrades are underway after two rare dual state site outages this year.

### **Financial Transfers and Additional**

- Transfer
  - Veterans: \$150 to cover a scanner ordered from Amazon. Motion made by Kenny Hooten, seconded by Ernie Gauck. Motion passes 5-0.
- Additional
  - Animal shelter: Two checks totaling \$1,000 received, plus a credit voucher to be appropriated back into line item. Deanna Burkart made the motion to approve, Kenny Hooten seconded. Motion passes 5-0.

### **Salary Ordinance change**

- Sheriff deputy C. Harry moved from nights and will no longer receive shift differential. Kenny Hooten made the motion to approve, Ernie Gauck seconded. Motion passes 5-0.

### **Community Impact Fee Ordinance**

- Purpose and structure
  - Ordinance 2025-16 establishes a community impact fee mechanism tied to projects (e.g., a battery storage project expected to contribute), separate from property tax mechanics. It is described as a straight fee for 10 years, unaffected by state tax audit changes or depreciation adjustments (e.g., personal property lowering to 30%), intended to preserve expected revenue levels.
  - The ordinance specifies that the county council has sole control over these funds, including decisions on allocation and usage. A new identifying fund will be set up for this fee.

- Motion and approval
  - Motion to approve made by Kenny Hooten; second by Ernie. Motion passes 5-0.
  - Ordinance number noted as 2025-16.

**Long-Range Planning Committee**

- Commissioners desire all three commissioners on the committee; the council discussed having three council members as well.
  - Rick Nobbe, Ashley Hungate & Deanna Burkart all agreed to be the council representatives.

**Conference Attendance and Logistics**

- The council plans to attend the annual conference by the Association of Indiana Counties from 2025-09-29 through 2025-10-02 in French Lick.
  
- With nothing else to come before the Council, Kenny Hooten made a motion to adjourn, and Ernie Gauck seconded the motion. Council's regular meeting is adjourned.

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Danny Peters, President

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

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