

## Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, December 15, 2020, Room 106

**Present:** Danny Peters, John Westhafer, Larry Meyer, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

President Peters called the December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting of the Decatur County Council to order and John Westhafer led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Having reviewed the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Hooten moved to approve the meeting minutes as read and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Circuit Judge Day** again asked Council members for funding to hire a jury administrator to serve both Courts as well as serving as Bailiff for both Courts. This full-time position may also involve assisting Courthouse Security officers. Judge Day stated the full-time salary would be divided between Superior and Circuit Courts' budgets. He also requested \$5,000 for postage for jury-related mail. **Superior Court Judge Matthew Bailey** told Council members the number of jury trials is trending up; there were 8 jury trials in 2019. Deputy Auditor Teresa Reiger stated the Courts would need to submit a request for additional monies for their respective budgets; she would then take care of the legal advertising so Council members could vote on the additional at their January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting. Mr Peters asked both Judges if they could get by with part time help until the 2022 budgets. Mr Westhafer and Mr Meyer said they believe that would be a good way to see where we'll be since that State Legislators may approve a **Decatur Magistrate Court** for 2022. Mr Westhafer made a motion to put \$12,500 in each Court's 2021 budget and Ms Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. This would allow paying a part time position and \$5,000 for postage.

**Treasurer-elect Diane Wenning** shared her concerns about the 2021 budget for the Treasurer's office; particularly not seeing any appropriation for part time help. Mr Peters asked Mrs Wenning to come to a Council meeting once she has taken office and decides what she needs to run her office.

**Parks and Recreation Director Bob Barker** presented a 2021 Amended 144, Statement of Salaries, for the Council's approval. **2021 Budget Requests** were submitted before one of Mr Barker's employees retired and he would like to remove that position from his 2021 budget. Council had approved Mr Barker's **2020 Amended 144** to divide that employee's remaining salary between the 5 current employees. Mr Gauck suggested instead of giving the Parks employees a \$4,500 raise, give each a \$2,500 raise and use the balance for Part Time help. Mr Westhafer moved to approve the 2021 Amended 144 and Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 -1.

**Communications Director Erika Free** told Council members she has met with the County Commissioners and the Mayor of Greensburg about upgrading Dispatch's radio systems. The current radio system 'came with them' in 2016, so it's 'end of life, no parts for repairs, no warranties'. She did 'get a grant' in August 2019 to purchase backup radios. The 'next generation' radio system Director Free is proposing would be a "pick up and go" should the Center need to be evacuated; which happened not too long ago due to a COVID contamination. The cost for to upgrade the radio system is \$391,000 which would be divided between the County and the City per the interlocal agreement. Council discussed possible funding and possibly using some of the **CARES Act Reimbursement** monies. **Public Safety IT Director Josh Tressler** has a 'replacement rotation' plan, but this is the first time since the consolidation any systems needed replaced.

**County Commissioner Rick Nobbe** told Council **Decatur County Memorial Hospital** is now asking a total of \$366,000 for: purchase a \$11,000 freezer to store vaccine, \$155,000 for vaccine administration,

\$175,000 for support, general COVID relief such as overtime and \$25,000 for an infusion clinic. He's not advocating for **DCMH**, just letting Council know there will probably be a lot of people asking for money. The **Board of Health** was approved to receive approximately \$86,000 in grant monies related to COVID.

Mr Gauck, on behalf of the Council, thanked Mr Nobbe for all that he's done for the County.

**Dr James Howell, President of the Health Board**, requested approval to apply for a grant to pay for more COVID testing; County has to spend our money before December 31<sup>st</sup>, then submit a request for reimbursement. Dr Howell also asked for financial help for a vaccination drive and to setup mass clinics. **Sean Durbin, Public Health Preparedness**, told Council the **Health Department** has to be set up, ready to do vaccinations on January 1, 2021. They have received a \$40,000 grant and they need more funding as well as a full-time medical assistant. Mr Durbin shared information on costs (\$381,254.85) and revenues (\$340,200) which shows the **Health Department** will have a \$41,054.85 shortfall to fund operations related to COVID vaccinations. There is another available grant for \$100,000 now and another \$100,000 in 2021 which totals a possible \$200,000. He would like to move one part-time assistant into a full-time position (\$54,839.20 salary plus benefits) and keep the second part-time position. Also, there may be a shortfall in funds to purchase equipment. Mr Metz made a motion to approve adding a full-time public health assistant and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Hooten moved to approve the \$100,000 Grant for the **Board of Health** and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**County Sheriff Dave Durant** told Council members he needs a full-time maintenance person in the Detention Center. **Jail Commander Dana Parker** contacted 22 other counties and found Decatur County is the only County Jail without a full-time maintenance position. Since the **Detention Center** opened on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 20 of the 96 toilets needed replaced due to inmate actions; inmates will do anything to tear things up. **Sheriff Durant** does 'back charge' an inmate's commissary account if there's proof that inmate did break/destroy county property. There's a lot of work to do in the jail without having to clean up or fix something. **Commander Parker** stated he's not sure what's still under warranty or what's not since 2/3 of the construction was done without any input from the Jail Commander. **Elevatus and Pauly Jail** strongly recommends having a maintenance person on site. Sheriff Durant offered to pay the 2021 salary for one year for a maintenance person out of his Commissary Fund; Council would have to fund the benefits. Mr Gauck moved to allow a \$45,000 to \$50,000 salary for hiring a maintenance person for the Detention Center. Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Peters suggested using Public Safety funds to pay for the benefits for this new position.

Mr Metz moved to approve transfers and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries 6 – 0.

Mr Meyer agreed to serve on the **Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission** in 2021. Mr Hooten agreed to continue on the **Solid Waste Management Board** for 2021.

Mr Peters spoke to Board members whose terms are set to expire on December 31, 2020; all have agreed to be reappointed for another term. Mr Hooten moved to reappoint all Board members whose term expired at the end of 2020. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

**Alcoholic Beverage Commission - Rheadawn Metz**

**Area Plan Commission - Eric Whitaker**

**Council's Attorney – Chris Tebbe**

**Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals – Jennifer Johnson Slagle**

**Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board – Stephanie Hoeing and JoAnn Burkhardt**

**Redevelopment Commission – Jim Saler and Danny Peters**

The Council's first meeting in 2021 will be January 19<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Board of Commissioners' meeting, also on January 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley** told Council members some Counties have paid companies to research and compare the level of duties/responsibilities in their County's offices to determine the level of

skill/pay/salary according to the time required to perform those duties. The Auditor's Office is called the 'hub of the county' by the State Board of Accounts, so the pay should not be the same for other departments.

Mr Peters thanked Mr Westhafer for his service on the Council for 4 years. Mr Westhafer said he was very impressed by the talent level in the County and the Auditor's office.

The Council's next meeting will be at 9:00 am on January 19<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the Commissioners' regular meeting.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Meyer moved to adjourn and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

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Danny Peters, President

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

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