

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, February 15, 2022, Room 106

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

The February 15th, 2022 meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters. Mark Mohr led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the January 25th meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr told Council members his department needs to replace several pieces of equipment which includes the boom mower, mini excavator, loader tractor and a new pickup truck. He has discussed this with Reuben Cummings who agrees the Highway's cash balances are very good to cover these purchases. Council members all agreed to approve Mr Mohr's future requests for additional monies, not to exceed \$200,000 in Cumulative Bridge and \$600,000 in Highway.

Michelle Guidice of LifeTime (Catch-A-Ride) gave an update on their operations. The trip volume has been about half of pre-COVID and the CARES Funding has been a blessing but that expires the end of June. They hope to purchase new uniforms, on-board cameras and back-up cameras; also, are working on new logos. She thanked Council for their continued support.

County Sheriff Dave Durant told Council he has written a \$53,000 check out of the Commissary Fund to pay the additional \$1,000 COVID Stipend approved by Council. The Department has been awarded the Stop Arm grant for \$7,500; received a \$12,390 check from the **State Criminal Justice** to help replace the repealed handgun fees. Sheriff Durant wanted to lightly give another pitch for longevity for county employees, excluding elected officials. He believes his proposal for hourly paid longevity would actually be a \$10,000 savings for his department over the current \$200 per service year being paid to road deputies. It is incumbent on each elected official to come up with the dollars in their budget each year.

Emergency Management Director Brad Speer asked Council's approval to purchase a new vehicle out of the Cumulative Capital Development Fund to replace the old Tahoe. \$56,000 was budgeted in Cum Cap for this vehicle. Mr Metz moved to approve the purchase of a new vehicle for EMA out of Cum Cap and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the transfer requests and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the Treasurer's request for \$1,215 in additional monies for part-time help. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the \$91,550 in additional monies, in the American Recovery Plan Fund, for a part-time investigator in the Prosecutor's Office. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the \$53,000 in additional monies in the Sheriff's budget in County General, to pay the additional COVID Stipend. Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0.

Mr Peters asked what the Council members think about Reuben Cumming's, Financial Consultant, recommendations to increase/max the Cumulative Capital Development tax for 2023. Mr Hooten doesn't want the max out the rate, but a small increase would be ok. Council members will continue this discussion at their next meeting. There are specific deadlines for public hearings and rate adoption has to be done by May 31st.

Mrs Burkart volunteered to represent the Council on the **Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**.

The Council's next meeting will be at 9:00 am on March 15th, in Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____