

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday February 17, 2015 Room 106

Present: Larry Meyers, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten.

Vice President Danny Peters called the meeting to order.

Jeff Hermesch led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The January 20th meeting minutes were reviewed- Mr Owens moved to approve the minutes and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff Greg Allen presented a summary of changes- mostly 'wording' changes- for the **Sheriff's Pension Plan** prepared by **McCreeedy and Keene**. Mr Meyer moved to approve the changes and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carried. Sheriff Allen also requested permission to spend \$7,500 out of the **Firearms Training Fund** to purchase two handguns, two tasers and two patrol rifles. Mr Metz moved to approve the request and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Family Court Counselor Deb Cruser explained her job responsibilities which started out more as 'mental health care' and now involves more evaluations and reports to the Courts. Beginning in 2005, half of her salary was to be paid from the **Decatur Circuit Court** budget and half from the **Office of Family and Children**. The **County General Budget** was to pay for health insurance and **PERF** retirement. In 2008 the State required all **OFC** monies to be sent to them for 'reimbursement' to the County. Ms Cruser submitted her budget request- Form 1 each year for the Council's review. For the past several years Ms Cruser was not aware her budget requests were not given to the Council. The Auditor's Office believed Ms Cruser's position was mostly funded by grants which reimburse dollars spent, so they didn't question that fund being in the 'red'. Beginning July 1st, 2015, **Community Corrections** will hire Ms Cruser for various cases; so the \$26,000 from **Circuit Court's** budget plus the **Community Corrections'** salary should help keep the **Family Court Counselor's** fund in the 'black'. Mr Meyer moved to let the Auditor research this 'short fall issue' and bring suggestions back to the **Council's** March 17th meeting. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jeff Hermesch, **County Extension Agent**, stated the budget he received last October had an error in the 'office equipment' appropriation. He had submitted a request of \$4,000 which was entered into the budget reports as \$400. Mr Hermesch asked Council members to correct the \$400 back to the \$4,000 since the copier lease is due soon. Budgets are 'set in stone' once the Council officially adopts the County Budgets which they did in October, so Mr Hermesch's request was tabled.

Judge Tim Day told Council members he supports Ms Cruser as she provides services **Circuit Court** thru custody and visitation evaluations and juvenile substance abuse evaluations- she is a major asset. He may use **Probation User Fees** beginning July 1st to pay for some of her services.

Judge Day discussed paying for 'electronic monitoring' for juveniles. One option would be the two school corporations pay half of the costs for the electronic monitoring and the County would pay the remaining half. Juvenile Holding costs are in the Commissioner's budget in County General. These expenses are difficult at best to predict. In 2014, \$70,840 was paid for those juvenile holding costs.

Mr Owens moved to appoint Mark Koors to replace Norman Campbell on the **Parks Board**. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the requests for transferring monies from various appropriations within a department's budget. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Commissioner Rick Nobbe, along with Ernie Bailey and Oris Reece, asked the Council to think about giving the Commissioners permission to financially support the **Transitional Living Center** if there are available funds- hopefully between \$10,000 and \$15,000. A generous individual loaned \$40,000 to the **TLC** group so they could purchase a building and get the project moving. That loan does have to be paid back.

Mr Metz asked Mr Nobbe where do we stand on our health insurance renewal. Mr Nobbe said three proposals were presented on February 16th and a special meeting is planned for February 20th to make a final decision.

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

Council's next meeting will be on March 17th at 9:00 a.m.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____