

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 19, 2021, Room 106

Present: Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Melanie Nobbe, Deanna Burkart and Ernie Gauck

The January 19th, 2021 meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters. He welcomed Melanie Nobbe as the newest Council member and asked her to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mr Gauck moved to approve the December 15th meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Philip Deiwert and Board member Daniel Fayette presented information about marketing and a focused strategy to build a strong website to showcase **Decatur County/Greensburg**. They have hired an outside consultant on Tourism and have taken advantage of 2020 initiatives such as zoom meetings. Mr Deiwert told Council members an event manager is needed to schedule events at the ball diamonds, amphitheater and maybe ‘recruit’ events to Decatur County. Mr Deiwert told Council Erika Gunn who is Tourism’s part-time person has a marketing degree and he would like to raise her hourly rate from the approved \$13.25 an hour to \$20 an hour, which his Board did approve. The part-time appropriation in Tourism’s Budget is \$35,000, so it could support the increase in an hourly rate. He did say the receipts for the Innkeepers Tax is around 65%, partly due to the COVID-19. After some discussion, Council agreed to table Mr Deiwert’s request until their February meeting when hopefully all 7 members are present.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning introduced her new Deputies: Cathy Volz who has worked in the Ripley County Government and Danielle Holcomb who has for the Indiana BMV in Jennings County. Mrs Wenning told Council the Treasurer’s cash book hasn’t been reconciled with the bank statements for at least the past 14 months. She did meet with Shawn Low and Maria of **LOW and Associates** (tax billing software vendor) and they will help in reconciling with the bank. Mrs Wenning’s goal is to rectify and balance daily.

Dr James Howell, President of the Board of Health, told Council additional nursing help is needed and there are adequate funds and grants to sustain hiring 2 part-time nurses as well as 2 temporary administration clerks. Current employees have daily responsibilities which they need to do. Dr Howell expects up to 500 doses per week to arrive by the end of February. Mrs Burkart believes Indiana is doing a good job rolling the COVID vaccine. Mr Meyer moved to allow the Health Department to hire part-time nurses and temporary clerks. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

Mr Gauck moved to approve the \$26,530 in additional monies, divided evenly between the Circuit and Superior Courts, to hire a part-time jury administrator who will also serve as bailiff and for postage. Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

Mr Gauck moved to approve \$3,809.64 in additional monies for the Cumulative Bridge fund. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries 4 – 0.

Mr Meyer moved to approve several requests to transfer monies and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. These transfers included unspent monies in closing out several grants; transferring into one fund to purchase police radios. Any remaining monies will go into the County General fund.

The **2021 Salary Ordinance** was emailed to the Council on January 12th for the Council to review before today’s meeting. Mr Meyer moved to approve the new Salary Ordinance and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Salary Ordinance passes, 4 – 0

The Council's next meeting will be at 9:00 am on February 16th, in Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____