

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, January 25, 2022, Room 106

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

The January 25th, 2022 meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters. Bill Metz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

County Treasurer Diane Wenning told Council she did not have to use \$100 of her 2022 budget for the COVID Stipend as requested at the December 28th special meeting. Mrs Hungate moved to approve the December 21st regular meeting minutes and the December 28th special meeting minutes. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 5 – 0. Both meeting minutes are approved.

County Sheriff Dave Durant thanked Melanie Nobbe for coming to the Detention Center and talking with the Detention Deputies. He extended his invitation to other Council members to come see the operations of the Detention Center. County Commissioners approved Sheriff Durant's request to spend \$40,000 of Cumulative Capital Development funds to 'place a vehicle on hold'. He will use some of his Commissary funds to help pay for equipment for the new vehicle. Mr Metz moved to allow the vehicle purchase and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0. The Cum Cap Development fund is the Commissioners' budget since county's properties/buildings and vehicles are their responsibility. Sheriff Durant will submit a request for additional monies from Commissary going into County General to pay Chaplain David Burnett's salary.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Philip Deiwert asked Council to approve increasing the part-time hourly rate from \$17 to \$20 for Erika Gunn; the increase will still be within budget. Mr Hooten moved to approve the increase to \$20 an hour and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0. The **Tourism Board** has contracted **John Pratt** to help plan for **Decatur County's Bicentennial Celebration in 2022**. Mr Deiwert is requesting \$25,000 in additional monies for special projects in the Tourism budget; \$40,000 has already been raised in sponsorships so far. Mr Pratt highlighted some of the events planned for **"Our Greatest Celebration"** and he has lots of community partners. Mr Metz moved to approve the \$25,000 additional and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

The **ARP Committee** is recommending the Council giving the **Town of St Paul \$37,000** for fire hydrants and **\$91,550 to the County Prosecutor** for a part-time investigator for two years. Mr Metz moved to approve the **American Recovery Plan Addendum #3** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the \$4,999.40 additional for boiler repairs at the Armory and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0. The Commissioners paid for part of the boiler repairs out of their Cum Cap Development budget.

Dr James Howell, President of the Board of Health, told Council the Health Department is in the process of reorganizing and the 'Environmental Specialist' position has been deleted. Sean Durbin's new title is Director/Administrator and his salary is now set at \$40,000 annually. The new **Health Officer Dr Mary McCullough** has opted not to take the County's health insurance and Dr Howell asked Council to increase Dr McCullough's annual salary from \$23,351 to \$44,500 to keep the compensation package the same. The Council shared concerns on not wanting to set a precedent for the next Health Officer opting to take the County's health insurance which should reduce the salary; besides the Council had made an exception for Dr Arthur Alunday, former Health Officer, to be on the County's health insurance because part-time positions are not offered the County's health insurance. Dr Howell is asking for the Council to approve the \$23,449 request for additional monies in the Health Department's budget. Mr Metz moved

to allow the additional appropriation of \$23,449 and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

The Soil and Water Office has submitted a request for the approval of a \$7,910.94 supplement to Scott Sander’s annual salary and \$13,500 supplement to Jenna Nicholson’s annual salary and \$4,110.90 additional for FICA to cover the additional salaries. The \$25,521.84 check from the Soil and Water Board comes out of Federal monies. Mrs Hungate moved to approve the additional for Soil and Water and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the **Amended 2021 Salary Ordinance** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

Mrs Nobbe moved to approve the **2022 Salary Ordinance** and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to allow the transfers and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 5 – 0. Transfers included the first quarter payments for IT and 911 from Public Safety and County General; Highway inter-funds 1173 to 1176 and \$200 for postage in the Coroner’s budget.

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

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____