

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, July 21, 2020, Room 106

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

President Peters called the July 21st, 2020 meeting of the Decatur County Council to order; Sean Durbin led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr Metz moved to approve the June 16th meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Public Health Preparedness Director Sean Durbin shared information on the *10 Essential Public Health Services* with number 1 being- “monitor health status to identify and solve community health problems”. He stated 4 Decatur County Board of Health employees serve more people than most surrounding counties and they have added duties due to COVID-19. He requested to add 2 new part-time positions which there are sufficient funds to pay for both; they would work up to 28 hours a week. Mr Durbin asked for \$40,000 in additional monies to pay for these new positions. **Board of Health President Dr James Howell** told Council the Board is involved and they do need the additional people to serve the County like they want to and asked for the Council’s support. Mr Hooten moved to ‘give a gentlemen’s agreement’ to approve \$20,000 for the remainder of 2020 for 2 part-time positions. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 -- 0. Mr Durbin will email a request to the Auditor’s office for the additional \$20,000; it has to be legally advertised 10 days before a Council meeting for them to officially act on it.

Kelly Bridges, Associate Director of the Children’s Advocacy Center, asked Council members for their annual contribution of \$10,000 in 2021. **CAC** did not hold any fund raisers this year due to COVID-19; so, she’s hoping funds will be adequate. The new Greensburg office will open once some recording equipment and one chair is delivered; also, 2 new staff members will be hired in October. Mr Peters told Ms Bridges Council will look at her request during their 2021 budget session on August 18th.

Dennis Fogle, Director for the Hospital Foundation, presented his request for financial assistance of \$5,000 for each of the 2 of the Hospital’s programs- Pink Ribbon and Men’s Tailgate. He told Council any amount of funding would be wonderful; otherwise he will be looking for alternative fund raising such as an online auction.

County Sheriff David Durant told Council his department has been awarded a **COPS Grant** for \$250,000 which would help fund hiring 2 new road deputies for 2 years. Those 2 new deputies would have to be retained a 3rd year in which full county funds would be required. The grant would require the County to budget \$86,000 per year, as the County’s match. Sheriff Durant stated he plans to use Commissary Funds to purchase 2 vehicles for road deputies. First Deputy Bob Ray is retiring and Sheriff Durant will not replace that position, but instead move a Road Deputy to fulfil those duties. Decatur County will have 18 road patrol deputies and 1 investigative deputy should Council and Commissioners agree to accept this grant. Monies from this grant would ‘come to us all up front’. Mr Meyer moved to accept this grant and Mrs Burkert seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Purdue Extension Educators Jeff Hermesch and Sara Dunlap presented their proposed **4-H 2021 Budget** of \$38,155, citing their goal is to make 4-H more self-sufficient by requesting more funding. Ms Dunlap explained Decatur County’s judging stipends are the lowest in the State and annual 4-H trips are expensive. Mr Metz suggested the someone from each of the 4-H Council, the Fair Board and the County Council sit down and see who’s paying for what. Mr Peters, Mr Metz and Mr Gauck agreed to represent the Council at that meeting. Currently the County Council budgets \$10,000 per year out of County-Share Riverboat Gaming for the 4-H Council.

Mr Gauck moved to approve all requests for transferring monies within budgets and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0, funds may be transferred.

Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley will email an updated 2020 Salary Ordinance to Council members to review, for adoption, before their August meeting.

County Commissioner Rick Nobbe told Council hopefully they'll get some bids for the PODS. He said the City is looking at occupying some space at the old jail and **Indiana State Police** will continue using an office in the Court Services building; the **Board of Health** is willing to move to the Court Services Building; the parking lot will be expanded at the Court Services building due to more meetings being held at the EOC room.

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

The Council's next regular meeting is August 18th, 2020 at 9:00 am; Council will review the county departments' 2021 budget requests immediately following that meeting.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____