

*Draft*

## **Decatur County Council Meeting**

Tuesday, June 19, 2018, Room 106

**Present:** Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Judge John Westhafer, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, and Kenny Hooten.

**President Gauck** called the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting to order. David Israel led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

The May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were reviewed by the Council; then Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**Sue Lamborn of Thrive Alliance in Columbus, IN**, shared a letter requesting continued financial support from the Council for the 2019 budget year. She shared information on some of the activities supported by **Thrive Alliance**. Mr Gauck told her the Council will consider her financial request when they review the County's departments request at their August 21<sup>st</sup> meeting.

**Sheriff Greg Allen** requested permission from the Council to purchase two weapons out of the **Police Firearms Training Fund** for \$4,718.97. The new school resource officer will need a weapon and also a reserve officer. Mr Meyer moved to approve Sheriff Allen's request to purchase the two weapons and Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Matt Morrow and David Israel spoke on behalf of the **Decatur County Volunteer Fire Departments Association** to request the Council's consideration to appropriate \$10,750 for each of the county's eight VFD's out of the new **Public Safety Fund**. Those monies would be used to help pay for liability insurance on vehicles, buildings and workman's comp. Council agreed to consider their request at the August budget meeting.

**Health Department Office Manager Carol Beck** presented an amended Form 144 requesting a different hourly rate to hire a part-time person. Currently the part-time hourly rate is \$11.80; Mrs Beck is asking for that rate to be \$15.00 per hour. The **Indiana Local Health Department Trust Grant**, \$18257.38, approved by the **State** for 2018 includes a 'part-time salary appropriation' as well as an amount to cover social security for that part-time employee. Council members stated several times to Mrs Beck, should the grant 'go away' the part-time employee would not be added to the Health Department's budget. Mr Metz made a motion to approve the amended 144 as long as the grant pays the \$15 per hour salary. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7—0.

Mr Owens moved to approve all six requests to transfer monies within the respective budgets and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board members Karen Cyman and Joanne Burkhart, along with Director Gary Herbert and former Board member Bill Smith** discussed various possible projects which may attract more visitors to Decatur County. Mr Herbert stated \$50,000 per year is committed, up to \$250,000, to the **Stellar Program**. Anyone wishing to submit a request for grant monies may 'go online and apply' or they may stop by the Tourism office at 211 N Broadway Street to fill out an application to sponsor an event. Mr Smith cited the restrictions set by statute on what the 'innkeeper's tax' monies may be spent on. They may not use these monies for any capital expenditures. He did cite a county may request special legislation through the **Indiana General Assembly** to 'expand the uses' as stated by the statute; such as economic development or historic preservation. Mrs Cyman wants to know what people do when they do visit Greensburg/Decatur County. There are four entities, **Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development Corporation, Main Street Greensburg and Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board**, searching for several options to 'draw' people to our city and county.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 9:00 am; but may be rescheduled according to the bond sales requiring any Council action to complete the financial paperwork.

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