

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, March 15, 2022, Room 106

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

The March 15th, 2022 meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters. Kenny Hooten led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mr Metz moved to approve the February 15th meeting minutes and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning told Council she will be asking for an additional at their next meeting for 2021 monies not encumbered for her COVID Stipend.

Mrs Hungate moved to approve the 2 transfer requests from Highway and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Peters opened the discussion on whether or not to re-establish the **Cumulative Capital Development** tax rate for 2023, which has a deadline of May 31st for any changes. **Reuben Cumming's, Financial Consultant**, felt he needed to make Council aware of revenues to protect the County General Fund which pays for the bulk of health insurance. The **CCD** Fund may be used for any lawful purpose and the best time to re-establish the **CCD** rate is when the AVs are high. Council members are not in favor of increasing the **CCD** rate due to the economy- inflation. Mr Peters suggested looking at this in January 2023 and Council members agreed.

Recent legislation, **Senate Bill 119, Taxation on Farm Property**, was the next topic for discussion. This bill makes new farm equipment and new agricultural improvements eligible for local tax abatements using the same procedures for tax abatement under current law for new manufacturing equipment, new research and development equipment, new logistical distribution equipment and new information technology equipment, or redevelopment and rehabilitation in the case of new agricultural improvements. Limits an abatement schedule for new farm and new agricultural improvements to not more than 5 years. Mr Peters suggested setting up a committee to create an application and requirements the Council should set for applicants. Mr Gauck suggested inviting our legislators to come to the April meeting to explain the intentions of SB119 which gives the abatements a local decision. Mr Cummings recommended having the Council's attorney to read the bill to see just what the Council can do or not do.

Mrs Wenning told Council the tax rates are up and taxpayers may be a bit more resentful at paying more taxes this year. She also shared information for help for paying property taxes, rent, utilities- gethope.org.

The Council's next meeting will be at 9:00 am on April 19th, in Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____