

March 18, 2014  
Decatur County Council Meeting  
9:00 a.m.

Prosecutor Jim Rosenberry opened the meeting by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Kenny Owens, Bill Metz, Geneva Hunt, Larry Meyer

Minutes were approved with a motion from Bill Metz and a second by Kenny Owens. Carried.

Mr. Jeff Hermesch from Purdue Extension was present to discuss an open Ag position within the office and the possibility of a Health and Human Sciences Educator position being funded as well. Mr. Hermesch proposed full time funding. The position had been split between Jennings and Decatur Counties but now Jennings went with a full-time position. Now, Decatur County has a ½ time position. Mr. Hermesch discussed the responsibilities of a H&HS Educator and the four main areas of focus. He spoke in depth about the various programs that had been presented to the community and the large number of persons impacted by those programs. Mr. Meyer asked what additional programs would be added if a full time educator is hired. Mr. Hermesch stated that many of the programs weren't done to their fullest extent because of lack of time and resources. He also reported that he had checked with surrounding counties to see if any of those counties would be interested in sharing a position but they either have full-timers already or are not interested. Mr. Gauck asked the two County Extension Board members present what their thoughts were on the matter. Both Dave Smith and Bill Fenley agreed that a full time position would help make a better program. Mr. Fenley stated that since the job requires a Master's degree, it would be hard to fill a half time position with a person that qualified. Splitting positions is less efficient. Mr. Peters asked what the county paid last year for our ½ of a position. Mr. Gauck asked what the starting salary would be. Mr. Hermesch said in the mid \$40,000 range. Purdue does cover the insurance. Purdue will cover salaries, insurance and retirement for three full-time educators with Masters' degrees. Mr. Gauck commented that spending this money on our community is better than spending it on a jailer. These programs help make better citizens and will probably save the county in the long run. There were questions on where it would be funded from. Purdue will be in charge of the application process, screening them and then the final candidates would come to the district director and the extension board. After much discussion, Mr. Gauck suggested the council do a "lady and gentlemen's agreement" to fund the full time position. Auditor Tami Wenning will find out the details of what needs to be done to request the additional funding and the matter will be put on the April 15<sup>th</sup> agenda.

Prosecutor Jim Rosenberry stated that his office was not requesting anything today. He had prepared paperwork requesting transfers from fee-based funds to supplement the salaries of his office. Rather than pay the salaries completely from taxpayer dollars, the Prosecutor's office does like other offices that generate money from user fees and fines to bring their salaries up to par with similar offices in other counties.

The following amounts were requested from the following funds for Calendar Year 2014:

From: Marijuana Eradication Fund (Acct: 1173.90901.000.0000)  
Chief of Staff Salary : \$2500.00  
Deputy Prosecutor-Criminal: \$2500.00  
Chief Deputy Pros. – Criminal: \$2,400.00

From: Infraction Deferral Fund (Acct#2400.06500.000.0000)  
Deputy Prosecutor – Criminal: \$11,270.00  
Chief of Staff - \$13,205.00  
Deputy Administrator - \$2,365.00

Mr. Meyer moved to approve the requests and Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Rosenberry also requested to purchase equipment for local law enforcement to use to extract cell phone data in a manner that is permissible to use as evidence in court. The claim would be paid from the deferral program fund money. When the GPD gets some forfeiture money back, the money will be repaid to the deferral fund. Mr. Metz made the motion to allow the payment, Mr. Owens seconded and the motion carried. Permission was granted.

There was discussion about the SIRPC council appointment. The letter clearly states that the appointment must be a council member. However, the council would really like Mr. Hugh Miller to remain as their appointment because he's interested, he understands what is involved and is willing to stay involved. Auditor Wenning is to see if she can find out more information on making a special exception since Mr. Miller has been on the council in the past.

Mr. Mark Cripe, Community Corrections requested permission to use \$2,865.25 from the Community Service fund to purchase a radio for their new field officer to use to stay in touch with the Sheriff's department during the discharge of his duties. Mr. Owens moved to allow the purchase. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Auditor Wenning discussed the balance in the non-reverting insurance fund briefly. Her intent was to keep the council aware of the balance on the account that covers the payments for the county employee's insurance plan. As of 3/11/2014, the balance was \$506,212.66.

Mr. Owens moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m. the next meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on April 15<sup>th</sup>.

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Ernie Gauck, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_