

Decatur County Council

March 19th, 2013 7:00 P.M.

The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Savannah and Kayla Ziegenfus, nieces of Councilman Danny Peters. Mr. Hooten is responsible for bringing a guest to lead the Pledge at the next monthly meeting.

Mr. Hooten moved that the prior meeting minutes be approved as submitted. Mr. Peters seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Pepper Cooper of Neace Lukens Insurance was present with **Dana Cooper** and **Marsha Miller Smith** on hand to help him present what the upcoming implementation of the Healthcare Reform Act would mean to the county insurance plan. He explained the ownership of his company and praised the council and commissioners for staying proactive in keeping good coverage for employees. He stated that he felt his company should help employers and employees understand healthcare reform. Decatur County is currently a self-funded plan that purchases reinsurance. He introduced Dana Cooper to explain what the federal government will require of the county due to its current plan. Ms. Cooper provided a very detailed report that laid out what constitutes full-time versus part-time and what the fees, fines and various requirements will be. Part of her presentation pointed out that every insured will cost the county \$5.25 per person per month as part of the government's efforts to provide affordable healthcare to everyone. After several interruptions, Ms. Cooper finished by pointing out the summary sheet included in the packets she had handed out. Ms. Smith then spoke to the group and explained how the county pays all costs up to the first \$60,000 then reinsurance kicks in and pays. She explained what "lasering" employees means and told the Council about the top ten users of the insurance and how that impacts reinsurance rates and the "lasered" amounts. Ms. Smith also offered a free service that would provide each employee with a detailed one-page report that shows the value of the insurance benefits along with the employees' individual pay.

Faith Koors, Election Deputy and **Sue Feaster, Election Clerical** were present to discuss voting centers and to request that the council sign a resolution declaring Decatur County a "vote center" county. Ms. Koors explained the cost savings to the county and the reasoning behind the chosen locations. She also discussed the proposed public hearing sites and her intentions of offering demonstrations at the public hearings. The additional hardware required would be able to be paid for from HAVA (Help America Vote Act) money. Mr. Gauck mentioned that he felt it was very important to keep voting accessible even if it cost a little more. Mr. Owens asked about absentee voting and Ms. Koors explained that the absentee procedure wouldn't be changing. There was some contention as to whether it was wise to sign the resolution prior to the public hearings. Mr. Gauck passed the resolution among the council members asking each to sign under "yea" or "nay" on the resolution. There were two "yeas", Mr. Meyer and Mr. Metz with all other council members voting "nay". Ms. Koors will check with Indiana Election Division attorneys to see what action she would need to take next.

Mary Vail, County Treasurer distributed copies to the council of a letter from the bank stating that the lock box service will no longer be provided free of charge. The letter implied that there would be no fee if the county would agree to not collect interest from April through December. She said that the service is valuable to her office. Some tax payments are mailed to a P.O. Box and are collected, opened and entered by the bank. Last year, the bank opened and processed 5,382 payments. After some discussion, it was decided that an additional appropriation wouldn't be necessary and that the amount the bank needs could come out of excess printing and

postage money that is already in the budget.

Tami Wenning requested permission to purchase a software program from Frank Cummings that will greatly reduce the amount of time spent on excise monies received from the state. The program will cut by 2/3's the amount of time needed to get the data imported into the current tax software and free up that deputy to learn other office functions. After some discussion, Kenny Owens moved to allow the Auditor to purchase the excise software package using funds from the "Plat Book Maintenance" fund. Geneva Hunt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Mr. Meyer revisited the vote center topic and asked what needed to be said or done to convince the council that vote centers are a good thing. Mr. Gauck mentioned that he'd like the plan better if the locations were spread out farther into the county. Mr. Peters said he'd like to see what voters think before having to sign the resolution making the county a vote center county. Mrs. Koors commented that the plan can always be changed to suit what voters want. She explained the reasoning behind the locations being on the four corners of Greensburg and the need for internet accessibility. Mr. Hooten wanted to know if the public hearing would have to be cancelled if the council doesn't approve the resolution. Ms. Koors was not sure and would have to check with the Indiana Election Division. Mr. Meyer pointed out that there is still ample time for public input. Mrs. Koors stated that she feels the decision really is up to the taxpayers and Mr. Owens commented that he feels the council represents the taxpayers and he would like to know what taxpayers want before agreeing to sign the resolution. Mr. Gauck commented that he doesn't feel the council wants to hold up progress but he doesn't want to force everyone to drive to Greensburg to vote. Mr. Hooten asked again why the public hearings can't be held before the council signs the resolution. Mrs. Koors explained that she is following the guidelines set by the Indiana Secretary of State and the Indiana Election Division. The council members agreed to try and gather some input from the public prior to their next meeting.

Tami Wenning presented a letter from the Greensburg Learning Center requesting their funding for the year. The amount of \$10,000 is a line item in the budget. The Council agreed to release the payment.

The Greensburg Police Department sent a letter requesting donations to help offset the costs associated with having a canine unit for the City Police. There was some discussion and questions concerning the county's canine unit. The decision on whether to donate at this time was tabled.

Tami Wenning presented a contract with Maximus that had been approved at a prior meeting but the contract wording had been changed to reflect the council's wishes. The contract was signed that allows the Auditor's office to utilize the service on an as-needed basis up to \$5,000.

Chairman Ernie Gauck stated that an Executive Session will be held on Tuesday, March 26th at 9:00 a.m. to discuss potential litigation. Ms. Wenning will notify the media and post the notice more than 48 hours prior to the meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Owens moved to adjourn and Mr. Hooten seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th 9:00 a.m.

Next Regular Session scheduled for Tuesday, April 16th, 7:00 p.m.

Ernie Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____