

**Commissioners Meeting
March 20, 2023**

Present: Mark Koors, Jeremy Pasel

President Koors opened the March 20th Commissioner meeting by welcoming everyone; he then announced Title VI forms are available for anyone who would like to fill out and turn in at the Auditor's office.

Tim Ortman led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag; a prayer was offered by Pastor Steve Frensemeier.

(Meeting minutes, payroll and claims are emailed to each Commissioners, each Thursday before their Monday meeting)

Mr Pasel moved to approve the March 6th meeting minutes and Mr Koors seconded.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the presented claims to be paid and Mr Koors seconded.

Mr Pasel moved to approve the March 17th payroll and Mr Koors seconded.

Assistant Highway Superintendent Tim Ortman told Commissioners crews are still in maintenance mode- 4 patch crews, 3 brush crews and a ditch crew. After receiving some phone calls, Mr Pasel asked Mr Ortman which highway employees are allowed to apply for CDL licenses. Mr Ortman said he has already spoken to HR on this topic. Mr Pasel will check back later with Mr Ortman.

Building Inspector Kenny Buening has completed 25 building inspections in the past 2 weeks as well as issuing 10 new building permits and plan reviews and 1 permit renewal. A property owner in St Omer is working on cleaning up his property after receiving a nuisance letter from Mr Buening. He received a new complaint about a building too close to the road- it is a building on runners so no permit is required. He did a plan review for the truck stop remodel and approved it.

Mr Pasel moved to reappoint Megan Lanning Bodden to the **Board of Health** and Mr Koors seconded the motion.

Human Resources Director Patty Hensley reported most departments are following the newly adopted rules for recruiting. She asked about postings for evacuations in the event of a fire or severe weather for all of the county's buildings. Mrs Hensley will contact EMA Director Brad Speer for guidance/recommendations.

Commissioners signed a letter of support for **Community Corrections, Decatur County Problem Solving Court and the 1006 Funding for Decatur County Adult Probation for 2024 Budget and Grant.**

Mr Pasel moved to adopt **Resolution 2023-2** and Mr Koors seconded the motion. Resolution 2023-2 states Decatur County seeks to promote private investment in broadband infrastructure and to be designated as a Broadband Ready Community.

Local resident Harold Callahan told Commissioners his neighbor Nicholas Kohlman has a pond which is leaking into Mr Callahan's field causing that area to always be wet. He shared pictures of the field with the Commissioners as well as speaking to Mr Kohlman who was told by Ed Johannigman, who built the pond, it is not leaking. Mr Koors said this is not a Commissioner thing which Mr Pasel agreed stating it is a civil case.

Mr Pasel opened a discussion on whether there should be a **County Facebook** page since several departments already have a Facebook page. He proposed FB page posts/updates should be posted by either the Technology (IT) Department or one Commissioner. There's easy access to Facebook and no costs.

Mr Pasel moved to approve **GM Development Companies LLC's Pay App #6** and Mr Koors seconded the motion. Pay app #6 is for \$265,978.55 and will be forwarded to the **Decatur County Redevelopment Commission** to pay per their agreement for the new Highway Garage campus.

Mrs Hensley presented Betsy Von Graam's Request for Use of Facilities on March 27th as an advocate for a shelter for the homeless. Ms Von Graam wants to set up a tent on the southside of the Courthouse lawn but has not submitted the required proof of insurance. Mr Pasel suggested tabling this request.

County Councilwoman Deanna Burkart is working with **Economic Development Director Bryan Robbins** for Decatur County to adopt a food and beverage tax of 1% as part of a funding package for the proposed aquatic center. This tax would be on prepared food and beverage; annual revenues estimates are \$300,000 to \$400,000. She is asking for a support letter from the Commissioners to submit to State Legislators to allow a food and beverage tax for Decatur County. The Commissioners and Council will have to do an ordinance once the Legislators approves this for Decatur County. The food and beverage tax may be used for the Fairgrounds and quality of life projects. Mr Koors was notified yesterday via email and he would like some time to study it. Mr Pasel is ok with signing the support letter which gives all an opportunity to discuss it. Mr Pasel moved to approve signing the support letter for the food and beverage tax and Mr Koors seconded. Commissioners will sign an updated version at tomorrow's Council meeting.

Chief Deputy Eric Blodgett told Commissioners the Sheriff's Department is planning to replace a total of 8 vehicles this year. Three vehicles- 2013 Charger, 2000 Sienna van and a 2015 Explorer- which have been out of commission, sitting for 3 years and a 2015 Durango will be traded for a vehicle to be paid out of the Jail Commissary. Mr Pasel moved to approve these transactions and Mr Koors seconded. The Sheriff's K-9- Pike- is being retired this month; plans to purchase another K-9 are set for 2024 due to no dollars budgeted in 2023.

Mr Pasel move to approve a \$25,660 invoice from **Strand and Associates** for the final design of the Highway garage. Mr Koors seconded the motion. This invoice will be forwarded to the County Redevelopment Commission for payment.

The Commissioners next meeting will be at 8:00 am on April 3rd, 2023.

With nothing else to come before the Commissioners, Mr Pasel made the motion to recess, Mr Koors seconded the motion. Meeting recessed.

Attest: _____

Date: _____