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## **Decatur County Council Meeting**

Tuesday, May 15, 2018, Room 106

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

**President Gauck** called the May 15<sup>th</sup> meeting to order. Todd Mauer led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After reviewing the April 7<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**Children’s Advocacy Center of Southeastern Indiana Executive Director Stephanie Back** presented her **2017 Annual Report**. Ms Back announced plans to open an office in Decatur County by obtaining a grant through **Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**. Ms Back is working with Mary McCarty of **SIRPC**. With Dillsboro being the closest **CAC** office, travel time is critical/long for young individuals who need to be interviewed by staff of the **CAC**. She respectively requested \$10,000 in financial support for 2019. Mr Gauck asked Ms Back to submit her request for financial support in writing to the Commissioners to include in their 2019 budget request.

**Circuit Court Judge Tim Day and Superior Court Judge Matthew Bailey** presented information citing the number of criminal cases increasing from 857 in 2009 to 1441 in 2017 and 1700 cases are projected to be filed in 2018. Currently the **Indiana Public Defender Commission** reimburses Decatur County 40% of fees paid to our contracted pauper attorneys- if we follow their rules. A letter of non-compliance was received by the Council due to underpaying (\$23,500) what the **Public Defender Commission** deems minimal- \$30,175. There are ten attorneys contracted to serve as public defenders- only six are local attorneys. Judge Bailey believes hiring two additional attorneys is the cheapest way to ‘come in to compliance’. He calculated \$23,496 would be needed to hire two attorneys to finish 2018 in compliance. Judge Day has seen the juvenile cases increase in his Court- again an attorney must be provided if the defendant cannot afford one. Both Judges will submit a written request for additional monies for two more ‘public defenders’, the Auditor’s office will place the legal ad in the newspaper, and then the Council may act upon the Judges’ request at their June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**EDC Executive Director Bryan Robbins** introduced Keith Moenter and Scott Wessler of **Masco Corporation/Delta Faucet**. A **SB-1/PP** (Statement of Benefits for personal property) was submitted for the Council’s consideration-approval. After some discussion, Mr Meyer moved to approve a five-year abatement and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried 7 – 0. Mr Robbins and **NCT’s** manager Hunter Austin asked Council members if a public hearing should be advertised for the Council’s June meeting to approve **NCT’s** request for a ‘waiver of non-compliance’ for failure to file an **SB-1/PP** timely when that company opened their business in the old **Mesco building** in 2017. **Council’s attorney Lora Williams** researched this topic and advised Council to conduct a public hearing; they may grant a one-year waiver and they should add a stipulation the ‘waiver’ is for new businesses’ first time filings. After some discussion, Mr Owens moved to honor the **NCT SB-1/PP abatement**, for four years, forfeiting the first year at 100%. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. The abatement for 2018 pay 2019 would be 80%.

**Dr Jarrod Burns, Superintendent of Decatur County School Corporation and Lieutenant Rob Duckworth, School Resource Director**, presented their request for funding to hire a third SRO since the Council tabled that request at the Council’s April meeting. Mr Duckworth had submitted two written requests for funding: \$50,000 out of the newly created **Public Safety LIT** and \$30,000 out of the **School Resource Officer fund**. The request was legally advertised so the Council could approve or deny the request for funding a third SRO. Since SRO’s are Deputy Sheriffs, the salary is \$43,000 plus benefits. Both SRO’s are assigned duties in the Sheriff’s Department during the months schools are not in session. Mr Duckworth stated the School Corporation funds all vehicles for the SRO’s. After a lengthy discussion, Mr Peters moved to approve \$25,000, including FICA, for the rest of 2018. Mr Hooten seconded the motion.

Motion carries, 7 – 0. Mr Metz moved to approve \$30,000 for a vehicle out of the SRO fund. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

**Prosecutor Nathan Harter** 'continued his request' from the Council's April meeting for additional monies and staff. He thanked Judge Westhafer and Mr Hooten for coming to his office to discuss a plan to address the increasing workload in the Prosecutor's office. Currently three attorneys serve full-time in the Prosecutor's office while another attorney splits her days between the Prosecutor's Criminal and the Prosecutor's IV-D Child Support office. An additional staffer is needed since e-filing responsibilities were transferred from the Clerk of the Court's office to the Prosecutor's office. Council had approved \$40,000 for another Deputy Prosecutor, but that salary was not enough to attract qualified candidates. Mr Harter requested permission to hire another Deputy Prosecutor at an annual salary of \$60,000; which he would only need \$30,000 for the rest of 2018. He would put the full \$60,000 in his 2019 budget request. The salary for a third staff person would be the same as a Deputy Auditor or Deputy Clerk, \$30,130; but again only half of that amount would be needed for the remainder of 2018. Mr Meyer moved to approve \$15,500 for additional appropriation and to hire another staff person in the Prosecutor's office. Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Mr Westhafer moved to approve the \$30,000 Deputy Prosecutor position for the remainder of 2018, to be a \$60,000 position in 2019. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to grant the Highway's requests for additional monies, \$400,000 for two new dump trucks and \$200,000 in Cumulative Bridge for Bridge 168. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Peters moved to approve the two requests for transfers and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to appoint Kelby Owens to the Greensburg-Decatur County Contractual Library Board for a four-year term. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

The Council's next meeting will be June 19<sup>th</sup>, 2018, at 9:00 am.

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

