

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2017, Room 106

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

President Gauck called the meeting to order. Teresa Reiger led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

After Council members reviewed the April 18th meeting minutes, Mr. Owens moved to approve the minutes as read and Mr. Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey asked for an additional \$1000.00 for jury trials. Superior Court usually does 3 to 4 trials a year and are already summoning for their 6th. They are expecting 10 to 12 cases this year. Decatur County Auditor's office will advertise the additional and Council will approve at their next meeting.

EMA Director Rob Duckworth was there to offer guidance on adding a new communication site in case the main site is damaged. The original plan was to put on existing tower in Lett's. The tower will not accommodate the equipment. The new tower will be leased from Lett's Fire Dept. for the amount of \$1,000 per year. Partial funding will come from TIF funds. There are a couple of options for the remainder. Motorola will finance for \$17,000 over loan amount. Or, ask for an additional from the State 911 Fund. With the additional, there will not be any interest to repay. Kenny Hooten asked how the loan will be repaid. Mr. Duckworth stated that 911 fees will increase on phone bills. Ernie Gauck asked if the new tower space could be leased out. Mr. Duckworth doesn't expect any other usage since the tower height will be lower than average. The maintenance for the tower will be done roughly every 5 years. The tower will have a backup generator.

Rob Duckworth put in his notice as EMA Director. His last day will be February, 2, 2018.

The **911 Board** has asked that the Director and Supervisor position receive a pay increase to put them ahead of the regular dispatchers. Both positions will receive a \$4,000 pay increase. An amended 144 will be issued to the Auditor's office. The motion was made to accept pay increase by Bill Metz, Larry Meyer seconded and Ernie Gauck concurred. Mayor Dan Manus was present and asked to be involved in any future salary decisions.

Sheriff Greg Allen asked the Council for permission to purchase new duty weapons and holsters for the sheriff deputies. Bill Metz asked what they do with the old guns. Sheriff Allen stated they trade them in and the officers have the option to buy back their weapon. Kenny Owens made the motion to approve the purchase from the Firearms/Gun Permits line item. Danny Peters seconded and Ernie Gauck concurred.

Larry Meyer stated he has had several questions concerning the LIT Credit rate change. After several conversations, it was determined that the LIT rate is set through a calculation from the State and all townships have the same rate of 7.7225% for the year 2017. Washington Township saw the largest rate decrease from 33.5902%. Therefore, they are seeing the largest increase in their tax bill.

Larry Meyer made a motion to not have a July meeting. The next Council meeting will be June 27, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. Kenneth Owens seconded and Ernie Gauck concurred.

Council set the Budget meeting immediately following the August 15th meeting.

Danny Peters made a motion to adjourn, Kenny Hooten seconded and Ernie Gauck concurred.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____