

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, May 18, 2021, Room 106

Present: Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

The Decatur County Council meeting for May 18, 2021 was called to order by President Peters. **County Sheriff Dave Durant** led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the April 21st meeting minutes and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Minutes are approved.

Russell Wilson and Tim Hausman, leaders for Youth to Yellowstone, asked Council members for \$6,000 financial support they had provided in 2020, for 2022; due to COVID-19 restrictions no trips were taken. The average cost is \$1,800 to \$2,000 per student and 11-12 students are selected to go on the Yellowstone trip. Mr Peters said Council will try to help as much as they can.

Linda Westrup and Rosie Stier asked the Council for a \$6,000 increase in financial support in 2022 for the **Community Healthcare Clinic**; making their total request \$20,500. The current building used by the Healthcare Clinic will be demolished by **Decatur County Memorial Hospital** as part of a future expansion. The Clinic will be relocating to the former **Collection Associates** office, next to **Rural King**, and that means an increase in rent (from \$800 mo to \$1,000 mo) plus remodeling costs. They have spoken to the **Community Foundation**, but can't apply until they have a better idea of what the remodeling costs are. The Clinic is also hoping to hire an IT person to help them to have a "social media presence". Mrs Burkart cautioned an IT person may cost more than expected.

Communications Director Erika Free and Public Safety Network Director Josh Tressler updated Council on Mr Tressler's workload: he's continually working on the core network (his main job), getting equipment rotation set, setting up new Public Safety computers. Mr Tressler is shared between the Greensburg Police and Fire Departments and the County's Public Safety (Sheriff, Communications, EMA). He would like to bring a part-time intern to help lighten his load over the summer months. Sheriff **Administrative Assistant Ashley Wilson** said they would not ask for any additional monies since the Sheriff's budget could support the \$20 an hour part-time intern. Mr Tressler told Council he is looking at hiring Hunter Burkart, who has IT experience, for this part-time position. Director Free also has available funds to help pay for this intern position, if needed. An Amended 144 will need to be submitted to the Auditor's office to pay a part-time rate of \$20 an hour. **Sheriff Dave Durant** told Council due to the new detention facility, Mr Tressler is working hard to catch up, he's having to prioritize which task gets done first. He has consolidated systems with the City and County. Sheriff Durant believes Council and Commissioners eventually will need to expand- hire another IT person(s) because almost everything is 'computer'. Mr Metz move to allow the hiring of a part-time person at the rate of \$20 an hour. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Mrs Burkart abstained since Hunter is her son. Motion carries, 5 – 0.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning and Deputy Treasurer Danielle Holcomb reported their office has a funds difference of \$195,379.09 from the Treasurer's report in the **State Board of Accounts Audits** for 2018 and 2019. Property tax vendor **LOW and Associates** has been reviewing 2020 data which shows voids and adjustments protocol were not followed. The \$195,379.09 is in the bank and LOW recommends getting that amount into a fund, leaving it unappropriated. The Commissioners approved following LOW's recommendations at their May 17th meeting. Mr Gauck moved to receipt the \$195,379.09 into the County General Fund cash and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey told Council requested additional monies in his budget to purchase a new sound system since everything in the Courtroom has to be recorded. The current sound system quit in April and updates were not available for it. Mrs Burkart moved to approve the \$8,308 additional monies for the new sound system and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Judge Bailey updated the Council on legislation approving a Magistrate Court for Decatur County. Commissioners approved the \$31,880 quote from Bruns and Gutzwiller to build a platform for the Judge’s Bench, paint, carpet- converting the Law Library into the **Magistrate Courtroom**. Tables for the Prosecutor and Defense Attorney and the Court Reporter will need to be purchased.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the \$150,000 additional monies for the Courthouse in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0. This additional \$150,000 should cover the costs of the Magistrate Courtroom, new roof around the chillers and elevator shaft and HVAC maintenance.

Mrs Nobbe moved to table the CaresAct additional monies to DCMH until June. Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0. Mrs Nobbe asked for a breakdown on what costs DCMH is asking for reimbursement. Mr Gauck requested for an itemized list submitted by the County Athletic Departments for their reimbursement request.

Mr Hooten moved to approve Delta/Masco’s CF-1 for their personal property abatement. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Mrs Nobbe, Mrs Burkart and Mr Hooten volunteered to sit on the **American Recovery Plan Committee** to create a ‘plan’ to spend the ARP Federal monies. County Commissioner Chuck Emsweller and the Auditor’s office will also help on this committee. Decatur County will receive a total of \$5.15 million from the Feds: one-half of the \$5.15 million will be received in May-June of 2021 and the remaining one-half should be received within twelve months of the first disbursement.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins is waiting on paperwork from OCRA for the \$250,000 Small Business Grant. May 24th is the launch date for accepting applications for these grants.

The Council’s next meeting will be at 9:00 am on June 15th, in Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____
Date: _____