

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 16th, 2021, Room 106

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

The November 16th meeting of the Decatur County Council was called to order by President Peters; Mr Gauck led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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

Mr Metz moved to approve the October 19th meeting minutes and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0. Minutes are approved.

County Coroner Doug Banks is requesting additional monies for autopsies for the remainder of 2021. He told Council each autopsy costs \$1,600 at Cincinnati which does include a toxicology report. Council will act on Mr Banks' request at their December meeting so this additional may be legally advertised. Mrs Burkart asked if Mr Banks credits the high number of autopsies to COVID and he said no. Mr Banks also asked for a letter of commitment from the Council for the purchase of a 2022 vehicle for transporting bodies. Mr Banks will bring the letter to Mr Peters to sign.

County Sheriff Dave Durant is paying the 2021 salary for a maintenance person out of the Commissary Fund by semi-annually transfers \$24,000 to the County General fund; then submits a request for that \$24,000 in County General be added to the appropriation for that position. Mrs Burkart moved to approve the Sheriff's request and Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. Sheriff Durant plans to pay his Deputies a one-time COVID stipend out the Commissary Fund, which the Council agreed to earlier this year. He has however changed the \$500 each to \$1,000 each. He will submit a request for an additional for the Council's December meeting.

County Clerk Adina Roberts has held the required Public Meeting for the proposed Vote Centers Plan and only had 2 comments submitted, both of which were positive. She told Council member the Commissioners tabled their decision on November 15th because they would like to be involved in the process should the Election Board choose to alter the number and/or the location of the Vote Centers. Currently State Statute only gives the Election Board the authority to make those changes, if and when necessary. Mrs Roberts said there will be 2 satellite vote centers open on the 2 Saturdays prior to Election Day; the Traveling Board will still go to the nursing homes for those residents to vote. Mr Metz moved to adopt **Resolution 2021-20**, approving the designation of Decatur County as a Vote Center County. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe told Council she has decided not to replace a Deputy Assessor position after one of her Deputies resigned to take a position in the **Child Support Office**. She wants to divide that deputy's 2022 salary between herself and the 3 remaining Deputy Assessors, giving each a \$5,000 pay increase; she would use the remaining \$15,000 to add to her part-time appropriation. Ms Greiwe said her Deputies and she are willing to do the extra work. She cited the Auditor's office had done this in 2019, so it wouldn't be fair for the Council not to approve her request. Mrs Burkart reminded all the Council plans to appoint a committee to do a study of the salaries paid to Courthouse employees to see what responsibilities are assigned to each office according to State Statute and also any additional workload added over the time. Ms Greiwe said she rescinds her request and will just hire to keep 4 deputies. Mr Peters said he would be ok with allowing \$4,000 per person like the Auditor did and Ms Greiwe was ok with that. Mr Gauck asked what does this do down the road. Mrs Nobbe reminded everyone the salary study could change things/salaries. Mr Peters asked Ms Greiwe to submit an **Amended 144 for 2022** at their December meeting. Mr Metz moved to allow the \$4,000 per person for the Assessor and her 3 Deputies. Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

Mr Gauck moved to approve the Highway's request for an \$80,000 for Bridge 239 in Cumulative Bridge. Mrs Nobbe seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

Mrs Burkart moved to approve the various departments' requests to transfer monies within their budgets. Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 4 – 0.

Council members will make various Board Appointments for those terms expiring at the end of 2021, at their December meeting.

Mrs Nobbe has agreed to replace Larry Meyer on the 911 Board.

The Council's next meeting will be at 9:00 am on December 21st, in Room 106.

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

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____