

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, November 17, 2015, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyers, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck called the meeting to order.

Mayor-elect Dan Manus led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After reviewing the October 20th meeting minutes- Mr Metz moved to approve the minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried. The minutes were approved.

New Directions Executive Director RoJeanna Pank told Council members the Federal funds will only cover twenty percent of salaries in 2016, down from the forty percent received in 2015. When the Shelter was opened in 1998, there were six clients who needed somewhere to go/stay. As of November 10th of this year, one hundred and one primary victims sought refuge and there were ninety-three secondary victims. Many of these victims have been beaten, strangled, in need of ER services. The **Indiana Criminal Justice Institute** also financially supports the Shelter, but those payments are two quarters behind totaling around \$18,000. Mrs Pank asked the Council for an additional \$5,000 this year and another \$5,000 in 2016 plus the regular \$15,000 the Commissioners budget for **New Directions**. Mr Gauck said he wasn't sure if the County has any 'extra' monies. Mr Hooten added the Council barely made it through the 2016 budgets.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe presented a couple of changes in this year's legislative session concerning **business/ farm personal property and Heritage Barns**. She gave each Council member an 'informational handout' outlining dates and criteria for these assessments. Currently there are 803 taxpayers who file "under \$20,000 in personal property"; so they would not have to pay personal property taxes- just have to file a notarized certification stating the taxpayer's business personal property is exempt from taxation for that assessment date. The Council does have an option of adopting an ordinance to charge a filing fee of up to \$50 per filing each year. Mrs Greiwe will report at the Council's December meeting the lost revenue due to this change. The County Assessor is required to 'visit to verify' each filing for the **Heritage Barns** exemption. Since her office contracts with **Ad Volorem** for assessing real estate properties, the County will have that added expense. Again, the Council has an option of adopting a 'filing fee' for this exemption. Both of the above-mentioned filing fees may be adopted by the Council by the end of 2015.

E911 Board spokesperson Rob Duckworth presented the **Inter-local Agreement between the City of Greensburg and the County of Decatur in providing Emergency Dispatch Services for Public Safety** for the Council's review and approval. It includes creating a "Joint Council" for reviewing the funding, equipment, maintenance and personnel needs of the **Decatur County Central Dispatch 911 Center**. For funding the above-mentioned costs in 2016 and 2017, the City of Greensburg shall pay the County \$398,894 and the County shall be responsible for \$309,835. The goal in 2018 is to fully fund the **Center** by the wireless and wireline fees/revenues collected and disbursed by the State to Decatur County. The agreement also 'expands' the **E911 Board** from a seven-member to a ten-member board and the **Central Dispatch Director** would be the "tie breaker". Mr Meyer thanked all for bringing **Central Dispatch** together. Mr Duckworth stated a job posting has been placed for the **Administrative Assistant to Sheriff Greg Allen**. The **County Redevelopment Commission** has agreed to fund additional costs for

Mr Gauck asked Council members if they knew someone who would serve on **Community Foundation Scholarship Committee**. After no one spoke up, Mr Gauck said his wife, Mary Lou Gauck, would like to continue/be reappointed to that committee.

Mayor Gary Herbert thanked Council members for working together on various projects over these last few years with the **City**, helping each other like good neighbors do. He said the **City and County** have a great working relationship. Mr Gauck thanked Mr Herbert for working so well together.

After reviewing various transfer requests, Mr Hooten moved to approve the transfers and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Council members agreed to reappoint: Rheadawn Metz to the **Alcoholic Beverage Commission**; Bill Dieckmann to the **Area Plan Commission**; Lora Reed-Williams as **Attorney for the Council**; Sue Fortman to the **Parks and Rec Board**; Mr Hooten to the **Solid Waste Management Board**; Hugh Miller to the **Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission**; Kenny Owens to the **County Redevelopment Commission**; Mr Meyer to the **Vernon Fork Water District** and JoAnn Burkhart to the **Visitors and Convention/Tourism Board**. Letters will be sent to each appointee asking if they are willing to serve another term; otherwise let the Auditor know ASAP.

Mr Metz moved to sign the contractual services agreement between **Purdue** and the **Decatur County Extension Office** for three educators for 2016. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr Gauck congratulated **Dan Manus** on his election as **Mayor**, looking forward to working with him.

The next Council meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on December 22nd, 2015.

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

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____