

April 18, 2023, Chairman Stan McEvoy opened the regular meeting of the Decatur County Commission at 9:00 am with the flag salute on the second floor of the Courthouse with members Karen Larson and Brad Marcuson. Also, present was County Clerk Nora Urban, Attorney Steve Hirsch and Oberlin Herald reporter Destry Jackson.

9:00 Ernie Sheets, Road & Bridge said they are working on a project on U lane (mile south of Uehlin's at Plott's) which they will finish today, however will be back out there on Monday. They have another project starting on Y lane (at Eihler's).

Jim Wesch had sent a picture of concern regarding a road without gravel, however Ernie explained they are working on that road and will haul gravel when done.

Ernie then explained gravel prices are going up \$0.50/ton and another \$5 for trucking rates. He said we don't really have a choice with the increase in prices. They are getting some gravel out of Garden City for now.

He then said they have some other projects however they are on hold until rain.

The weed department was out and sprayed.

Bridge projects are done.

Next, he said they are still waiting on part for their machine that is in Colby, however they are using a loaner for now.

Last, he said the employee that had surgery is home and doing well, will have a follow up appt soon.

Commissioners reviewed correspondence and signed prepaids.

They discussed the issue with the pine needles/cones and pampas grass. The city emailed they will not take it. Commissioners agreed they don't have a choice rather than to take it to the landfill; Ernie will talk to the city.

Alan Hale, Appraiser came in and said he has been having car trouble and wanted to know if there is another vehicle available. Commissioners said check it out with the clerk's office and take a meeting vehicle.

Commissioner Karen Larson moved to accept the resignation of Melissa Lippelman as clerk for Bassettville Township as she is already the treasurer and to accept the appointment of Brandon Bryan as clerk. Commissioner Brad Marcuson gave the second. Commissioner Stan McEvoy called for the vote and the motion was carried.

Karen moved to sign the addendum to the delta dental plan to include retirees. Brad gave the second. Stan called for the vote and the motion carried.

Karen moved to approve the 4/4/23 and 4/11/23 minutes with no corrections or additions. Brad gave the second. Stan called for the vote and the motion carried.

Brad said he attended the fair board meeting. They had a group there that asked about doing the mowing at the fair grounds for a small donation. They would use their own equipment however it was discussed to look into the insurance concerns. Also discussed: painting for 50-year celebration, deep cleaning at 4H building, judges' fees and ribbons and rules, advertising and roof repairs. They will use the same promoter for the derby again this year, motorcycle races will be in August, they will have another talent show and are looking into doing a concert. Porta-potties will be rented, mud volleyball

will be limited to 16 teams, and they are looking at trees for the RV area. They discussed doing concrete extensions in the livestock buildings, repairs to the bathrooms which were not winterized and busted as well placing new holding tanks for the bathrooms. Last, they are going to be distributing water bottles around the fair grounds and they are looking into grants to replace the marquee at the entrance which could run approximately \$22,000-\$23,000.

10:00 Western Child Advocacy, Don Rivera came to do their annual report. He gave a brief introduction and background of the services they provide. He said they work with DCF and law enforcement to help children of physical, emotional and sexual abuse. He said they served 26 in Decatur County last year, 8 forensic interviews, 1 for mentoring and 12 advocacy calls. He said they would like to request \$5,000. Last, he said they have a new mobile unit and are expecting about 40% of their federal funding to be cut.

Karen moved to pay \$1,000 to Western Child Advocacy; same as they have paid in the past. Brad gave the second. Stan called for the vote and the motion carried.

Jess Allen arrived for his interview.

10:22 **Karen moved** for a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Brad gave the second. Stan called for the vote and the motion carried. Those present were the three commissioners, County Clerk Nora Urban and Jess.

10:37 No action was taken.

10:40 Troy Haas, Sheriff came down to talk to the commissioners and gave his resignation. He agreed to stay on until the end of May. Nora will make the appropriate notifications.

Rebecca Brown arrived for her interview.

11:05 **Brad moved** for a 15-minute executive session for non-elected personnel. Karen gave the second. Stan called for the vote and the motion carried. Those present were the three commissioners, Nora and Rebecca.

11:20 **Karen moved** to extend the session by 6 minutes. Brad gave the second. Stan called for the vote and the motion carried. The same people were present.

11:26 No action was taken.

Discussion followed regarding the summer rec director position. Karen moved to hire both as joint directors at a rate of \$2,500 each. Stan gave the second, called for the vote and the motion carried. Nora will call both to let them know.

11:50 Stan adjourned the meeting.

MINUTES APPROVED: Sam, BJM, KL

ATTEST: Nora Urban, County Clerk DATE: 4/25/23