

DEKALB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING

January 6, 2025

Commissioners Present: President William L Hartman
 Vice President James Miller
 Vice President Kellen Dooley

Others Present: Auditor Susan Sleeper
 Attorney Andrew Kruse

MATTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

Dotty discussed the 5-year certificates that are given to employees and explained that Mike Watson historically had presented those certificates, but she would like to send an email out to all Commissioners when there is time to present certificates. Dotty let the Commissioners know that nobody in the Annex building has seen a Sheriff Deputy come through at 4:30 to 'clear' the building and Probation is currently still clearing the building. The County wellness event was then covered on how the event came about and how the logistics took place as well as the attendance etc. She then moved on to explain the 2024-2025 wellness incentive to receive a premium discount and is now wondering if the County needs to even do a basic wellness package event at \$43 per person or do we rely on the employee to do their own to receive the new incentive option. Discussion took place and Kellen Dooley is in favor of holding the wellness event and letting the employees to the incentive so that maybe some employees will either go to their doctor or possibly learning about a potential health problem they may not know about. James Miller asked if other counties that are self-insured have a mandatory test to be able to be on the health plan. Kellen asked why we don't have our County Health Department do the tests instead of Parkview and would be interested at what they may offer. James Miller is in favor of offering both as well.

MATTER OF NORTHEASTERN CENTER 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Steve Howell, Chief Executive Officer presented the 2024 annual report. He began explaining where their facilities are located and the services that are offered.

For FY 2024, there were a total of \$1,272 total DeKalb Residents served (1,026 adults and 246 youth). Mr. Howell always watches the Client Satisfaction/Experience Surveys each quarter to see where there needs to be improvement. For FY2024, the 4th quarter DeKalb Outpatient Office rating was 9.2 based on 174 respondents.

Kellen asked if there were any plans to increase the inpatient unit with the increasing numbers, and Mr. Howell explained that the goal is to keep people out of the hospital, and they are utilizing the other services as much as possible and it seems to be working. James Miller commented that you can't get much better when people feel their services are good and are scored so highly. William Hartman asked where the funding for the transportation comes from, Mr. Howell explained it is a separate grant that they applied for about 3 years ago.

MATTER OF DCCC FY 26 JUVENILE GRANT SUBMISSION

Michelle Fosnaugh explained the 2 different grants that DCCC applies for funding the adult and juvenile programs. Michelle also let everyone know that the deadline again was moved up and is due January 25, 2025. Michelle explained that the State sent an email telling her the amount of money that she is eligible to receive and the grant then needs to be written for that amount. This amount has not changed for the past few years and is the amount of \$88,686.

James Miller made a motion to approve Michelle Fosnaugh to submit the FY26 juvenile grant as submitted and for the President to sign the Letter of Support. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Misc: Misc: Michelle gave the Commissioners an update on a few maintenance items that will be coming down the pipeline that include HVAC issues on roof (\$6,400), water softener 'head' repair (over \$2,000), lobby heating circulation issue.

MATTER OF PAYROLL

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve payroll for the period of Dec. 15-28, 2024, that will process on January 10, 2025. James Miller seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF CLAIMS

James Miller made a motion to approve General Claims processed on January 6th in the amount of \$572,951.89 consisting of warrant #'s 135745 thru 135755 and wire transfer #'s 30917 thru 31029. Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF MINUTES

James Miller made the motion to approve the minutes dated December 30, 2024, as presented with a note that James Miller and Kellen Dooley were not Commissioners at the date of the meeting, they are accurate to the best of their knowledge. Kellen Dooley seconded, and all approved.

MATTER OF OTHER DISCUSSION

2024 Coroner Annual Report:

Kellen thought it was interesting with the increased cases, and he also explained that DeKalb send their bodies to Steuben County cooler, and they do this as a favor, but eventually DeKalb County may need to get our own cooler system.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Coroner 2024 annual report. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Commissary Report: July 1 – December 31, 2024:

William Hartman asked if the water softener could be paid from Commissary funds, the Auditor will look into the ordinance and report back.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to acknowledge receipt of the Commissary Report as presented for the period of July 1 – December 31, 2024. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Sheriff Water Softener:

James Miller made a motion to approve Mettert's quote in the amount of \$8,329.20, which includes the heads being rebuilt and new basket assemblies and risers, 2 mineral tanks (24x72) and 20 cubic feet of Resin, with labor not exceeding \$2,000. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

2025-O-1: DCC 28-9-17 | Courthouse Generator Donation Fund:

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-1: DCC 28-9-17 | An Ordinance creating a Donation Fund for the Courthouse Generator Enclosure on FIRST Reading. James Miller seconded and all approved.

James Miller made a motion to suspend the rules to pass Ordinance 2025-O-1: DCC 28-9-17 on the 2nd and 3rd Readings. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve Ordinance 2025-O-1: DCC 28-9-17 | An Ordinance creating a Donation Fund for the Courthouse Generator Enclosure on SECOND & THIRD Reading. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Sunny Meadows Monthly Combined Reports (Dec. 2022 to Dec. 2024):

Kellen Dooley made a motion to approve and all 3 to sign the acknowledgement of receiving Sunny Meadows Monthly Reports from December 2022 to December 2024. James Miller seconded and all approved.

2025 Board Appointments:

Discussion began with Kellen Dooley asking about the status of Tonya Weaver as he has learned that she is not a superintendent of GKB, and what that meant for the Health Dept Appointment, discussion took place, and further research will be done.

Richard Ring explained that to classify as republican or democrat is determined by what the person voted as in their last primary election. He explained that the last 2 primary election vote rule only applies to the vote for an Elected Office. Richard Ring ran a report and there are 4500 democrats in DeKalb County to choose from, concerning the requirement that and Independent or Democrat be appointed to the **Auburn Plan Commission**. Suzanne Drerup-Davis, chair of DeKalb County Democrats said that nobody has asked her to look for anyone to be placed on the Auburn ETJ, she explained that for the PTABOA board she gives Sheila a waiver because Suzanne has tried and cannot find a Democrat with the correct credentials to be on the PTABOA board. Further research will be done to find a qualified candidate and revisit at the next meeting.

Central Communications: William Hartman made a motion to appoint Kellen Dooley with an open-ended term. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Drainage Board: James Miller was the citizen representative on the board, Bruce Bell was on the board in place of Commissioner Sanderson therefore James Miller will move into the Commissioner role with an automatic appointment and Bruce Bell will move to the citizen representative role.

Ag Representative: William Hartman motioned that Steve Kelham be appointed as the Ag Representative for a term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2026. James Miller feels Sandra Harrison knows what is going on with the Drainage Board and is familiar with the projects, James does not feel there should be 2 new drainage board members on a 5-member board and would like Sandra Harrison to continue the board. Kellen feels both Sandra Harrison and Steve Kelham bring a lot to the table and has been torn between the 2 options but feels that it is good to have a new member that wants to get involved be appointed. Kellen Dooley seconded, and motion passed (2,1) with James Miller voting nay.

James Miller motioned to move Bruce Bell to the Citizen Representative board position to complete the final year of the term vacated by James Miller when he became a County Commissioner, the term will begin 01/01/2025 and end 12/31/2025. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

James Miller motioned to appoint Rebecca Wright as the Administrative Assistant for an open-ended term. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

IT Director: Kellen Dooley motioned to appoint Baysah Korti for an open-ended term. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Solid Waste District: Kellen Dooley motioned to appoint James Miller as Commissioner rep with the alternate being William Hartman for an open-ended term. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

Airport Authority: Kellen Dooley motioned to re-appoint Jerry Korchyk for the term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2028. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Alcohol & Tobacco Commission: James Miller motioned to re-appoint Terry Rayle for a one-year term (01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025). Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Auburn Plan Commission ETJ Representative: Kellen Dooley motioned to table the appointment until the next meeting. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Butler Plan Commission ETJ: Kellen Dooley motioned to reappoint Adam Staley for a term beginning 1/1/2025 and ending 12/31/2028. James Miller seconded and all approved.

DCCC Board: James Miller motioned to re-appoint the following for a term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2028.

Michael Lapham | Probation Officer

Kelley Mattes | Juvenile Probation

Steve Teders | Educational Administrator

Steve Smith | Ex- Offender

Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

William Hartman motioned to appoint Kellen Dooley as the **Commissioner representative** with an open-ended term and noted this is a non-voting appointment and Ryan Abbot to be the alternate. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Council on Aging Board: Rod Knox has resigned and will need to be replaced. Kellen Dooley motioned to table appointment until next meeting. James Miller seconded and all approved.

EMS Oversight Committee: James Miller motioned to appoint Kellen Dooley, contingent on Kellen Dooley's resignation from Parkview for an open-ended term. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

Garrett Public Library: James Miller motioned to appoint Shelby Vonderau to the Garrett Library board for the term beginning 1/1/2025 and ending 12/31/2028. Kellen Dooley said Doug DeMint is also interested in the appointment. Richard Ring explained that usually an appointment to an outside board has a recommendation submitted from Director that is chosen. William Hartman seconded and all approved.

Health Board: Kellen Dooley motion to re-appoint Dr. Philip Chase and Dr. Andrew Dirksen with the term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2028. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Statue determines various requirements are needed to be on the board, the position currently filled by Tonya Weaver is in question due to Ms. Weaver no longer being in the superintendent role at Garrett. Kellen Dooley made a motion to table the appointment until further clarification is sought. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Homeland Security: Kellen Dooley motioned to appoint James Miller, with Kellen Dooley as alternate with an open-ended term. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Maumee River Basin: James Miller motioned for Michael Watson to remain the Commissioner Representative. Kellen Dooley seconded, and motion passed (2,1) with Hartman voting nay.

Plan Commission:

Citizen Representative: James Miller motioned to re-appoint Frank Pulver to the board as the Citizen Representative with the term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2028. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Commissioner Representative: Kellen Dooley motioned to appoint William Hartman as the Commissioner representative with an open-ended term. James Miller seconded and all approved.

James Miller commented that he would like to be the Commissioner representative next year, and then the following year Kellen Dooley to be on the board to rotate and everyone be able to learn.

William Hartman motioned to appoint both James Miller and Kellen Dooley as alternates on the Plan Commission. James Miller seconded and all approved.

BZA Commissioner Appointment: James Miller motioned to re-appoint Frank Pulver to the term ending 12/31/2026. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

PTABOA Board: (Suzanne Drerup-Davis agrees with waiving the following requirements)
Kellen Dooley made a motion to waive the political party and certified assessor level requirement. James Miller seconded and all approved.

James Miller made a motion to re-appoint Charlotte Suntken, Ron Dicke and Linda Middleton with a one-year term. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Public Defender: James Miller made a motion to re-appoint Kent Likes with a term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2028. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Redevelopment Commission: Kellen Dooley would like to see how the Council appoints their members to be able to spread the powers around the County before the Commissioners make their appointments.

Kellen Dooley motioned to table the appointments until the next meeting. James Miller seconded. Kellen Dooley withdrew his motion. James Miller withdrew his second to the motion. Therefore, motion dies.

William Hartman made a motion to appoint Chris Pranger to RDC board with a one-year term for 2025. Kellen Dooley seconded and all approved.

Kellen Dooley made a motion to table the remaining 2 appointments until the next meeting. James Miller seconded and all approved

Tourism Board: Kellen Dooley made a motion to re-appoint Damian Dunn with the term beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2026. James Miller seconded and all approved.

Heron Lake - Wayne Asphalt LOC:

Andrew Kruse feels the County needs to make an official demand to the bank on the Letter of Credit to comply with the terms of the letter and then file suit if needed potentially to the bank and Wayne Asphalt.

Innkeeper's Baymont Hotel nonpayment:

Andrew's legal assistant has worked on a spreadsheet that can be presented to the judge, and when all documents are in order the lawsuit will be ready to file.

Kellen asked if Windgate, who has the same owner as Baymont is in compliant and Andrew Kruse will investigate it after getting the Baymont Hotel issue filed.



William L. Hartman – President

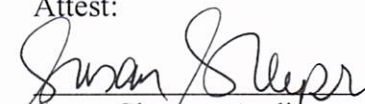


James Miller – Vice President



Kellen Dooley – Vice President

Attest:



Susan Sleeper, Auditor