

FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday April 18th, 2017

Meeting called to order following Pledge to the Flag at 6:30 p.m. with Jim Widman, Barry Hazel, Phyl Olinger, Randy Sutton, Jim Showley, Gary Sriver, Lorie Hurst, Auditor Christina Sriver and deputy Auditor Julie Scully present.

AIRPORT AUTHORITY - The appropriation request in the amount of \$98,350 is for tree removal along the north side of the airport. The project should be completed in the next month or two.

MAYOR TED DENTON (SOLID WASTE) – Mayor Denton opened with discussion of the history of curb-side recycling and the Solid Waste District's involvement. Formed in 1991 as part of Environmental Management as a requirement of the state through Indiana Department of Environmental Management. At that time, Ted states, Marshall County was interested in consolidating with Fulton County but Fulton County declined. Ted quotes IC 13-21-3-1 that established the solid waste districts stated that the funding could come from tax revenues or a waste fee. The first monies that were collected under Resolution 1-1991 was a \$9 surcharge or one-time fee that was imposed through property taxes. Then June 1, 1996 Allied Waste entered into an agreement with the county with the result of the tipping fee program, today the Agreement is with the current owner Republic. Within the four addendums to the original agreement, Ted states, there were to be two types of charges: solid waste host fees and county host fees. The fees were broken down into the type of waste that was being put into the landfill. The solid waste fees were broken up into three categories: in-county, in-state, and out-of-state waste. The county host fee revenue was captured by the county with a set fee imposed by tonnage. In 1999, by County Ordinance 031699, the host fees were set up on a distribution basis to include stakeholders: the county, Rochester City, Akron, Fulton, Kewanna and the 8 townships and also Fulton County Community Foundation which as just getting on its feet on the time. Then, due to the waste stream changing, Ted stated that the county was using the revenue for bond payments for courthouse renovations and to purchase the Annex building. Jim Widman stated that the bond payments were later switched to come out of the CEDIT fund. Ted discussed a non-reverting fund that got \$66,666 per month in tipping fees and \$33,333.33 went toward operation of the Solid Waste district and three percent that went to the 31 Corridor Plan. In 2007 the distributions stopped due to the dwindling fees that were coming in. Ted requested that a committee be formed with some County Council members, some Solid Waste members, the two clerks to review the initial agreement that was put together and check that Republic is still holding to the original agreement. Ted states that there is an amount in the agreement that changes according to the gate fees and he knows the gate fees have increased over the years. Jim Widman stated that it was between the Commissioners and the Solid Waste Director who do the negotiations. Gary stated that there was approximately \$2,500,000 in host fees when the county gave money to the city for the fire department, for bleachers at the fairgrounds, to the Rochester little league for bleachers, Tippecanoe Valley for bleachers at the tennis courts and to Fulton for a project they were starting and then the money started dwindling. Gary said there was a committee with the commissioners and the Mayor of Rochester and a formula was set up for distributions. Steve Hartzler was a commissioner at the time when the host fees dwindled and was against dispersing the money to the other entities because it was collected for Fulton County. Ted stated that the agreement breakdown in monies came from the County host fees contributions but the district host fee should not have been doled out. The host fee for the county was for the total tonnage taken in, that was for the county. Ted said on the Solid Waste side, there were some breakdowns based on the activity they were having. A dollar figure per ton for the district trash, a higher dollar figure for everything for the state and a much higher dollar figure for everything taken in from out-of-state. Gary stated it was \$0.25 for district, \$1.50 for in-state, \$2.00 for out-of-state. Ted stated that the initial agreement in 2006 fees were \$0.25 for district, \$1.25 for in-state, \$1.75 for out-of-state and they went up as the gate fee increased. Ted is wondering if the agreement is still being followed. He thinks that the primary reason the host fee was established in 1991 was to fund the Solid Waste district. The curb-side recycling service has become a situation for Rochester City and the city never intended to use tax money to pay for the curb service outside of the initial \$9 fee. His goal is to review and see if there is more money that can be extracted to go to Solid Waste as the city is currently paying \$2,300 a month and is looking for another \$4,000 - \$5,000 a month that should be coming from tipping fees to give to the Solid Waste District to do curb-side for Rochester, Akron or wherever they want to. Gary stated he was on the Solid Waste Committee for several years and curb-side was always a problem to fund. He pointed out that Ted, as they mayor, is already on the Solid Waste Committee and Gary suggested that the committee needs to decide what to do with the funds available and it should not be the Council that makes the decision to fund curb-side recycling. Ted pointed out that the IC code that establishes Solid

Waste also allows a tax rate to be imposed. Jim Widman pointed out that there are recycle trailers throughout the county and asked why Rochester should have curb-side. Ted stated that he is trying to understand why the city is supporting curb-side for the 24% of households who want it with 100% of the household tax monies to support the effort. Ted suggested someone talk with Republic to see if the gate fees have increased. Jim Widman stated that the previous Solid Waste Director used to keep track of that. Stacy Hart, the current director, said she spoke with Republic recently with (ex-commissioner) Roger Rose. Roger stated that he doesn't recall ever being told the gate fees have increased. Randy stated that it was the Solid Waste board that set the fees but they were at the maximum allowed by the state statute. Stacy stated every city and town is responsible for the curb-side service if they choose to do it and can charge the fee to the residents. If the city wants to continue it they could look into putting it on the water bill as Plymouth does. Jim Showley questioned why another committee should be formed since the Solid Waste Committee is already in place and suggested the committee come before the county to request a change in the funding rather than from the Mayor of Rochester.

HIGHWAY – John Geier updated on the Olson Road project. Construction on Bridge 503 is going well; they should be laying the beams soon. E & B won the bid for the Lucas Street project at \$89,000 under the estimated amount, for \$440,029.70. George Watson of USI will be meeting at the site of the River Road project. An RFP was put out for bridge inspections. John checked on the two trucks that are currently at W.A. Jones. The new mower from New Holland has been delivered; the tractor won't be in until the first of June. The rubber tire roller is at CAT in South Bend and will be delivered when they are headed to the area as John is not in need of it immediately. John discussed the additional appropriations being presented tonight. John reminded of the ADA/Title VI sensitivity training scheduled for tomorrow. John recently attended the Safety Training meeting and has ordered the handicap signs discussed at this meeting. He was also asked to recommend a policy for service animals.

SHERIFF – Chris Sailors gave the monthly reports for March. DLZ has requested the final information to complete the jail feasibility study going ten years in arrears. DLZ would like to set up a meeting with stakeholders including the Judges, prosecutor, commissioners, council, jail commander, sheriff and a few others. The fire alarms at the jail aren't functioning properly and he has signed an agreement with Koorsen to set up new alarms. He replaced the alarms in the cells. He is applying for a variance for the fire suppression system to eliminate the fire hoses in the building as they haven't been replaced since 1984. The ten heat pumps have been replaced along with the thermostats. He should come in at \$75-\$80,000 for the total project. He is still in negotiations concerning the CAD system. He had a meeting last week and would like to contract with Lieberman Technologies for financial software to track all funding that goes through the department. He is looking to have it implemented beginning June 1st at a cost of \$6,000. The camera system brought some consultants in to fix the issues at hand; Josh (IT Department) is currently reviewing the quotes. A sound masking system was just installed in the jail last week. He started a new part-time secretary last week. The retirement amendments were received by Sheriff Sailors last week and he will present to the Merit Board tomorrow night and discuss the outcome at the next council meeting. Chris discussed the additional appropriation that he is requesting today. He has found a new floor buffer for purchase to replace the broken buffer. He will need to replace one vehicle this year; he recently replaced a motor in one of the other vehicles.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS –

Department	Fund	Category	Amount
Airport Authority	Operating	Other Services & Charges	\$98,350
To pay for landscape services. Barry moved to approve, seconded by Randy; passed 7-0.			
Highway	1176-MVH	Capital Outlay	\$38,547.00
To pay balance owed on dump trucks. Randy moved to approve, seconded by Phyl; passed 7-0.			
Highway	1176-MVH	Other Services & Charges	\$22,350.00
Additional engineering fees for Lucas Street project. Jim Showley moved to approve, seconded by Randy; passed 7-0.			
Highway	1169-LRS	Capital Outlays	\$19,000
To help pay for new dump trucks; these funds were appropriated last year but couldn't be encumbered due to lack of invoice. Phyl moved to approve, seconded by Barry; passed 7-0.			

Auditor	1151-EMS	Other Services & Charges	\$88,833
Phyl moved to approve, seconded by Randy; passed 7-0.			
Auditor	1170-LIT Public Safety	Other Services & Charges	\$34,000
\$9,500 from #1151 to Malinowski Consulting; \$113,333 for Lutheran ambulance agreement. Barry moved to approve, seconded by Randy; passed 7-0.			
Sheriff	1170	Other Services & Charges	\$25,000
To pay for inmates being held by another county due to overcrowding. Gary moved to approve, seconded by Lorie; passed 7-0.			

MINUTES – Meeting minutes from December 12, 2016 were moved to approve by Phyl, seconded by Jim Showley; passed 7-0. Meeting minutes from January 3rd, 2017 were moved to be approved as amended by Barry, seconded by Randy; passed 7-0.

Meeting minutes from January 18th, 2017. Phyl moved to approve, seconded by Barry; passed 7-0. February 22 moved to approve by Jim Showley, seconded by Randy; passed 7-0. March 21 minutes moved to approve by Phyl, seconded by Gary; passed 7-0.

OLD BUSINESS – Reassessment budget moved by Barry, seconded by Phyl; passed 7-0.

NEW BUSIENSS – Lorie Hurst spoke of the necessity of one additional member to be appointed to the Fulton County Redevelopment Committee. She will be looking for a recommendation for council. Jim reminded the council that group emails to all council members should not be responded to as it could be construed as a quorum.

ADJOURN – Jim Showley moved to adjourn at 8:01 p.m.