

The DeKalb County Commission met in regular session on Tuesday February 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. in the DeKalb County Activities Building (Courthouse Annex). Those present were President Harcrow, Shane Wootten, Terry Harris, Ron Saferite, and Lester Black.

The meeting was called to order by President Harcrow with Mr. Harcrow delivering the Invocation, and Mr. Saferite leading the Pledge.

It was moved by Mr. Saferite seconded by Mr. Harris with all members voting affirmatively, motion carrying to dispense with the reading of the minutes and to accept them as presented in written format.

Public Hearing—Solid Waste Management Plan and Permit Modification (Sand Valley Landfill):

President Harcrow addressed the audience concerning the scheduled public hearing stating the floor would be open for public comments from anyone who has signed in to speak. He also stated that this is not a question and answer session, but the chance for citizens to voice any concerns they may have. Those speaking and a summary of their comments are as follows:

- **John Westmoreland**: Opposes the increase in tonnage at the landfill. Concerned about volume, traffic & garbage. Trucks leaving landfill need to be cleaned to prevent trash from getting on the roads. Stated that tipping fees should be increased on garbage coming from out of the area. (*Mr. Westmoreland is a former President of the County Republican Party*).
- **Ken Murphree**: Opposes the increase in tonnage at the landfill. Requested what the tipping fee was being used for. Stated that an increase in tipping fee to at least \$3 to \$5/ton (*Mr. Murphree was a County Commissioner from 1994-1998*).
- **Kyle Kuykendall**: Opposes the increase in tonnage at the landfill. Stated that the landfill stinks and the roads are not in good shape. Believes locals should be able to dump in landfill for free. Property taxes are going up, but property values are decreasing due to the landfill. (*Mr. Kuykendall is the nephew of former Commissioner Chris Kuykendall and is a 7th generation DeKalb County citizen*).
- **Wayne Killian**: Opposes the increase in tonnage at the landfill. Specifically opposes out of state garbage. States that land value in Lebanon near the landfill is valued at about 35% of values on Sand Mountain and claims this is due to the landfill. Believes any increase in tonnage should be a vote of the citizens of DeKalb County and not its elected representatives on the County Commission (*Mr. Killian is a Vietnam veteran and local pastor*).

Note: Representatives of the Sand Valley Landfill (Republic Services) were David Hollinshead and Clay Chitwood.

Road Department

Update—Mr. Broyles gave a brief update stating that all District crews have been busy bush cutting and running patch trucks as well as the yard crew assisting with hand patching. Mr. Broyles also mentioned that he has received three of the new trucks.

Personnel—Mr. Broyles asked the Commission to accept the resignation of Dwight Rowell (Yard Crew) and permission to hire Heath Anderson to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Black made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Saferite, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Engineer

Award Rebuild AL Bid—Mr. Luther presented bid tabs (opened on January 17th) for the FY24 County Transportation Plan Bituminous Surface Treatments and made the recommendation to award the bid to Charles E. Watts who presented the lowest bid. Bids were as follows:

Charles E. Watts	\$2,000,294.91
Russell Standard	\$2,420,138.55
Chilton Contractors	\$3,383,799.74

Award Herbicide Bid—Mr. Luther stated that bids were opened on February 7th for Roadside Application of Herbicides. Three bids were received as follows:

IVM Solutions	\$ 135,976.00
Volunteer Vegetation Management	\$ 145,038.00 (no bid bond submitted)
DeAngel Cont. (dba Aquagenix)	\$ 182,068.00

Of the three received IVM presented the lowest bid price for total acres Mr. Luther made the recommendation to award the bid to IVM Solutions.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to accept Mr. Luther’s recommendation to award the Bituminous Surface Treatment to Charles. E Watts and the Roadside Herbicide Application to IVM Solutions. Mr. Harris Seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

Jail Personnel—Chief Wright asked the Commission to accept the resignation of Corrections Officers Robert McArther and Amber Guffey and requested permission to hire Kadin Keck to replace CO Robert McArthur.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mr. Harris, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

P25 Update—Mr. Posey and Mr. Martin gave a brief status update on the P25 Radio System Project. He stated that there approximately \$700K in ARPA funds to cover the P25 infrastructure project on the “Little” tower site. To avoid the cost of the project increasing, Mr. Posey requested the Commission grant President Harcrow and County Administrator Matt Sharp authorization to sign and to enter into an agreement/contract with Motorola that would lock the price of the infrastructure system on the Little Tower System until it is ready to be installed.

Mr. Saferite made a motion to grant the request. Seconded by Mr. Black. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried authorizing Mr. Harcrow and Mr. Sharp to sign the necessary documents. *(Note: This project for the equipment on the Little Tower will approximately be \$1,169,745 according to State Bid Contract #MA220000003341-5). Other costs will be the erection of a tower donated by Mobile County – this cost is undetermined, but should be less than \$400,000. DAS has authorized \$250,000 and County 911 has authorized \$300,000 toward these projects. Other Grant funds as yet undetermined will make up the difference).*

ARPA Update—County Administrator Matt Sharp gave a status overview of ARPA funds listing projects that have been completed, which included several Water Projects across the county, and stated there are other unofficial obligated projects and potential projects to be considered/completed.

To summarize \$8,045,929.98 has been expended as of December 31, 2023. \$2,730,649.56 on administrative, COVID Leave, Premium Pay, Jail Medical and Court System back-log reimbursement; \$1,787,854.34 on Water Projects and \$3,527,426.08 on Jail, CAD, Road and Generator Projects.

The ongoing projects will expend approximately \$3.8 million, leaving approximately \$2 million in unappropriated projects to be obligated by December 31, 2024 and expended no later than December 31, 2026.

EMA Personnel—President Harcrow made the recommendation to the Commission to promote Michael Posey as EMA Director to fill the vacancy of Director Anthony Clifton who recently passed after an extended illness. Mr. Harcrow stated that Mr. Posey has been serving as Deputy Director for quite some time and has all the necessary credentials to serve as Director (*Mr. Posey will be placed on the same scale as other State Regional EMA Directors. The other EMA employees will absorb the other duties and be of approximate similar pay scale with the GIS Manager being one grade ahead*).

Mr. Black made a motion to accept and approve the recommendation. Mr. Saferite seconded the motion. All members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

E911 Board Appointments—President Harcrow addressed the Commission requesting the re-appointment of three 911 Board members: Jeff Buttram-D2, Freddy Glover-President-At-Large, and Marty Wootten-D1 with terms expiring March 2028.

Mr. Harris made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Wootten, all members voting affirmatively, motion carried.

President Harcrow notified the audience that the next meeting will be on Tuesday March 12, 2024 and asked for a Motion to adjourn.

Mr. Wootten made a motion to adjourn. President Harcrow declared no objections, and ordered the meeting adjourned.

Ricky Harcrow, President

Shane Wootten, Commissioner District I

Terry Harris, Commissioner District II

Ron Saferite, Commissioner District III

Lester Black, Commissioner District IV