

## Hancock County Council

August 11, 2010

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the Commissioner Court in the Hancock County Courthouse Annex, Greenfield, Indiana, on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of August 2010 at the hour of 8:30 A.M. in accordance with the rules of the Council. Council members present were William Bolander, Rosalie Richardson, Jim Shelby, Jack Leonard, Dick Pasco, Brian Kirkwood and Tom Roney. Also, present were Auditor, Robin D. Lowder, Chief Deputy Rosemary Melvin, Ray Richardson, County Attorney.

Council President William Bolander, who presided, called the meeting to order.

### **In the Matter of 2011 Budget)**

Councilman Shelby gives report of status of the 2011 budget. Our real estate assessment is down 1/10<sup>th</sup> of a percent and income tax is down 15%. Greg will go over information at the budget meeting next Tuesday. He is most likely to recommend imposing the CEDIT tax again.

### **In the Matter of the Sheriff bonus)**

The Sheriff bonus needs addressed. He came in .96 on meals which is below the State amount allowed. He will earn the full \$7,500 bonus and has met his requirements. Councilman Shelby made a motion to pay the Sheriff bonus of \$7,500, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. 7-0

### **In the Matter of Additional Appropriation)**

- Councilwoman Richardson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation to pay animal control from Food & Beverage. Note\* Due to circuit breaker cuts Council originally approved to take County General cuts from Food & Beverage, however, our accounting system

requires bookkeeper to reduce a specific line item not a fund. Therefore, the money was reduced in County General animal control line item in the amount of \$207,049 with the understanding that when it needed paid to the City it would come from Food & Beverage.

Motion seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 7-0

- Special Attorney Expense additional appropriation for \$10,000. Councilman Leonard made a motion to additionally appropriate \$10,000 for the Special Attorney, seconded by Councilman Pasco. Councilman Shelby amended the motion that the funds need to come from Food & Beverage instead of County General. Vote 7-0

#### **In the Matter of Contractual Services)**

Derek Towle appeared before Council to discuss the Contractual line item in the Commissioners budget. There is going to be a shortfall based on contractual agreements that already have been set with Commissioners each year. The line item was reduced earlier in the year and Commissioner is requesting an additional appropriation for this line item in the amount of \$46,000. Councilman Kirkwood made a motion to take the additional appropriation out of Food & Beverage in the amount of \$46,000, seconded by Councilman Leonard. Roll call vote 7-0 motion passed.

Aye

Brian Kirkwood

Dick Pasco

Jim Shelby

Rosalie Richardson

Jack Leonard

Bill Bolander

Tom Roney

Nay

**In the Matter of Transfer)**

Joe Copeland, Highway Dept has requested a transfer in Fund 0702 from line item new trucks to maintenance & repair in the amount of \$25,000. Councilman Roney made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Councilwoman. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of CEDIT increase)**

Public opinion as follows:

- *John Priorie-economy is moving in reverse. Best solution to State reductions is not to increase taxes by this Council.*
- *Janet Brown- there is no present economic recovery. Request the Council not to raise CEDIT tax, it is not the time.*
- *Sheldon Oaks-speaking as a private citizen. Transparency, good government with ethical conduct and accountability should be important to this Council. This is not a good time to raise taxes.*
- *Carolyn Flynn- she concurs with Sheldon Oaks comments. Does not agree with tax increases. Concerns with what CEDIT increase will be used for.*
- *Mayor DeReamer- asking Council not to remove the CEDIT tax for the City of Greenfield. This tax is important to us to continue to improve the quality of life for Greenfield and the citizens of Hancock County.*
- *Greg Carwein –Council member for City of Greenfield. Requesting the Council not to remove tax for the City to move forward with Economic Development.*
- *Armin Apple- taxpayer McCordsville, Council needs to hold the line and realize what is important. To take notice to who writes the checks and pays the bills.*

Councilwoman Richardson commented about the CCD and the reasons for implementation of this fund. The Council has a better handle as to what is being spent capital wise and each department does have a 5 year plan of those expenditures. Council is trying to reign in expenses instead of free reign.

Councilman Kirkwood commented that hundreds of thousands of dollars have been cut from the County budget. We want nothing more than to raise taxes but Council is just making ends meet.

Councilman Shelby does not agree to raise taxes in a recession. Focus needs to be kept on efficiency and cost cutting. We need a plan.

Council agrees to postpone this issue until they have all the information that is needed for the decision.

**In the Matter of Substance Abuse)**

Wilann Beeson appeared before Council regarding her 2010 budget. This is regarding a current negative in her cash balance. They have went through the cases from the Clerk's office and found some funds that were misallocated into another fund. They will be receiving that amount from the Clerk.

Council decided to have a separate meeting on this issue to look into the funds.

**In the Matter of Transfer)**

Wayne Addison, Probation requested a transfer from a grant receipt line to the contractual service line item in the amount of \$7,049. Councilwoman made a motion to appropriate the line item contractual service but it must be advertised before the transfer can be done.

**In the Matter of Mt. Vernon Referendum)**

Bill Riggs, Superintendent of Mt. Vernon schools appeared before Council to request them to re-certify the Referendum for Mt. Vernon Schools that was certified in July. There was a last minute change in the Referendum law. The Election Board had contacted Mr. Riggs and stated it could be corrected if Council would re-certify. Councilman Leonard made a motion to re-certify the modified Referendum for Mt. Vernon Schools to the Hancock County Election Board, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 7-0

Break 10:15 am

Reconvened 10:30 am

**In the Matter of Funding for the Education Alliance)**

Derek Towle Commissioner appeared before Council to request start-up money to help fund the Hancock County Education Alliance. He feels the County needs to give them a start. As a Board of Commissioners we are requesting \$135,000 from the CEDIT special tax County portion to be appropriated for this purpose. Councilwoman Richardson requested a decision be made after the meeting on August 17<sup>th</sup> with the public. Councilman Shelby agrees. Councilman Kirkwood does not want the County to be on the hook for this venture and it should be done by private funds. Councilman Roney is not in favor of funding the Hancock County Education Alliance. Councilman Pasco wants to know how far forward we are going with this issue.

**Hancock County Education Alliance)**

Bob Molnar, Director of Education Alliance appeared before Council. Economic Development is still the driving force in this project. We can't show a return until we are willing to make an investment.

Vice President, Jack Leonard now resides over the meeting.

**In the Matter of Coroner)**

Tammy VanGundy, Coroner appeared before Council on the probability and necessity of bringing autopsy in County instead of sending to Marion County. It would be a savings to the county even though the budget would need to be raised by \$10,000-\$15,000 per year.

**In the Matter of Sheriff Transfer)**

Donnie Munden appeared before Council requesting a transfer from fund 4606 to 4000-005 for a grant and put in their appropriation line item for radios in the amount of \$10,690. Council advised it must be advertised.

Donnie Munden also requested that US Marshall Service overtime earned reimbursement be additionally appropriated back to overtime. Council advised this too will need advertised.

IC 36-8-10-21 Commissary fund states specific things Sheriff can spend out of this fund. There have been outstanding bills to the florist for funerals for employee family members etc. Donnie is requesting from the Council to be able to pay these bills and if it falls under this statute. Councilman Pasco made a motion to pay these florist bills, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 6-0

Councilman Shelby asked Deputy Munden to provide the Council with a list of current assets at the Sheriff department and bring to the September 9, 2010 next Council meeting.

**In the Matter of Community Corrections)**

Pat Powers, appeared before Council to request a transfer to fund 0504 that has a negative cash balance from fund 0505 in the amount of \$10,000. And also appropriate \$5,000 in fund 0505. This must be advertised.

Councilman Leonard discussed his views on the Hancock County Education Alliance funding. He will not be attending the next meeting and wants to provide Council with his view. He agrees to fund if it is through a Foundation not direct funding to the Alliance. He feels the Library should be involved in this venture.

Meeting adjourned.

APPROVED on this day \_\_\_\_\_

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Robin D. Lowder, Auditor