

Hancock County Council Minutes
July 13, 2011

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the Commissioner Court in the Hancock County Courthouse Annex, Greenfield, Indiana, on the 13th day of July 2011 at the hour of 8:30 A.M. in accordance with the rules of the Council. Council members present were William Bolander, Dick Pasco, Brian Kirkwood, Tom Roney, John Jessup, Jim Shelby, and Rosalie Richardson. Also, present were Auditor, Robin D. Lowder, Deputy Ginny Martin, Ray Richardson, County Attorney.

President Bill Bolander called the meeting to order.

In the Matter of the Clerk)

Marcia Moore, Clerk addressed Council regarding voting centers and passed out a packet with information. Councilman Kirkwood made a motion to investigate the voting center possibility for our county. Motion was seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 7-0 motion passed.

Clerk also requested to fill a position with a part-time person to a full-time position. Clerk wants to drop the part-time amount to \$1425 and make a full-time position. She will put in an addendum to her budget.

Councilman Shelby addressed Council and advised as a reminder to them that all entities whether a levied fund or not submit budget information to the Auditor's Office and before Council. It is a requirement by County Council, regardless of State Law.

In the Matter of Gallahue)

Attorney Richardson reported that there has been a settlement with Gallahue lawsuit in the amount of \$315,000 payable by December 31, 2011. It is a Judgment not a settlement, and bonds are an option to pay this amount. Councilman Shelby made a motion to accept the settlement with Gallahue, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. Councilman Jessup request to read the settlement before he is able to vote. Council decides to table to later.

Greg Guerrattaz, Financials Solutions advise to Councilman Shelby that a new bond be issued and add this amount into the bond with an accumulation of several things that are needed in our County.

Council does not need to make any decisions regarding the bond today.

In the Matter of Pennsy Trail)

Larry Lindley, resident of New Palestine and representing the Pennsy Trail Expansion Committee appeared before Council. Mr. Lindley requested money from Council to help with the extension of the 4 ½ mile gap between Greenfield and Cumberland. \$2,000 is needed to begin the process, Cumberland is paying \$1,000 and the County Commissioners committed \$1,000. Mr. Lindley is asking for payment of this amount. Also, that Hancock County would be the fiscal agent for this project, involving receipting of funds, issuing checks and handling the reimbursement grant. County would be responsible for all accounting of this grant. Up front money would be the Counties responsibility and then they would be reimbursed by the grant.

- Commissioner Armstrong interjected and requested money from Council for this project of \$1,000.
- Councilman Kirkwood asked why private entities are not funding this project. Mr. Lindley stated grant money usually handles such projects.
- Councilman Jessup asked if this is considered an Economic Development project? Yes, said Commissioner Armstrong.
- Councilman Jessup asked if the Commissioners have a master Economic Development Plan? If so, this project needs to go into this plan for future possibility.

Councilman Shelby made a recommendation to speak with Auditor since there would be added responsibilities not only the upfront money but the entire fiscal agent of this grant.

The County match will be 20% of \$1,000,000 grant. County portion would be \$200,000. If no match is met County is responsible for the \$1,000,000. This is for 2014 funding.

Council advised the Visitor's Bureau may be able to help with the \$1,000. The expansion committee will pursue the Visitor's Bureau to raise the money.

Councilman Roney made a motion to pass a Resolution that the Hancock County Council believes in the concept of the expansion of the Pennsy Trail, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. Councilman Jessup opposes the Resolution and feels it is not needed. Roll call vote 4-3

AYE

Brian Kirkwood
Tom Roney
Rosalie Richardson
Bill Bolander

NAY

John Jessup
Jim Shelby
Dick Pasco

Break

In the Matter of Fortville Law Enforcement Training)

Janet Manship and Brad Kiphart from Fortville Town Council and Fortville Marshall appeared before Council. There is money that is collected through the Clerk on tickets that go back to the Training fund. There is an issue with the training fund from a decision that the State Board of Accounts made through the Auditor's Office. Fortville Police Department turned in a claim from work done in 2008 thru 2010. State Board of Accounts did not allow the Auditor to pay this claim since it was over 12 months ago. Auditor paid a portion of the claim but directed the unpaid portion back to the Clerk.

Ms. Manship feels that the money should have been paid. The request is that the Council releases those funds to the Fortville Police Department.

Attorney Richardson, advised that the Auditor is required to follow the State Board of Accounts decision. It would be in violation otherwise. Auditor will make a request from the State Board of Accounts once again regarding payment to Fortville Police.

In the Matter of Additional Appropriations)

Cumulative Bridge Fund 0790 in the amount of \$350,000
Councilwoman Richardson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation for Cumulative Bridge, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Roll call vote 7-0 motion passed.

AYE

NAY

John Jessup

Brian Kirkwood

Jim Shelby

Tom Roney

Dick Pasco

Rosalie Richardson

Bill Bolander

Community Corrections Fund 0537 in the amount of \$616.00
Councilman Shelby made a motion to allow a budget transfer within his fund 0537 to cover the over-budget, seconded by Councilman Pasco. Vote 7-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Circuit Court)

Judge Culver requested \$670 for a mental health evaluation and a sign language interpreter on a case which created a shortfall within his budget. Councilwoman Richardson made a motion to pay the expense from Food & Beverage in lieu of an additional appropriation in General Fund, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. Vote 7-0 motion passed

In the Matter of Sheriff)

Major Brad Burkhart appeared before Council to report that the Advance Correctional is unable to do a clinic within our County. They work with Law Enforcement Correctional facilities only.

In the Matter of LOIT Applications)

Councilwoman Richardson reported to Council regarding the LOIT requests from other entities and her meeting with State Board of Accounts and DLGF on June 25th.

The result of the meeting is as follows:

- Transparency and Accountability in all funds with very strict guidelines will be implemented.
- Binding and Non-Binding budgets –DLGF wants every Council to do this and abide by the standards of the growth quotient.
- House enacted Bill 1004

Councilwoman Richardson drafted a letter to send to other entities and give to Council for their review regarding the other entities. Her suggestion is not give any monies for this year and study for next year.

Councilman Jessup feels the LOIT is inequitable to the unincorporated entities in our County. And feels it is unfair that they should foot the bill for the Sheriff budget. He suggested Council to set a priority list to fix the inequity of the statute. If it means rescinding the tax to make it equitable to the taxpayers then that is the right thing to do.

Councilwoman Richardson suggested a compromise stating that many of the townships/cities and towns have a city or town to ask for a portion of their LOIT.

Citizen John Priorie commented and disagreed with the compromise suggested by Councilwoman Richardson. Council has not even come to an agreement on how this should work. Mr. Priorie agreed with Councilman Jessup.

Steve Shambaugh appeared before Council inquiring why Council hired a weed control person at \$20.00 per hour, with standard part-time rate is \$12.00 per hour. Why was he hired at this rate? Councilman Bolander explained that the appropriated amount for the weed specialist can't exceed the budget. Mr. Shambaugh feels they should give employees a 26% raise as well since the weed specialist is getting a 26% raise. Councilman Roney advised that County is getting double duty with Mr. Simon filling both positions. Was the weed control position advertised? No This County is not an equal opportunity employer.

Councilman Bolander advised Mr. Shambaugh to take it up with the Commissioners.

Councilman Pasco made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. Vote 7-0 motion passed.

Meeting adjourned
Approved this date:

Aye

Nay

Attest: _____
Robin D. Lowder
Auditor