

Hancock County Council Minutes
August 10, 2011

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the Commissioner Court in the Hancock County Courthouse Annex, Greenfield, Indiana, on the 10th day of August 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 Highway Department)

(2) Employees from the County Highway Department appeared before Council to address the issue of the need for raises to the employees and money being spent on other things. “Employees are working hard but have not seen any raise to their paychecks” with the cost of living for families. Good employees will be leaving county government.

In the Matter of the 2012 Budget)

Councilman Shelby reported on the status of the County 2012 budget.

- Our current deficient in the 2012 budget is approximately \$850,000.
- Greg Guerrettaz, Financial Solutions has advised that the Redevelopment Bond is running very close to going on the County property tax roles for the debt payments. Auditor advised, a letter was received from Umbaugh that this is not going to happen this year. Councilman Shelby advised the Council will need to be aware and this is a flag they are running close
- CAGIT income for 2012 will be the same as 2011 for the County as a whole. We had factored in CAGIT at 9%.
- Possible cut to medical benefits

- Use remaining LOIT public safety tax increase available of .1% and this is the recommendation of the budget committee.

In the Matter of the County Bond)

Commissioner Armstrong appeared before Council to address the issue of the AT& T Bond and the possibility of bonding other capital expenses and the County issuing (2) bonds.

- The E911 Revenue bond will be paid in full in 2011
- Contract needs renewed for AT& T
- Competitive bids have been offered but AT& T is the only possibility due to others being in legal issues.
- The contract is in the amount of \$1,151,500
- Console radio system is needed for E911 Center, they are over 25 years old and the cost is \$306,355
- Gallahue Mental Health lawsuit-\$315,000 (court ordered)
- County Financial software-\$131,470
- County Property Tax software
- County parking lot
- County telephone system-\$110,000
- Replacement of jail roof
- Courthouse roof damage
- Phone system wiring in the Prosecutor's Office

After Council discussion, the Council made recommendations:

Councilwoman Richardson addressed the public, that these issues seem worse than they are. We currently have bonds being paid off and the bond \$ will be less than our current bonds. The paving of the parking lot should not be placed in the bond and salaries can't either. These bonds are only to be used for capital expenses.

Councilman Shelby recommends two (2) bonds, one for AT & T and the other for capital expenditures needed in our County. (1) Revenue and (1) General Obligation Bond at \$1.5 million. Councilman Shelby also requested flexibility in the bond to allow the expense to be expended as it is needed.

Councilman Pasco has issue with some the capital expenses mentioned being put into a bond. He is concerned with the County just borrowing for things that could be paid from other sources.

Councilman Jessup is concerned about trickle down affect on Townships with the new consoles being purchased. Commissioner Towle explained about any issues and explained why they are important and benefit to all. At some point all the players of the E911 Center are going to have to contribute.

In the Matter of Senior Services)

Linda Hart, Director appeared before Council to report on Hancock Area Rural Transit and Hancock Senior Services.

In the Matter of Additional Appropriation for Reassessment)

Mary Noe, Assessor requested for Council to give approval to advertise an additional appropriation for the Reassessment fund in the amount of \$10,000. Postage that was not needed by Reassessment was sold to Clerk and she has reimbursed the fund and Assessor needs to have the \$10,000 additional appropriated in her postage line item. Councilman Shelby made a motion, seconded by Councilman Pasco to advertise and approve the transfer. 7-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Sheriff Retirement)

Sheriff Shepherd appeared before Council to request an amendment to the Retirement plan enabling officers to “buy in” years of service. Merit Board has approved this amendment and Sheriff has requested Council to approve as well with no cost to the County, only to the Officer. Councilman Shelby made a motion to approve the amendment, the motion seconded by Councilwoman Richardson. Vote 7-0 motion passed.

Public Comment)

John Priorie, addressed the Council, representing the public in the audience. They feel that the revenue is understated in the County. There is no need to bond money or raise LOIT . There are plenty of surpluses.

A taxpayer addressed the Council and her concerns about the bonds. She doesn't understand about the funds and why you can't use those funds to pay bills without bonding. She feels that her best interest is not being represented. Councilwoman Richardson addressed the taxpayers concerns along with Councilman Kirkwood.

Carolyn Flynn addressed the Council and her concerns about the bonds. She advised Council that her husband worked for Shelby County HR department and how he has helped Shelby County and he has saved all this money for them. She questioned CCD and the amount in the fund. As explained by Councilman Shelby it is obligated money it has not accumulated. Her concern is the bonding of County money.

Councilwoman Richardson left the meeting.

Councilman Kirkwood made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Pasco. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

Meeting adjourned

Approved this date:

Aye	Nay
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Attest: _____
Robin D. Lowder
Auditor