

Hancock County Council

AUGUST 12, 2015 8:30 AM

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
COURTROOM
111 American Legion Place
Greenfield, Indiana 46140

MEETING CALLED BY	Council President Bill Bolander The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the Commissioner Court in the Courthouse Annex, Greenfield, Indiana, on the 12th day of August 2015 at the hour of 8:30 A.M. in accordance with the rules of the Council.
ATTENDEES	Bill Bolander, Randy Sorrell Kent Fisk and Debbie Bledsoe, John Jessup and Jim Shelby. Tom Roney(absent) Also attending, County Attorney, Ray Richardson, Deputy Auditor Ginny Martin and Auditor Robin Lowder

Minutes

Meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

In the Matter of Superior Court II)

Judge Marshall appeared before Council to request a replacement of an employee, Larry McGuire as Assistant Court Reporter. He will be leaving August 31, 2015 but the replacement will not begin until September 21, 2015. Councilman Fisk made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Councilman Sorrell. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Additional Appropriations)

President Bolander, opened public hearing for the following additional appropriations and reductions:

Fund 2499 Campaign Finance Fund in the amount of \$25.00

No public comments.

Public Hearing closed.

Councilman Fisk made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Councilwoman Bledsoe. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Vernon Township)

James Nolte, Vernon Township Trustee appeared before Council requesting the County to fund the township ambulance service from LOIT funds.

Mr. Nolte: Contractors have the ability to see the budgets through the open door policy that makes it a more competitive dollar figure. I have been working with Randy Seals to maintain our ALS ambulance service and also competition from other townships to take over our ALS service. In (3) years Seals will no longer exist and the competing companies know how much is in our bank.

With a (3) year contract in the amount of \$50,000 per year, I am not able to lock down that contract. Being financially responsible, I am unable to spend what I don't currently have. With the Circuit Breaker caps what they are, and located in a municipal building with the Town of Fortville, they also want more money and Vernon Township is financially strapped.

I have to consider a new building and property to purchase. I need a one-time support of LOIT funds in the amount \$50,000. This will allow me to move forward and sign a contract for (3) years which will be the end of my term.

I can't sign a contract without knowing I have the money to cover it.

Councilman Shelby: Mr. Nolte have you approached the legislators to allow an increase of the levy for ambulance service to the Township.

Councilman Jessup stated that it was a 5 year process.

Mr. Nolte: answered he did not know that was possible. My problem is I have to sign a contract now. The cost jumps through the roof and is \$400,000 to \$700,000.

County Attorney, Ray Richardson advised Mr. Nolte that the application for this process is July 1, 2015. Auditor received the application on July 22, 2015. Mr. Nolte stated he was not aware of a July 1 deadline. I was attempting to work all avenues with no response.

Mr. Nolte: McCordsville is also concerned about separation of the fire departments on the north side of the tracks and have been trying to get a fire department station on the north side.

Councilman Shelby: Why is McCordsville and Fortville not willing to help support Vernon Township with their portion of LOIT?

Mr. Nolte: As of last night meeting, (2) of the Council members had a separate meeting and say all the LOIT money is tied up with fire hydrant rental in Fortville. They are moving the money from one pot to another and required by the Indiana Regulatory Commission. McCordsville amount of LOIT is \$176,000 per year and will be used for this rental.

The point is McCordsville will not budge and they have increased our contract from \$2,400 to \$3,000 to \$3,500 for a 3 years for our truck storage. Vernon Township since 2006 has paid lease money to the Town of Fortville to fight fires in Fortville. This is the reality of it.

They are trying to drive me out but I can't afford to pay \$70,000 per acre lots at a minimum of 10 acres and build a station as well. I have to stay within the \$2,000,000 mark with our assessed value.

Councilman Shelby: What about McCordsville?

Mr. Nolte: McCordsville has a municipal building built and instead of asking me to possibly putting an ambulance located there, they have courted Buck Creek or vice a versa.

They had it prearranged that a bay be included for Buck Creek Fire to house overnight ambulance service with a fee to be paid by McCordsville, Buck Creek has (3) ambulances. McCordsville would like that ambulance to be in their home town. Is there going to be a need on the north side of the tracks once blocked? We need ambulance coverage on both sides and that is why Buck Creek has more than they can pay and want McCordsville and Vernon to pay for it. I told them Vernon has only so many tax dollars, and already covering Vernon Township so how do they think that Vernon can pay for any additional.

This has been the delay in my LOIT requests. If the contract is not signed with Seals and allows the new company to come in next year, it could be \$500,000 to \$700,000. Then I could be taken over by Buck Creek. I don't want to leave my term giving up ambulance service for Vernon Township.

Councilman Shelby: What is the downside of Buck Creek Township taking it over if they want to?

Mr. Nolte: Buck Creek is "super" but when they get an E911 call, there are (3) men on duty and they will jump in as fireman and/or respond as an

emergency ambulance. When you are in a fire truck and someone is in the building that needs medical assistance it doesn't do a lot of good to only have one truck there. At least with our service we have (2) ALS paramedics and fire trucks from both stations, and Seals that comes to every call we make. So we have that advantage of having fireman and at least (2) more paramedics at the scene. We have a minimum of 5 people at every scene.

Councilman Shelby: Do you cover Green Township?

Mr. Nolte: Yes, short of actually Ingalls this is only on a mutual aid basis. We have a contract and it will bring in \$42,900 for 2016.

Councilman Sorrell interjected the conversation and stated there are (2) different Green Townships being discussed.

After further conversation Mr. Nolte was referring to Madison County, Green Township and Councilman Shelby was referring to Hancock County, Green Township. For clarification the contract referred to earlier is with Green Township in Madison County.

If I received this one-time only help of \$50,000 Vernon Township would be fine moving forward. It just can't be done now without the help. And I can't sign a contract now.

Councilman Jessup: This is the only option to give Township LOIT dollars under State Statute. You received LOIT dollars last year, met the deadline, but the deadline was missed for this year. There is a huge sigh of relief on this side of the table that we don't have the political will power to tell you no or explain why. We don't have any money. And I am a huge sigh of relief for not having to tell you yes or no, of course I am being facetious. The deadline was missed.

Mr. Nolte: I express gratitude for the help that Vernon Township received last year. We purchased equipment with the \$31,000 we received. We have downsized, cut back on trucks and settled for used equipment. It is sad that the tax money is being taken from the taxpayer and can't cover expenses in the Township. Once the Towns see that money coming in they do not like anyone asking for a portion of it.

Councilman Shelby: Mr. Nolte you need to ask the State Representative or Senator to make the case for the levy increase.

Mr. Nolte: it is only a one-time thing and once the State gets involved there are delays. We want to build our own station. The intent is in (3)

years we can be self-sustaining, working with Seals personnel now, we would have our own training and medical service.

Councilman Shelby: but not self-sustaining financially?

Mr. Nolte: I am not saying it doesn't come with strings. But it beats someone saying we want \$700,000.

Councilman Shelby: Isn't there competition for these contracts?

Mr. Nolte: Fire Territories and Districts have not worked out for many of the areas. We have been trying to avoid this.

Councilman Shelby: We have helped some Townships on a one-time basis get things done.

Mr. Nolte: Since 2007 when LOIT was implemented, Vernon Township, until last year has not received any of this revenue. All money goes to the Towns.

Councilman Shelby: That is a legislature issue.

Mr. Nolte: There was a change in that law that allowed us to request a portion of the funds from the Towns. The Town of McCordsville and Town of Fortville have said no. They have it spent.

It is a volunteer department that already needs to go through the pay standby situation and it is a pride issue. And I had put the money in for this as opposed to paying for fireman. They just celebrated 125 years of being a volunteer fire department and you say anything about being a pay standby and they go off the deep end. It is a sensitive situation.

McCordsville runs like a machine and Fortville runs like chaos. We do have a new Township Chief and a new board so we are working in that direction.

Councilman Shelby: If we give you this one-time only will this allow you to move forward and resolve for the long term?

Mr. Nolte: Absolutely, I have a long term plan.

Councilman Shelby: What is your long term plan?

Mr. Nolte: My long term plan is to have all of my fire department ready to take over. Randy Seals is willing to support that plan, knowing that once he is gone in 3 years, his name, rights, will be sold. He doesn't have to settle with them any amount after the 3 years.

Councilman Bolander: Is Buck Creek willing to take care of this for you?

Mr. Nolte: They are more than willing to come in, but I have a board that I am listening to, and my board doesn't want that. There again, I would end up with (3) EMT's and not the quality of service we have had.

Councilman Bolander: Are they not Paramedics?

Mr. Nolte: Buck Creek have EMT's highly trained, but they are not the people that can administer the full capabilities of a Doctor, which is what ALS is, and what Randy Seals is able to do. Mel Branson is trained as a medic but Buck Creek have no ALS, only Randy Seals. The Paramedics that Seals provides basically can call, show the Doctor the readings of an EKG. etc. and administer treatment. They are Doctor's in the field.

Councilwoman Bledsoe: What does Buck Creek do if they have a heart attack victim, and no EMS?

Mr. Nolte: Buck Creek calls a sister station to back them up. Seals at times have to back up Buck Creek. On a bus crash accident we had Seals had (4) ambulances and Buck Creek had (1). The quality of service we are getting does cost us.

Vernon Township and Seals, I say we, charges less money than all the surrounding Townships.

Councilman Shelby: Wouldn't you agree that either you get an increase levy or join a Fire Territory or District?

Councilman Fisk: You don't have to use the increase in levy unless you need it. But I am not confident that in (3) years you will not be back saying you don't have enough money. I am not being negative on this because everyone knows how I feel about ALS. If we can't provide this, we should close the doors.

Councilman Shelby: It is not the County responsibility; it is the Township to provide ALS services.

Mr. Nolte: But the money doesn't come to us. If I received the LOIT money to begin with, and it was proportionally split in Senate Bill 427. We would have had our share of what the people are being taxed for.

Councilman Jessup: The money we get represents the people that live in un-incorporated areas. But we really don't care about all of you. We have discussed this for years. There are some who have done everything to shut down the process. You know I want to help you and there is \$900,000 LOIT in Rainy Day but we can't touch that.

Mr. Nolte: I am going to be without a station in Fortville. I have 7 pieces of equipment sitting. If it was an easy fix, it would have been done. Fortville wants us out and that's their way of pushing us out by increasing our contract.

Councilman Bolander and Councilman Shelby: Why do they want you out?

Mr. Nolte: I don't know, they have \$34,000 per year in their pocket right now. They want more space, the Clerk more storage, Police Chief more space for his records. They want us to get rid of a fire truck for them to have more space. The point is, in last night meeting, they want a whole bay and to increase the rent knowing I can't cover it. We don't have the place for our volunteer fire department, no space to hang their hoses and a shared day room.

Councilman Fisk: It is not the fault of the people of Fortville for this and the non- coordination of government entities.

Mr. Nolte: But I am going down with the ship here.

Councilman Fisk made a motion to approve a one-time \$50,000 from Food & Beverage the motion seconded by Councilman Jessup. Councilman Sorrell requested to speak regarding the motion made. No vote taken.

Councilman Sorrell: I had a two hour meeting with someone on the Advisory Board the other day with this issue. I knew there was a request for LOIT. But I told him, that time had passed, and nothing would be coming from LOIT. That there were people here thinking there would be more conversation coming out of this today. I feel awkward that I said this, and it probably would not go anywhere today. I understand the concerns and there is more than meets the eye. There are differences between the Town and Township, and your Board is not unified either. When do you have to give Seals your contract? Mr. Nolte stated January 1, 2016. I feel there needs to be some fact finding and not deal with this today.

Councilman Bolander: Councilman Fisk do you want to amend your motion?

Councilman Fisk: Not really.

County Attorney, Ray Richardson advised you have to have an inter-local agreement with Vernon Township, if you approve this, so it can't happen today. You can request that an inter-local agreement be drawn up.

Councilman Fisk: I amend my motion to enter into an inter-local agreement with Vernon Township. Motion was seconded by Councilman Jessup. No vote taken.

Councilman Shelby made a motion to table Councilman Fisk amended motion. It was seconded by Councilman Bolander. Vote 4-2 motion passed to table.

Councilman Sorrell: When is your next meeting with your board?

Mr. Nolte: I have cancelled my standard monthly meetings with the board.

Councilman Fisk and Councilman Sorrell are working together to present the facts to the Council.

In the Matter of Confirming Resolution for Stanley Access)

Skip Kuker, Economic Development Council appeared before Council.

Council President, Bill Bolander opened public hearing on Confirming Resolution introduced in July 8, 2015 meeting.

No public comment.

Public Hearing closed.

Councilman Jessup made a motion to adopt Resolution 2015-8-1 for Stanley Access, seconded by Councilman Sorrell. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Assessor)

Mary Noe, Assessor appeared before Council to request for replacement of an employee. Councilman Fisk made a motion to approve, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Sheriff Department)

Brad Burkhart, Sheriff Department and John Jokantas, E911 Director appeared before Council regarding the funding of DMS software purchase for County employees. Councilman Shelby made a motion to approve a budget transfer within Food & Beverage in the amount of \$8,308 the cost of the Power DMS software for 2015. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sorrell. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Art's Council Request)

Steve Smith, Hancock County Art's Council appeared before Council to request funding, reporting how the Art's Council functions. Commissioner Stevens advised Council that Mr. Smith needs to come their board first. He will be put on Commissioner agenda for the next meeting.

In the Matter of the Clerk)

Marcia Moore, Clerk appeared before Council to request \$20,889.22 for the purchase of DS200 reading machines for voters. Councilman Shelby made a motion to approve the purchase of the additional voting equipment to be funded by Food & Beverage. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bledsoe. Vote 5-1 motion passed.

In the Matter of Fortville Library Appointment)

Council received a letter from the Fortville Library that they need to vote in a new appointee. The recommendation for this appointment is Mona Newman. Councilman Jessup made a motion to approve Mona Newman to the Fortville Library Board. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sorrell. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Sheriff Bonus)

Sheriff Mike Shepherd appeared before Council to discuss the approval of Resolution 2015-8-1.

County Council Resolution No. 2015-8-1

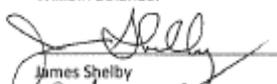
Resolution Regarding Sheriff's Bonus

Be it resolved by the County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, that in 2016 the Sheriff will be eligible for a \$5,000.00 bonus if the Sheriff meets the following goals in 2015:

- (a) Keep accurate records and make a monthly report to the County Auditor of :
 - (1) the number and cost of meals served to prisoners
 - (2) the activity of the Commissary Fund
 - (3) the disposition of assets obtained by seizures.
- (b) Keep the quality and quantity of meals served to at least the standard of the previous year.
- (c) Hold the food cost per meal served to \$0.47 less than the state meal allowance for prisoners. Should the Sheriff hold the cost to \$0.51 less than the state meal allowance for prisoners per meal, the bonus will be increased by an additional \$2,500.00.

Adopted this 12th day of August, 2015.

Hancock County Council

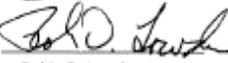

William Bolander

James Shelby

Debra Bledsoe

Randy Sorrell

Thomas Roney

John Jessup

Kent Fisk
Attest: 
Robin D. Lowder
Hancock Co Auditor

Sheriff Shepherd has reached all the goals set by Council with the exception of the State meal allowance. Therefore for this year the amount he will receive \$5,000 instead the \$7,500. Councilman Fisk made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-8-1. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bledsoe. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

Councilman Shelby made a motion to pay the Sheriff for 2015-2016 the amount of \$5,000 Sheriff Bonus. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bledsoe. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Court Security Officer)

Sheriff Shepherd addressed the issue of a new Court Security Officer that was discussed in the budget meeting. Councilman Shelby reported that it was the recommendation, to move the current part-time Jail Officer to a full-time position. The part-time line item will be reduced in LOIT. Brad Burkhart interjected that there is an amount of \$28,000 to be moved to new Officer line. Councilman Fisk made a motion to approve the position and the necessary transfers to the appropriate line items. Motion was seconded by Councilman Sorrell. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of a Narcotics Officer)

Councilman Shelby advised that a proposal was to be presented to the Council and a process for the establishment of a Task Force and the need for a Narcotics Officer, to involve all cities and towns in Hancock County as a joint Task Force.

Sheriff Shepherd advised Council that proposal was email to all the Council members.

Jeff Rashe, Sheriff Department, head of investigation appeared before Council to present proposal.

Councilman Fisk made a motion to additionally appropriate the LOIT-Public Safety Fund in the amount of \$100,000 for the next (3) years to hire a new Narcotics Officer and to establish a Task Force.

Also, in motion to transfer the cash from the Rainy Day Fund where a portion of the LOIT money is being held. Motion was seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

Council approved the advertisement of additional appropriation in the amount of \$100,000 in the LOIT-Public Safety Fund. And once through the appropriation process the cash will be transferred to LOIT-Public Safety.

In the Matter of 2016 Budget)

Councilman Shelby reported to Council the recommendations of the Budget Committee for the 2016 budget.

- Overspent amount for 2016 is \$250,000
- Move Mass Notification in the amount of \$19,800 from General Fund to E911 Operating Fund.
- Sheriff retirement reduce another \$25,000
- Reduction of the Sheriff fuel by \$60,000
- Reduce \$100,000 for the E911 Dispatchers in Commissioners budget.
- Health Department reduced by \$30,000 for the Group Insurance

Councilman Shelby made a motion to approve the recommendations as mentioned above. Motion was seconded by Councilwoman Bledsoe. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

In the Matter of Coroner)

Councilman Shelby made a motion to approve the budget transfers within the Coroner’s budget due to budget shortfall, allowing the Auditor in the amount of \$4,000 to move budget lines to correct . Motion was seconded by Councilman Fisk. Vote 6-0 motion passed.

Councilman Fisk made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 6-0 Meeting adjourned.

Approved this date:	
AYE	NAY

Attest: Hancock County Auditor
