Hancock County Council Minutes
March 13, 2019

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURTROOM
111 American Legion Place
Greenfield, Indiana 46140

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the Commissioner Court in the Courthouse Annex, Greenfield, Indiana, on the 13th day of March 2019 at the hour of 8:36 am in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers William Bolander, James Shelby, Debra Bledsoe, Kent Fisk, Jeannine Gray, Martha Vail and Mary Noe were in attendance. Also attending, County Attorney Scott Benkie, Auditor Debra Carnes, Deputy Auditor Mary Bowmer and Deputy Auditor Trish George

President Bolander opened the meeting with “Pledge of Allegiance” and a moment of silence.

Hancock Public Library Annual Report
- Dave Gray welcomed Michelle Hasty to the Hancock Public Library Board.
- The Hancock County Library is funded through 59% (LIT) local income tax, 35.17% is from CAGIT, 5.09% from License Excise, 2.36% from Fines & Fees and .09% from FIT.
- The Budget is at 59% for Salaries and Benefits, 20% for Library Collection, 17% Other Services and Charges, 2% Supplies and 2% Capital Outlays.
- Hancock Library is below on State Averages for Salaries & Benefits (62.38%) and Library Collection is considerably higher at 20%.
- New Sugar Creek Branch on 5.25 acres, 15,000 sq. ft, 3 small study rooms, large meeting room, youth program room, geothermal heating.
- Dave Gray would like to thank Hancock Health for the Youth Program Room, Greenfield Banking Company for the Community Room, Hancock County Community Foundation for the Study Room. Martha Willis for the Study Room, Dr Ralph and Grace Rea for the Memorial Building.

Salary Ordinance Amendment/New Deputy Prosecutor
- Brent Eaton, Hancock County Prosecutor requested an additional appropriation of $63,465 for the new deputy prosecutor position created last month. Councilmembers agreed 7-0 to advertise.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to adopt Salary Ordinance Amendment 2019-3C. Councilmember Vail seconded. Motion carried 7-0.
- Brent requested salary ordinance changes for a new hire from Superior Court 2, Prosecutor decrease of $2,234, a new hire Investigator decrease of $2,020 and increases for four legal secretaries. This will be effective retroactive March 24th. Councilmember Fisk made a
motion to adjust salary changes as presented. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations**

- **Open Public Hearing 9:01 am.** Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations for Fund 1235 LIT PSAP $772,950. John Jokantas, Director E-911 moving from 1153 to 1235 which is leaving the 7 year contract fund with Greenfield and moving to the LIT Fund. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 9:07 am.** Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve Fund 1235 LIT PSAP for $722,950. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- **Open Public Hearing 9:07 am.** Public Hearing for Reduction Appropriations for Fund 1153 E911 for $674,950. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 9:07 am.** Councilmember Bledsoe made a motion to approve Reduction Appropriations for Fund 1153 E911 for $674,950. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- **Open Public Hearing 9:08 am.** Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations for Fund 8950 IPEP Grant for $3,784. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 9:09 am.** Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve Additional Appropriations for Fund 8950 IPEP Grant for $3,784. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- **Open Public Hearing 9:09 am.** Public Hearing for Additional Appropriations for Fund 1213 CASA for $15,237. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 9:09 am.** Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve Additional Appropriations for Fund 1213 CASA for $15,237. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**GDI Companies LLC/Real Property Abatement**

Randy Sorrell discussed abatements for GDI Companies LLC on two buildings at the Mt. Comfort Project. Ron Pritzke represents GDI Companies LLC and is requesting a 10 year Tax Abatements for two buildings. Mike Sheets with GDI presented building specifications. The buildings will be mid-size with 100 parking spots per building, employ about 25 people and could be used for light manufacturing. Councilmember Fisk questioned the amount of truck traffic and traffic signals that may be needed. Councilmember Noe does not have a problem with warehouses, she feels warehouses are in demand and there is competition for them county wide. Councilmember Noe is concerned with salaries at a lower tier and not being conducive to supporting a family. Councilmember Fisk pointed out a salary less than $28,000 requires government subsidies. Commissioner Shelby questioned if infrastructure assistance is requested. Ron Pritzke answered yes they are asking the Redevelopment Commission for some assistance on some public infrastructure from the TIF. The site falls within the TIF district and County Road 400 North is narrow and needs improvement and extending sewer to this location. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve abatements for GDI Companies for County Road 400 N & County Road 600 W. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. Councilmember Bolander called for a vote. Councilmember Vail voted “NAY”. **Motion carried 6-1.**
Jail Maintenance Issues/Update Zoey's Place

- Sheriff Brad Burkhart notified County Council the HVAC System was failing and needed to be upgraded. The system and parts are becoming obsolete and the cost is outrageous. Sheriff Burkhart presented a proposal from Fitzgerald North for $118,050 to replace the HVAC system. Councilmember Vail concerned with spending $118,050 on an HVAC system with the jail being relocated. Sheriff Burkhart concerned with 230 inmates without heat or air conditioner. Councilmember Gray made a motion to pay Fitzgerald North $118,050 for HVAC system in current jail. To be determined at a later date from what account to pay. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

- Commissioner Shelby inquired about an update on Zoey's Place. Sheriff Burkhart clarified Sergeant Foy was seeking funding for a support system to interview children involved in crimes. A house off-site, a safe place, rather than a jail, for interviewing children (victims of crimes) in a more compassionate way. Sheriff Burkhart would like a private house to interview children (victims of crimes) rather than a jail.

- Sheriff Burkhart visited a completed RQAW jail POD in Knox County and a new RQAW POD in Green County. Sheriff Burkhart said it was nice to see what they have accomplished, he took pictures and gathered many ideas.

Replace Employee

Josh Sipes (Chief Probation Officer) would like to replace a secretary moving to another county office. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to replace Probation Secretary. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Ag Associates

Josh Phares (President Hancock County Ag Association) requested funds for bathrooms. Bathrooms are not ADA compliant. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to fund $60,000 to remodel fairground bathrooms to be ADA compliant. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Nexus Agreement/Audit Abatements

Debra Carnes (Auditor) requested approval for NEXUS Agreement for auditing abatements for personal and real property. Katie Molinder is in agreement. For $5500 NEXUS will verify compliance and make their fee back in finding errors. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve $5500 for NEXUS to provide abatement review to be paid from CCD. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Purchase Election Equipment/HAVA Grant

Lisa Lofgreen (Clerk) requested approval to update election equipment due to concerns with last election loosing connections. This is a four year agreement for an additional $45K and this will complete the purchase. This will save $10K a year. Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve $42,364.11 for election equipment to be taken from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**
**Coroner's Office**

Dave Stillinger (Coroner's Office) requested $3900 additional to update for IPADS. Dave said this will enable investigators to be linked to their office and have information more easily accessible. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve $3,900 from Food & Beverage to purchase additional IPADS. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Budget Discussion**

Councilmember Shelby discussed budget target minimum balance:

- General Fund changing it to $5M was $3M
- EDIT changing it to $300K
- CUM Capital changing it to $1.5M was $1M
- Health changing it to $250K
- Highway changing it to $1M
- Rainy Day $6M (Keep)
- LOIT Public Safety changing it to $700K
- Food & Beverage changing it to $200K instead of $500K
- Medical Insurance Reserve

Councilmember Noe made a motion to adopt these targeted minimum balances for these funds. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Debt Management Policy**

Councilmember Shelby discussed changing the Debt Management Policy. Councilmember Gray and Noe reminded Council to change wording on Page 2 where it talks about “short-term debt” to add wording “and/or real estate”. Councilmember Noe made a motion to adopt the Debt Management Policy that was presented with changing wording for “short-term debt” to include wording “and/or real estate”. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Merit Increase**

Councilmember Noe and Councilmember Gray attended a meeting Merit Board meeting with discussion on deputy merit increases. The board wants to consider dropping deferment retirement option available to deputies. Councilmember Noe handed out to all Councilmembers the ICD code for their review. Councilmember Noe clarified Councilmember Bollander wanted Greg Guerrettaz (Financial Consultant) to review and give a recommendation. Councilmember Noe will forward to Greg. Councilmember Noe confirmed at the next Budget Meeting this can be discussed further.

**Rescheduled Budget Meeting/Council Meeting**

- Next Budget meeting scheduled for April 16th at 1 pm.
- Next County Council meeting scheduled for April 17th at 8:30 am.
11:12 AM ADJOURN

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Gray seconded. M**otion** carried 7-0.

Approved this day: March 13, 2019

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Attest: __________________________
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor