

Hancock County Council

October 10, 2018

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 10th day of October 2018 at the hour of 8:30 am in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Council Members William Bolander, James Shelby, Debra Bledsoe, Kent Fisk, Jeannine Gray, Martha Vail and Randy Sorrell were in attendance.

Also attending, County Attorney Ray Richardson, Auditor Robin Lowder, Deputy Auditor Mary Bowmer and Deputy Auditor Trish George

Minutes

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

Public Hearing W 350 N Land

Open Public Hearing 8:32 am for W 350 N Land. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 8:32 am.** Councilmember Fisk made a motion to confirm Resolution 2018-10-2. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Public Hearing Alliance Interstate Park

Open Public Hearing 8:32 am for Alliance Interstate Park. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 8:32 am.** Councilmember Fisk made a motion to confirm Resolution 2018-10-3. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Public Hearing Additional Appropriation/Food & Beverage

Open Public Hearing 8:45 am for Additional Appropriation for Food & Beverage \$250,000. No public comment. **Closed Public Hearing 8:45 am.** Councilmember Gray made a motion to approve additional appropriation for Food & Beverage (Fund 7201). Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption Hancock County 2019 Budget

Councilmember Sorrell made a motion to adopt Hancock County 2019 Budget as presented. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption Hancock County Solid Waste District 2019 Budget

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to adopt Hancock County Solid Waste District 2019 Budget. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Adoption Hancock County Public Library 2019 Budget

Councilmember Bledsoe made a motion to adopt Hancock County Public Library 2019 Budget. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

E-911 Center New Hire (Replace Employee)

John Jokantas with E911 requested to replace an employee. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to allow E911 center to replace an employee. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Additional Appropriation/\$20,000 Surveyor

Councilmembers approved advertisement of additional appropriation of \$20,000 for Susan Bodkin, Surveyor.

Additional Appropriation/NASA \$16,000

Brad Burkhart with Sheriff's Office requested appropriation of the NASA Grant (Neighbors Against Substance Abuse) for \$16,000. The grant was acquired late due to being tied up in sanctuary cities. Councilmembers approved advertisement of additional appropriation of \$16,000.

Coroner Budget Transfer for Deputies

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to transfer \$4,000 from autopsy to deputy salaries. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Commissioners Budget Transfer Weed Line Item.

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve transfer of \$5,000 for Weed Specialist. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Approve Council Minutes September 12, 2018

Councilmember Bledsoe made a motion to approve Council Minutes 9-12-18 as presented with one change. Councilmember Sorrell seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Councilmember Sorrell left at 9:01 am.

Councilmember Sorrell returned at 9:27 am.

Salary Ordinance Amendment 2018-10B Pre-Trial Release Supervisor Officer

Josh Sipes requested funding for a Pre-Trial Release Officer. This officer would interview inmates to see if they should stay in jail or not. He will be paid \$19,133.20 from Food and Beverage Fund. Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve Salary Ordinance Amendment 2018-10B. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Recovery House Contract Termination

Josh Sipes Chief Probation Officer was notified by FSSA that the recovery house, Our Brothers Place/Our Sisters Place on Washington Street have lost certification. The recovery house can appeal to the state, but it could take 30 days to 6 months. The contract is for 16 beds for \$48,000. The loss of recovery works certification is a breach of contract. This affects us because we can no longer receive recovery works money for using them. Josh requested authority to review and terminate the contract if necessary.

Also, Josh is holding current claims for future payment. Per the contract, if the recovery house is ineligible to accept federal or state programming this is a cause for breach of contract. They are required to be notified by letter ten days before termination. Commissioners approved Probation to initiate the termination process with Our Brothers Place/Our Sisters Place Recovery House due to breach of contract. Josh noted Hancock County has a 55% recovery completion (no arrest, drugs) versus the 13% national average. Councilmember Shelby expressed appreciation for Josh's hard work toward the recovery program.

completion (no arrest, drugs) versus the 13% national average. Councilmember Shelby expressed appreciation for Josh's hard work toward the recovery program.

Auditor Robin Lowder requested more detail with reports to show how many beds we are using in the recovery houses. State Board request more detail with reports to show the number of beds used for recovery (what is paid and actually used).

Additional Appropriation Public Defender \$125,000

Councilmembers approved advertisement of additional appropriation for John Apple, Public Defender for \$125,000 (\$110,000 from 1001.31803.000.0068 and \$15,000 from 1001-31901-000.0068).

Jail Discussion

Councilmember Shelby talked about three options for the jail overcrowding situation. Option 1 - temporary jail trailers downtown for \$7M. Option 2 - temporary trailers at county farm for \$9M. Option 3 - RQAW builds a pod at county farm that transitions to permanent jail for \$10.5M. Councilmember Shelby talked with Greg Guerrettaz, Financial Consultant on funding Option 3, Phase 1 for the permanent jail. Greg speculated 5-6 basis points would be needed to finance operating costs of the jail. We have 20 basis points, which would leave 14 basis points for paying off capital cost. To implement an income tax January 1st, this would need to be introduced today, then a second meeting in ten days. Councilmember Bolander likes Option 3. Councilmember Fisk would like to look at a 20 year pay off, he is concerned other projects that need work will be pushed out. Councilmember Fisk would like to look at all options for placement of the jail to compare with county farm site. Councilmember Vail is in favor of Option 3 but wants a 5 or 10 year pay off.

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to introduce Ordinance 2018-10C.

The public hearing will discuss an income tax increase to fund and address the jail overcrowding situation. Councilmembers agreed and scheduled a County Council Meeting on 10/22/18 at 6PM to discuss jail options and funding before the public hearing scheduled at 7PM. Robin Lowder, Auditor clarified money from this January 2019 income tax will not be available until mid February to appropriate. Councilmember Shelby would like Greg Guerrettaz, Financial Consultant present for these meetings and to forward information to Councilmembers.

Councilmember Sorrell made a motion to hold a County Council Meeting 10/22/18 at 6PM and Public Hearing 10/22/18 at 7PM. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Brad Burkhart is concerned with overcrowding at the jail. There are currently 237 inmates in the facility and 58 are out of county. That's a total of 295 inmates. Level 6 (sentenced) has 41

inmates in Lagrange County and 10 inmates in Davies County. In order to do recovery, these inmates cannot be brought back. Brad requested clarification on the trailers for a temporary overcrowding fix. Councilmembers would like to look at Option 3, a pod built by RQAW that transitions to the permanent jail. Brad is concerned with the time frame for a pod to be built at the county farm. Brad would like the temporary trailers downtown for a quick temporary solution for jail overcrowding.

11:10 AM ADJOURN

Councilmember Sorrell made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Approved this day: October 10, 2018

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Attest: _____

Robin D. Lowder
Hancock County Auditor