

# Hancock County Council Minutes

May 13, 2020

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 May at the hour of 8:34 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers William Bolander with County Attorney Scott Benkie initiated the County Council conference call meeting from the Commissioners Court Room. Councilmembers James Shelby, Debra Bledsoe, Kent Fisk, Martha Vail, Jeannine Gray and Mary Noe participated by conference call along with Auditor Debra Carnes and Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer.

## **Public Hearing Red Rock Investment Partners**

- Councilmember Bolander **Opened the Public Hearing at 8:40 AM** for Red Rock Investment. Ron Pritzke (Attorney) representing Red Rock Investments along with Alexis Souder (KSM Location Advisor) and John Barker. Red Rock is looking at development with two industrial facilities (448,000 sq ft & 1M sq ft). Councilmember Bolander asked for public comments. No comments. Councilmember Bolander **Closed the Public Hearing at 8:40 AM**.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the Confirming Resolution 2020-5-2 for Red Rock Investment. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

*Councilmember Gray left the meeting at 8:39 AM due to connectivity issues.*

## **E-911 Replace Employee Request**

- John Jokantas (Director E-911) requested to replace an employee.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve a replacement employee for E-911. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

## **Community Corrections Replace Employee Request**

Jeff Rasche (Greenfield Police Chief) President of the Advisory Board for Community Corrections requested to replace the retiring Director of Community Corrections. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to allow the replacement of the Director of Community Corrections. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

*Councilmember Gray arrived in-person due to connectivity issues 8:45 AM*

### **AED for County Offices & Patrol Cars**

- Sheriff Burkhart requested Council's support to replace AEDs for county offices and patrol cars. He reminded Council last year Judge Snow discussed replacing AEDs in county offices. Sheriff Burkhart reminded Council it is increasingly difficult to find replacement batteries and parts for the older AEDs. A lease for \$65 a month would include monthly checks, maintenance and software updates for 5 years. Replacing all county offices and patrol vehicles would cost a total of \$60,840. The Board of Commissioners approved AEDs to go to County Council.
- Councilmember Fisk made a motion to lease AEDs for the county offices and patrol vehicles to be paid from CCD Fund. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Community Corrections Discussion**

- Board of Commissioners President Jessup notified County Councilmembers the Community Corrections Advisory Board made the decision Thursday to shut down the work release program temporarily. The decision was made due to shortfalls, declining numbers and the inability to self-sustain. About 10-12 employees will be furloughed or terminated. The Community Corrections space will be repurposed for the Sheriff's Department. The building will require modifications for the jail to utilize it. At the Sheriff's request, the Board of Commissioners recommended hiring 6 new officers in June to support this new area. The Board of Commissioners request \$100,000 be appropriated for modifications in this new area to meet the state requirements. The board further request to pay COBRA Insurance for 4 pay periods (roughly 60 days) from the insurance claim fund at a cost of \$20,000 for displaced employees. There is a concern for a couple employees that are close to retirement. The Severance/Sick Pay Line currently has a \$9,200 balance and there will be a \$30,000 shortfall.
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to transfer \$30,000 to Severance/Sick Pay line in Food & Beverage. Councilmember Gray seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Shelby recommended this expense be listed as a COVID-19 expense. Debra Carnes (Auditor) said FEMA will not allow us to recoup losses but will help to reimburse our PPE supplies and things of that nature. Debra is still looking into the Cares Act to see if salary or things of this nature with COVID-19 related expenses are covered other than supplies. The Auditor's office is tracking COVID-19 related expenses are covered. Sheriff Burkhart said they are keeping apprised of a DOJ grant for assistance with COVID-19 changes and related expenses.
- Councilmember Gray made a motion to allow up to \$100,000 to modify the Community Corrections area for jail space to be paid from the 2019 GO Bond. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Councilmember Shelby made a motion to allow Sheriff Burkhart to hire 6 jailers predicated on Greg Guerrettaz's (Financial Consultant) review of finances. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- Debra Carnes (Auditor) asked for clarification on COBRA for the 4 pay-periods for Community Corrections. Councilmember Gray made a reaffirming motion for \$20,000 from Claims Fund to supply the COBRA expenses for Community Corrections terminated employees. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **2021 Budget Discussion**

- Greg Guerrettaz (Financial Consultant) discussed the Sustainability Report with all county offices and County Council. Greg said pay increases have changed to no pay increase for 2021 at this point. Group Insurance will increase 7%. The full impact will fall in 2022. If our projections change our goal would be a possible raise for employees. Councilmembers all agreed. LIT Public Safety may decrease by 20% less, while property taxes are strong.
- The courts requested a magistrate versus a court commissioner. Judge Sirk explained the current court commissioner would be the magistrate paid by the state and not be part of the county budget.
- Councilmember Shelby clarified Sheriff Burkhart could hire the six new jailers. Greg would like to run the numbers for 6 new jailers.
- Josh Sipes (Probation) would like to discuss user fee losses and predictions for Probation.
- Greg requested all department heads review their budgets.

### **Human Resource Issues**

- Debra Carnes (Auditor) discussed outsourcing or hiring a Human Resource person. An HR person would be \$60,000 yearly, not including insurance or PERF. Debra informed Council the majority of counties have an HR person. She said while I understand this isn't the best time to discuss, it is a necessity.
- Commissioner Jessup said while it is not the best time to discuss for financial reasons; what we are going through with COVID-19 and the crises, it has become clear it is necessary. Hancock County has 250 employees and he doesn't know of any company that has 250 employees without a qualified Human Resource person. With the COVID-19 crisis it has been clear we need someone to navigate family medical leave and how to navigate unpaid leave. It is a bad time to ask, but we are years behind in asking. Councilmember Bolander agreed it is needed, but there are funding issues.
- Councilmember Gray said given her Human Resources background, I don't think we can afford not to at this time. It is a decade overdue. A good Human Resource person will handle more than just medical leave, they will manage policy, procedures and benefits.
- Councilmember Shelby said he agreed, but this is not the right time to be hiring. Councilmember Bolander said this will need to be looked at and could help avoid other expenses down the road.

### **Lauth Group Abatement**

- Randy Sorrell (Director HEDC) and Brady Jacoba with Lauth Group requested the standard 10-year abatement. This is outside the TIF area.
- Councilmember Shelby introduced Declaratory Resolution 2020-5-3 Camacho Industrial Resolution 2020-5-4 70 Connect II and Resolution 2020-5-5 70 Connect III & IV. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**
- A public hearing will be scheduled for June 10<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 AM.

### **COVID-19 Invoices**

Debra Carnes (Auditor) received invoices for PPE (mask, gloves hand sanitizer, etc.) for the County Offices. Councilmember Shelby made a motion to pay PPE invoices from Food & Beverage. Councilmember Bledsoe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Vernon Township Library Board Appointment**

Councilmember Bolander said Vernon Township Library Board had a member resign and they are requesting a new appointee. Councilmember Noe made a motion to appoint Michael Frischkorn to the Vernon Township Library Board Appointment. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Approve Council Minutes**

Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve Council Minutes for April 8, 2020 and March 19, 2020 as presented. Councilmember Vail seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Budget Meeting Update**

- Councilmember Shelby said the Budget Committee reviewed all funds and balances as of April 30 and were in good shape, except Community Corrections Project Income Fund. With changes being made, hopefully that balances soon.
- The County Attorney sent a letter to the Innkeepers telling them to remit their tax they have been collecting.
- Currently \$500,000 of Medical Funds is in the Economic Development Fund and \$500,000 in the Food & Beverage Fund for 2020. \$1M needs to be put in General Fund for Commissioner's Group Insurance.

### **Medical Funds Transfer**

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to transfer \$500,000 from Economic Development Fund and \$500,000 from Food & Beverage to Miscellaneous in each of those funds and make an Additional Appropriation of \$1M to the Commissioners General Fund Medical Insurance Line. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

### **Appropriate \$50,000 for Food & Beverage**

Councilmembers agreed 7-0 to Appropriate \$50,000 from Food & Beverage to County General Fund.

### **Councilmembers Discussed the next Council Meeting**

Councilmembers would like to meet in person for the next meeting. Councilmembers discussed IT Department setting-up the Commissioners Court for an updated broadcasting system. Councilmembers would like to follow the Governors recommendations for meetings. Councilmembers would like to do a Zoom meeting along with an in-person meeting for the next meeting. Councilmembers agreed with Board of Commissioners they would like to update the Commissioners Court Room.

### **E-911 Salary Ordinance 2020-5A**

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the E-911 Salary Ordinance 2020-5A. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Adjourn 11:17 AM**

Councilmember Gray made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Approved this day: May 13, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_  
William Bolander

\_\_\_\_\_  
Martha Vail

\_\_\_\_\_  
James Shelby

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeannine Gray

\_\_\_\_\_  
Debbie Bledsoe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Noe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kent Fisk

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor