

## Hancock County Council

June 10, 2009

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana, met in the Commissioner Court in the Hancock County Courthouse Annex, Greenfield, Indiana, on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2009 at the hour of 8:30 A.M. in regular meeting in accordance with the rules of the Council. Council members present were William Bolander, Jack Leonard, Rosalie Richardson, Jim Shelby, Brian Kirkwood and Dick Pasco and Tom Roney. Also present were Auditor, Linda Grass, Deputy Auditor Ginny Martin and County Attorney, Ray Richardson.

Council President William Bolander, who presided, called the meeting to order.

### **In the Matter of Letter to Legislators )**

Councilman Shelby made a motion by Resolution that a letter be sent to our Legislators and Kathy Richardson. This letter (see attached) was drafted by Councilwoman Richardson regarding the excess money that is left from the State taking over the Family and Children. Councilman Leonard seconded motion. Vote 7-0

### **In the Matter of Tax Abatement Status of KTR )**

President Bolander received a certified letter from KTR regarding their status and tax abatement CF-I compliance form. Councilman Pasco made a motion to approve KTR tax abatement and accept their compliance statement, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. Vote 7-0

### **In the Matter of Approval of May 13<sup>th</sup> minutes )**

Prior to approval of the May 13<sup>th</sup> minutes, Councilwoman Richardson stated that if amendments have been moved and seconded the amendments should be listed in the minutes. Councilman Shelby made a motion that all amendments be listed in the minutes. Motion seconded by Councilman Kirkwood. Vote 7-0

Amendments for May 13, 2009 minutes:

1. Councilwoman Richardson stated that there were issues that were not voted on at the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting but had motions made and seconded by Council. A vote was then taken by Council on the following:
  - Councilman Shelby made a Resolution that the Hancock County Clerk and IT Department work together and implement the new imaging software as soon as possible. This will relieve the off-site microfilming budget line of \$30,000. Councilman Pasco seconded. **Vote 7-0**

- Councilman Leonard moved that the Insurance deductibles be payed out of Food & Beverage. These deductibles are from past cases from the Sheriff department and are approximately \$75,000. Motion seconded by Councilman Pasco. **Vote 7-0**

Councilman Shelby stated that he wanted the sentence changed on the following paragraph to read as “with other entities or fees”.

- John Milburn, GIS technician, appeared before Council. He provided a copy of his Grant Impact Statement for the GIS grant that he is applying for. The Grant is for \$15,000 now and cost to County is \$6,000 per year after, for the enhancement of our current County GIS system. Some of the money can be recouped from the City of Greenfield possibly by combining into a single site at a later date. After Council discussion and questions, Councilman Shelby moved to allow the application of the GIS grant, seconded by Councilman Leonard with the objective that the GIS department looks at the options of cost sharing **with other entities or fees**. Vote 7-0

Councilman Shelby moved that the May 13<sup>th</sup> minutes be approved with the amendments that have been articulated. Councilman Kirkwood seconded. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of the CCD Fund        )**

Councilman Shelby introduced Resolution 2009-6-1 to require separate and specific Council approval for any expenditure from the CCD fund including the “other” line item. Council appropriated the entire CCD fund but resulting in monies that are “unappropriated” appropriated monies. This Resolution should say that all appropriations have to be specifically approved. Councilman Shelby stated after discussion with our county financial advisor, Greg Guerrettaz, the entire amount should be appropriated in our budget hearings however, a portion of entire amount is not committed to anything. The departments have designated amounts committed to them as a department. The County Council is in charge of the fund. Councilman Shelby made a motion to approve Resolution 2009-6-1 as stated by Councilman Leonard as follows. ”All CCD expenditures from the “other capital outlay” line item 4000-000-40-0050 other than specifically in the budget must be approved by the Council. Councilman Leonard seconded. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of the CCD Fund rate        )**

Councilman Shelby introduced Resolution 2009-6-2 to reauthorize the CCD Ordinance at the maximum rate of 0.05 for 2010 budget year. Councilman Shelby made a motion for the reauthorization of the CCD Ordinance at the maximum rate of 0.05 for the 2010 budget year, Councilman Pasco seconded. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of a Public Meeting )**

Councilman Shelby entered into the record that a public meeting will be held on June 18, 2009 at 4:30 am in the Planning Conference room regarding discussion of the Sheriff Retirement Plan, all Council and Commissioners are to be in attendance. Also on June 18, 2009 at 6:00 pm there will be a public meeting in the Commissioners Court regarding "future funding options" with a presentation given by Greg Guerrettaz our financial advisor.

**In the Matter of Budget )**

After Council discussion regarding preparing all budget information prior to the first part of September it was decided that the 2010 budget hearings will be held Thursday, September 3, 2009 beginning at 8:00 am. every 15 minutes leaving the larger budgets to the end of the day and allowing the meeting to go into the evening if necessary. Other taxing units will also have to be reviewed after our County budget is approved.

The budget estimate will be advertised on July 16, 2009 and the second advertisement will be on July 23, 2009. The regular Council meeting will then be on August 12, 2009 and serve also as a Public Hearing for the budget. The July Council meeting will be held on July 15, 2009. Councilman Shelby requested McCreehy and Keene come in at the next Council meeting regarding the Sheriff's retirement increase.

The Budget Committee has set a target amount for 2010 at \$15,200,000. The 2009 budget was \$15,913,000. We are reducing also by \$250,000 considering the rescue issue with City of Greenfield to be taken out of Food & Beverage Fund; negotiations will be taking place with the City of Greenfield regarding this issue.

**In the Matter of Additional Appropriation from Bio-Terrorism )**

Paperwork was provided to Council prior to meeting regarding the additional appropriation request for the Bio-Terrorism grant fund 1100. Pam Baker, office manager was unable to attend meeting. The request is for \$5,000 additional for purchase of equipment. This amount will cover expenses and needs appropriated into 1100-000-30-00098 miscellaneous expense. Councilman Leonard made a motion to allow the \$5,000 additional appropriation for the purchase of radios, copier/fax equipment. Councilman Shelby seconded. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of 2009---5% budget cut )**

Ginny Martin, Bookkeeper reported the 5% budget cuts were submitted by the departments in the amount of \$397,242 for the 2009 budget. Councilman Kirkwood, provided a thank you and cookies to all the departments for the participation in the budget cuts. Councilman Shelby reminded the Council that in 2010 efficiencies still need to continue and contact by Council still needs to occur on a regular basis with the departments.

**In the Matter of Tax Bills )**

Treasurer Phyllis Vest appeared before Council to report estimated costs for the outsourcing of the printing of this year's tax bills being mailed out the end of June. The postage is estimated at \$14,600, printing \$18, 205.38. Treasurer does not have it in her budget; the Auditor has agreed to transfer \$2,500 from Auditor budget to help with postage. Treasurer requested that Council increase her postage for 2010 budget. Office supplies will be \$0 after outsourcing is paid. Part-time money is also needed.

Treasurer requested for 2009, postage increase to \$4,000, office supplies to \$3,000, and part-time help to \$6,000. The part time help will be wiped out when Janice and Kathy take their time off available to them. And during tax collection time more part time help will be needed. Councilman Kirkwood asked why this expense is being outsourced. Treasurer explained that due to the cost of printer cartridges, hardship on printers, and that 2 statements must be printed, due to mandate from the State, outsourcing was the best option. It was not feasible to do the printing in house this year because of the timeframe.

Next year the Treasurer's office will have the same problem because the State is changing things again. Treasurer agreed to come back to Council after all her part time is used. Councilman Shelby requested that a notice go to all departments to see if anyone can help Treasure budget with office supplies once a definite amount is determined. Treasurer advised Council that their budget is very slim and she give back to the County 13% or 14% of her budget last year.

Break 9:40 am

**In the Matter of E911 )**

The E911 Advisory Board appeared before Council. John Jester was spokesman for the board with a report on the Operations of the E911 Center and to answer any questions regarding the replacement of personnel who have left employment. Councilwoman Richardson stated that Council wanted a statistical analysis done on the calls that come in to the E911 center. John Jester explained how all the calls that come in are routed. Councilman Shelby asked about the "outbound" calls and what they represent. John advised these are calls that the Center calls the Highway department, Power & Light, towns and street departments etc. Councilman Shelby requested that Ty Wooten, Director do a report showing the time of the calls by day, hour and week. After much discussion regarding the calls to E911 Center and the current staffing issues, Councilman Shelby feels that with the current budget situation added staff is not feasible at this

time. Councilwoman Richardson suggested if a new person is hired, could they be placed at a lower salary. Council requested that Ty Wooten come to the next Council meeting to speak with them personally. Councilman Leonard made a motion that the E911 Center be allowed to replace the position requested, seconded by Councilman Roney. Roll call vote 6-1

**Aye**

Tom Roney  
Jack Leonard  
Rosalie Richardson  
Brian Kirkwood  
Bill Bolander  
Dick Pasco

**Nay**

Jim Shelby

**In the Matter of Assessor )**

Carole Maynard, Assessor appeared before Council advising there are two more employees leaving the Assessor's office, Leta Leary and Debbie Sample-Kuntz. Carole requested replacing at least one of the positions. She requested replacing with part-time people and the rest of her staff will pick up the slack in the office. Councilman Pasco recommended that the Assessor be allowed to go ahead and hire a person and the second person use as part-time position. Assessor is trying to work from the Reassessment fund as much as possible. Councilman Shelby made a motion to allow the Assessor to replace one person that is leaving in the Assessor's office, motion seconded by Councilman Pasco. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of Prosecutor )**

Dean Dobbins, Prosecutor appeared before Council to request replacing the Child Support Specialist I, Amanda Creech. The position is \$27,000 and the County only pays one third of this salary. Councilman Shelby made a motion to allow the Prosecutor to hire a replacement for the Child Support Specialist I position, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood seconded. Vote 7-0

Prosecutor, Dean Dobbins on the record, addressed the Council asking each of them to look at the County Budget landscape in a different perspective. The County playing field is not fair when it comes to salaries. The people working in the Prosecutor's office work many hours with no pay increases. It is not a level playing field with licensed attorneys and others. He proposes paying the attorneys from Diversion fund and also the Child Support to allow increases to their salaries. Prosecutor stated that there are inequities in the salaries in this County. He doesn't have the luxury of moving around positions at will to allow more money for that position. He stated that he has been working bare bones in his budget and returned 18% last year to the County. He empathizes with the County budget situation, but requests the Council to really take a close look at the Salary Ordinance.

**In the Matter of NASA )**

Joe Thayer, failed to appear before Council. Councilman Shelby made a motion for Resolution 2009-6-3 to allow NASA to be paid on a monthly basis. County will pay 1/12 of what is budgeted for the year being paid out to NASA each month. Councilwoman Richardson seconded. Vote 7-0

Councilwoman Richardson advised Council that NASA will be paying a portion of Joe Thayer, Director's salary this year which helps General fund.

**In the Matter of Eastern Hancock )**

Failed to appear before Council.

**In the Matter of Community Corrections )**

Pat Powers, Director of Community Corrections appeared before Council to submit his Fund 0537 Community Corrections Grant budget and his 0539 Community Corrections Project Income budget. Both of these budgets start on July 1, 2009. The Drug Court fund 0505 has received another \$10,000.00 from the Indiana Supreme Court and it needs appropriated as follows:

\$3,500 Drug Screen supplies,  
\$3,000 for Treatment Services  
\$3,500 for Program fees  
\$10,000

Councilwoman Richardson made a motion to allow the \$10,000 from the Indiana Supreme Court Grant funds be appropriated in the mention line items, seconded by Councilman Leonard, Vote 7-0

Community Corrections Grant fund 0537 budget for 2010 is \$225,107. The State allowed a 3% increase in personnel. Pat stated they will just pay out less in Project Income starting July 1, and more will come from grant and less from Project Income fund. All of Community Corrections comes from appropriations from State Grants. County pays utilities and a small portion of salary. Councilman Leonard made a motion to appropriate the \$225,107 in grant fund 0537 line items, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 7-0

Community Corrections Project Income fund 0539 budget for 2010 is \$1,439,420.84. This is for operating and personnel costs. It has increased by \$100,000 for equipment leasing and health

care insurance paid from this fund. Pat reported that the fee collections are down the first four months of the year due to the economy. Pat stated that he is always actively pursuing grant funds to fund the programs. Councilman Leonard motion to appropriate the \$1,439,420.84 in Project Income fund 0539, seconded by Councilman Shelby. Vote 7-0

**In the Matter of Commissary Report        )**

Council requested that the Sheriff be scheduled next month to discuss the Commissary report. He is already scheduled for discussion of the Sheriff pension.

**In the Matter of Recorder        )**

Sharon Shambaugh, Recorder appeared before Council advising she needs to purchase new Computers for her department. She asked about the CCD and if it can be used for her computers. Council advised Recorder to speak with IT Director, Bernie Harris regarding cost and expense of new computers. If the IT Director is unable to purchase, Recorder is to come back to Council for approval to use the CCD fund for purchase of the new computers.

**In the Matter of State Board of Accounts Audit        )**

Council requested that they be made aware when the exit review from State Board of Accounts takes place. They have never been invited to the exit review and request that a representative from the Council and Commissioners be present at the review of the County audit. Auditor is to add the Council and Commissioners to the email once the day of the exit review is scheduled by the State Board of Accounts.

**In the Matter of Rehire of Part-time for Co. Extension        )**

Pam Komendo and Roy Ballard from the County Extension office appeared before Council to request rehire of a part-time employee. Council agreed they do not need to approve the rehire of part-time employees. Janet Helms is leaving the Co. Extension office and will be replaced.

**In the Matter of the Commissioners Budget for 2010        )**

Commissioner Derek Towle, appeared before Council, Commissioner Towle advised Council that they are trying to get easement for drainage on 500 E and US40. They are looking to proceed to get this done but may involve a purchase of property. This is railroad right-a-way. The dollar amount of this easement is undetermined at this point. Councilman Shelby stated that these types of situations are what the CCD fund is for. No money was appropriated for the 2009 budget for this easement purchase. Commissioners wanted the Council to understand what was going on with the project and give their ok for the project to proceed.

Commissioner Towle, presented the 2010 budget with most all line items left the same amount as 2009. There were a few exceptions as follows:

- Group Insurance increased by 20%
- Weed Specialist increased by \$1100 due to shortage in the weed budget, Highway has been paying what is over budget.
- The Commissioners budget will only pay a portion of NASA director salary for 2010. The rest will be paid from NASA budget.
- All buildings have been moved to the Commissioners budget. The buildings include the Co. Extension, Annex, Courthouse, Memorial Bldg and Prosecutor. By bringing them into the Commissioners budget more work to streamline this process can take place.
  - Supplies
  - Maintenance and Repairs
  - Janitorial
- Assigned Attorney Training was left \$0 for 2010 budget
- Animal Testing was left \$0 for 2010 budget
- Utility Services includes all buildings
- Trash removal is left blank right now until a cost is determined.
- Ambulance Services were cut ½ for 2010 budget. County Rescue amount is still uncertain, it was paid last year out of Food & Beverage.
- Increase for Pest Control

Councilwoman Richardson addressed with Commissioner Towle the issue of the Foreclosure Fee being raised from the current amount of \$150 increasing to \$200. It will increase the County revenue by approximately \$23,000. Commissioner Towle will look into making that change.

Councilman Kirkwood addressed the Council, regarding the issue of Department heads bringing several employees with them when they are on the agenda for the Council meeting. Councilman Kirkwood's concern is seeing County employees sitting in the audience when they don't have any concerns with the Council. This is a waste of County time and money. Council requested Ginny Martin, Deputy Auditor send out a memo by email to all Department heads. This memo should state that unless you have information on the subject being addressed by the Council, the Department head should not allow you to attend the meeting with them.

Councilman Shelby motion for the meeting to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Kirkwood.  
Vote 7-0

Meeting adjourned.

Recording stopped 12:09 pm

APPROVED on this the            day of July 2009

AYE

NAY

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Hancock County Auditor

# HANCOCK COUNTY COUNCIL

*111 American Legion Place, Ste. 217*

*Greenfield, Indiana 46140*

*317-477-1105*

June 10, 2009

The Honorable Beverly Gard  
The Honorable Robert Cherry  
Dear Bev and Bob:

Thank you for meeting with the commissioners and council on June 3. We felt that you heard our concerns and gave thoughtful discussion of them and your assessments of the special session.

We have another issue about which we learned on June 9.

The old Family and Children and Child Psychiatric remaining debts or unspent funds were to be left with local governments after the state took over the programs January 1, 2009.

While some counties have outstanding bonds for welfare expenditures, Hancock County now appears to have leftover monies.

Initial indications were that the county would be able to access the remaining funds, but recent county auditors' conference said that a legislative act would be necessary to release the monies.

One of the possible holding locations announced was the excess levy fund. While the excess levy has been used by counties, the D.L.G.F. has reduced local tax collections by the amount of the excess levy transferred.

If the Family and Children monies were held without being useable, they would benefit no one but might hurt counties in revenue capacities.

At the same time, Hancock County and likely other counties, have serious crises with sheriff's pension funds, due to the economy. We ask that a onetime grant or transfer of remaining Family and Children's funds be allowed for shoring up severely depleted pension funds.

If this is not deemed possible for statewide use, we request that Rainy Day funds be the recipients of leftover Family and Children's monies.

Thank you for any assistance you can give us.

Respectfully yours,  
Hancock County Council  
William Bolander, President