

**County Council Meeting
February 16, 2016**

Present: Aaron Benton, Jack Kroeger, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Todd Ruxer, Attorney John Wetherill, Auditor Autumn Winkler

Meeting was called to order by President Spaetti at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes

Ruxer made a motion to approve the minutes from January 19, 2016 as presented. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations

Annual Appropriations

Plat Book/WTH	\$6,000.00
CEDIT	\$2,000,000.00
Auditor's Ineligible Deductions	\$10,000.00
Misdemeanant	\$17,330.00
Firearms Training	\$9,121.00
LEPC	\$6,221.00
EMA Hazmat	\$4,376.00
EMA Search & Rescue	\$5,917.00
Co. Law Enforcement Continuing Education	\$128.00
Health Clinic	\$39,563.00
Clerk Perpetuation	\$11,054.00
Accident Report	\$12,482.00
Clerk IV-D	\$5,654.00
Sex & Violent Offender	\$3,425.00
Medical Care for Inmate	\$4,129.00
Prisoner Reimbursement	\$5,189.00
GAL/CASA	\$4,566.00
Santa Claus Water Project	\$100,000.00
Luce Township Sewer Project	\$150,000.00

Kroeger made a motion to approve all of the 2016 annual appropriations. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Cum Cap

Grant Match – Jail Clearance Project **\$40,000.00**

Gogel explained to the council that this additional is the county match and is part of the grant requirements. We have an invoice from Indiana 15 that we need to pay and other invoices could come in for work done before the actual demolition. Benton made a motion to approve the \$40,000.00 additional appropriation from Cum Cap. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Courthouse Security

Deputy Harold Gogel came before the council to explain his duties as courthouse security officer and to mention different options they are discussing implementing for additional security and training. A safety committee needs to be established that contains members from the council, commissioners, sheriffs dept., and court. This committee will discuss the security needs and ways to fund it.

County User Fee Fund**\$38,808.00****Courthouse/Courtroom Security**

Judge Dartt requested an additional appropriation for courthouse/courtroom security funding. In the request presented, Dartt listed a few options for security coverage and expense. The first option was for courtroom security 9 hours a day, 5 days a week. Option 2 added security to the courthouse for 9 hours a day, 5 days a week. The last option included evening security for after hours meeting for 27 hours a month. If approved this request would cover full security of the courtroom, courthouse rotunda, and after hour's meetings for February 17, 2016 – May 31, 2016. We currently have Deputy Harold Gogel covering courthouse/courtroom security from 7:30 am – 4:30 pm, Monday – Friday. Gogel is in the courtroom when court is in session and patrolling the courthouse or in the rotunda when court is not taking place. After much discussion, all were in agreement that we need to re-visit this after 3 months to review the needs and to try to hold with what we are doing for 2016 and implement changes for 2017, if the additional funding is found to cover it. After making that decision, it was decided to only approve \$18,144.00 of the \$38,808.00 requested, which will cover courtroom security until May 31, 2016. Benton made a motion to approve \$18,144.00 from the County User Fee Fund. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Jury Pay Fund**\$28,000.00****County IVD Fund****\$2,915.00****Court Secretary**

Dartt explained that this additional appropriation is needed to pay the salary of the secretary that was previously paid from Probation User Fees. They are actively working on collecting fees to build the Probation User Fee Fund back up, in hopes of moving the full-time position back to that fund. Benton made a motion to approve the \$28,000.00 from the Jury Pay Fund and the \$2,915.00 from the County IVD Fund. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Legal Report

Wetherill explained to the council that he has been contacted by a local farmer about a Monsanto Grant that the individual received for \$2,500.00. The individual wishes to donate the money from the grant to the Midway Cemetery, but needs an entity to receive and distribute the funds for them, because the grant money cannot be given directly to the individual. Wetherill has been in contact with someone involved with the Monsanto Grant about how the funds can be received. He was told the funds can go through the county and be redistributed, but Auditor Winkler stated she spoke with State Board of Accounts and they do not feel that is the best way to handle the money. The funds are supposed to go through a 501c3, which Spencer County is not. Winkler contacted Laura Harmon at the Spencer County Community Foundation about the possibility of them receiving and distributing the funds for the individual and is waiting for a response from Harmon. Wetherill stated he would contact Harmon the next day to see what she found out. Wetherill suggested a motion be made authorizing Bill Spaetti to sign for the grant funds in the event that the Community Foundation could not receive the funds and that it did not cause any issues with State Board of Accounts. Ruxer made the above stated motion. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Kroeger asked Wetherill if there have been any developments on the agreement with the Town of Santa Claus. Wetherill stated he spoke with Santa Claus Attorney Kevin Patmore late last week and hopefully that will be on the agenda for the March meeting.

New Business**Salary Ordinance 2016**

Auditor Winkler presented the 2016 salary ordinance for council approval. Bunner made a motion to approve the 2016 salary ordinance with the revision of the courthouse security line to state the lower amount of \$18,144.00. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Sheriff's Pension Plan

Spaetti mentioned that he and Kroeger have been discussing the sheriff's pension plan and the great expense to the county. We need to do some research on different pension plans and the possibility of making a change to a less expensive plan that would allow for an increase in compensation for newly hired deputies. All current deputies could retain the pension plan we have in place. Sheriff McDurmon was in attendance and agreed to discuss a possible change. We will do research on different options and schedule a meeting for the council and the merit board.

Kress made a motion to adjourn. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 6:23 P.M.

Bill Spaeth
President

Attest:

[Signature]

[Signature]

David Kress

Steve Wensitt

Todd Rux

Jack W. Keagy

Autumn Winkler