

**County Council Meeting  
March 15, 2016**

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

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

**Minutes**

Ruxer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 16, 2016 meeting as presented. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Additional Appropriations**

**County General**

**Circuit Court - Interpreter                      \$1,000.00**

Judge Dartt explained that the amount budgeted has already been used and we have a case right now going through the system that will require a certified interpreter. We have access to an interpreter call in line that we use whenever possible, but this case will require a certified interpreter in the courtroom. Benton made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$1,000.00 from the county general fund. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Courthouse Security**

Spaetti asked Dartt if everything was still going ok with Harold Gogel serving as the security officer and Dartt stated, "Yes, everything was going well." A meeting has been scheduled for April 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m. to further discuss security. After discussion it was decided that the council had not formally appointed anyone to the courthouse security committee, but Winsett had attended the previous meeting. Kroeger made a motion to appoint Winsett to the committee as the county council representative. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Highway Report**

Logsdon reported to the council that the commissioner's and highway dept. are looking into the purchase of new tandem trucks and a road grader. We have many issues with our current trucks which require a lot of maintenance and at times will not even start. Logsdon also reported that the commissioner's approved the purchase of a used roller for chip and seal. A new roller would cost us over \$100,000.00, but we were contacted by J.H. Rudolph about a roller they were wanting to sell that was in great condition with no issues, just not acceptable to be run on new pavement. The purchase price for the used roller was \$32,000.00, which the board approved. Logsdon reported he received an email from David Botorff with the AIC that stated House Bill 1001 and Senate Bill 333 were passed, which will increase our road funding. The 2015 MVH amount is \$2,523,507.00 and the LR&S amount is \$202,800.00. In 2017, we will receive an increase of \$714,166.00 in MVH funds and \$45,705.00 in LR&S funds. In 2018, we will receive \$735,060.00 increase in MVH and \$45,671.00 increase in LR&S. Logsdon and Kroeger will report back with more information after the next AIC meeting.

**Visitor's Bureau – Melissa Brockman**

Melissa Brockman and Dave Lovell came before the board to present the 2015 Annual Report. Brockman explained the data included in the report and informed the council that 2015 was another great year for tourism. There are many exciting things happening for 2016 that should continue to increase our tourism.

**Public Safety Request**

Jane Stout and Stephanie Melton came before the council to explain some law enforcement training they are working towards. Melton explained that all the different branches of law enforcement have been trained differently and that in the event of a large disaster there could be issues with all units working together. Stout and Melton have found out about an elite training center in Cypress Creek, Texas that will give the training needed were a tragedy to occur. The cost for this program is \$1,900.00 per person, which they have found a way to cover. The Judge and Prosecutor are strongly on board with this training program and have pledged to assist with paying for the training. A deputy from the Sheriff's Dept, a deputy from Santa Claus Police Dept, and 2 Indiana State Police deputies have been chosen to go. In order to attend the training the student must be trained as an EMT or higher. Spaetti asked if the deputies would be able to come back and train the other officers and Stout explained that they hope to bring a training session here to train the other officers at no cost. The only issue is that we don't have a facility large enough to use for training, but she was told we can probably use the training center in Evansville. They are actively working on other options. The end goal is to have everyone from each law enforcement unit trained the same. Wages for all 4 deputies will be covered by their employers. Stout explained that the reason the deputies were chosen instead of EMS is because they already have all the protective gear needed to go into a dangerous situation. EMS has no protective equipment and would not enter until cleared by law enforcement. All training cost is covered and they are actively seeking donations from area business and organizations to cover airfare. There are changes in protocols all the time to accommodate all the changes happening in the world. We have to do everything we can to protect our police officers and community. Stout explained that she has spoke with Auditor Winkler about setting up an account for all money that is donated to go into. This account would be controlled by the Public Safety Assessment Committee and the county council. The Public Safety Assessment Committee will make recommendations for when and how the money is spent, but all expenditures will require council approval.

**Ordinance Amendment**

Wetherill presented Ordinance 2016-04 for council review. This ordinance will amend the current mileage reimbursement rate to follow the rate established by the state. This change would go into effect immediately. The ordinance can be amended by the council at any time, but if not amended will be equal with the rate of reimbursement from the state. Kress made a motion to approve Ordinance 2016-04. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Old Business**

Kroeger explained that he has spoken to Umbaugh and Associates about a projection of cost for the sheriff's pension plan. They are getting together a list of questions for us to assist them with providing the projection. Umbaugh stated that the projection may not turn out the way we predict, but Kroeger stated it is definitely something we need to look into. This would only change the pension plan for new employees, not make changes to the current deputy's plan. The Merit Board would make a decision on this, but Kroeger stated that according to McDurmon's reaction when discussed previously it might be something they would approve for new employees and provide a way to pay them a little more compensation.

Winsett asked what the status is on the raising of the old jail. Commissioner Gogel explained that we are doing a pre-bid meeting with contractors on March 21<sup>st</sup> and bids will be opened on March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Spaetti reported that himself, Winsett, Benton, Kress and Commissioner's Gogel and Logsdon attended the Fulda Sewer Project Annual meeting. The project is going well and they are doing well financially. The county contributes funding to this project and all were pleased with how the project is going.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:21 P.M.

William Spett  
President

Jan Boh

Attest:

Autumn Winkler  
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Steve Winsell

David Hess

Jack D. King  
[Signature]

Todd Rux