

Council Meeting

September 18, 2007 - pm

The meeting was called to order by President Spaetti, Councilmen Spaetti, Bunner, Ebert, Kroeger, Kress, Cochenour, and Attorney Wetherill were present. Winsett was absent.

Minutes

8/21/2007 minutes – extra word deleted and name spelling corrected. Bunner made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Budget Hearing minutes. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Salary Discrepancy

It was called to the attention of the board that an oversight was made in the salaries in the 2008 budget. In the past the Recorder and the Assessor salaries have always been the same. An adjustment was made a couple years ago and the council agreed to make payments to PERF instead of a salary raise for county employees. Since the Recorder at the time was of retirement age, instead of PERF she was given a salary raise of \$750. Now that a new Recorder, who is not of retirement age, is in office this \$750 should be taken away. The proposed new salary for the Recorder is \$30,650, the same as the Assessor.

Budget Adoption

Ebert made a motion to adopt the budget with the change in the salary of the Recorder. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Mileage Rate

Clerk Jochim, Assessor Arnold, Treasurer Dugas and Auditor Shelton requested the council consider an increase in the mileage rate paid to county employees for travel in personal vehicles. The group requested that the mileage rate be increased to the same as the state rate. In an email survey asking other Indiana counties what their mileage rate was, 27 counties responded. 15 counties pay the state rate of .40; 4 pay the federal rate of .485; 1 pays .45; 2 pay .44; 2 pay .405; and 2 pay .34. An estimate of the actual per mile cost of driving a vehicle was presented, estimating the cost at .42.

Spaetti asked how much more it would cost the county if an increase was made. Shelton stated she would find out. Discussion was had on whether the council would want to raise the rate each time it was necessary or if it should be set to adjust with the state. Spaetti also suggested that whatever is decided that it should start on January 1, 2008. It was agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the November meeting. Wetherill was asked to prepare two versions of the ordinance, one with the rate left blank and one with the rate staying the same as the state.

Transfers

Treasurer – Dugas requested a decrease in Miami Systems and an increase in Office Machines in the amount of \$1,695. She stated that she had money left over after paying Miami Systems and her copier has stopped working and is beyond repair. She has taken bids for a new copier and a company owned by a Spencer County resident had the low bid of \$1,695. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Circuit Court – Spaetti explained that the Judge told him that he would not be present for this request. The Judge requested a decrease in Probation Officers Salary and an increase in Law Books in the amount of \$4,500. Cochenour made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Sheriff – Sheriff Lindsey requested a decrease in Deputy Sheriff and an increase in Senior Deputy in the amount of \$6,000. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Transfer for Temporary Advance – Resolution 2007-14

Due to a cash flow shortage in the Drug Court Fund, Prosecutor Dartt requested a transfer for temporary advance in the amount of \$3,000 from the Law Enforcement Fund. Kroeger made a motion to approve Resolution 2007-14 Transfer for Temporary Advance in the amount of \$3,000. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Additional Appropriations

County General – Commissioners / Unemployment: Shelton explained that the county is still paying on the same unemployment claims previously brought before the council and requested an additional of \$4,000. Kress made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

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Commissioners / Insurance: Health insurance premiums and payments are needed in the amount of \$300,000. This amount is estimated to last through the end of the year. Ebert made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Circuit Court / Pauper Attorneys: Judge Roell spoke to Spaetti prior too the meeting and requested \$17,938 for pauper attorneys. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Auditor / Official Records: Shelton explained that \$1,500 is needed for an ordinance book and to order checks. Cochenour made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Highway – Gas, Oil and Lubricants: Highway Superintendent Painter requested an additional of \$60,000 for gas. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Contractual Services: Assistant Superintendent Wirthwein explained that an additional of \$50,000 for the removal of underground tanks was needed and all but \$35,000 will be reimbursed by the state. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

CEDIT – Highway Department / Additional Paving Project: Painter explained that the CEDIT Plan for 2007 was completed early and an additional of \$200,000 will enable the Commissioners and the Highway Department to complete projects that were not scheduled to be completed until 2008. Ebert made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Pre-Trial Diversion – Prosecutor / Miscellaneous: Dartt requested an additional of \$300 for drinking water and bathroom supplies. He also requested an additional of \$500 for Office Supplies. Bunner made a motion to approve \$800. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment – Deputy / Level II: Assessor Arnold stated the additional of \$500 requested is no longer needed.

Personal Property Data Entry / Overtime: Assessor Arnold requested \$10,000 to pay overtime for employees to enter the Personal Property data from 2004, 2005 and 2007 the state has mandated. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Cumulative Capital – EMA / Replace Water Rescue Boat: EMA Director Perdue requested an additional of \$2,500 to upgrade the water rescue boat. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment

Kurt Reller of Southern Indiana Appraisers addressed the council in regards to the possible reassessment and explained his argument that the county should not be reassessed. It is not a definite that there will be a reassessment; there has to be a public hearing.

Santa Claus Water and Santa La Hill

Wetherill stated that there is still not a resolution to the problems between Santa Claus Water and Santa La Hill. Ebert stated that he felt it will get worked out. Kroeger stated that the council has made one payment and that they need to wait to see what happens before another is paid. Wetherill stated the council did set out the conditions in advance for them to get the money. He suggested a letter letting them know that the council will stick to those conditions.

LTRSD

Spaetti asked if the council wants to have a special meeting to discuss the Luce Township Regional Sewer District. Commissioner Gogel reminded the council that the next payment is not due until late next year. Kroeger suggested not approving the payment at the beginning of the year as has been done in the past and waiting to see if progress is made. Kroeger stated that just because the money has been spent on the engineering already, that it is no reason to continue to fund the project. Spaetti stated that if the council is considering not continuing the funding, then the sewer board should be given warning. Spaetti further stated that Dr. McGinnis gave his opinion that 50% of the homes are going to have to be condemned over the next several years due to failed septic systems. Commissioner Gogel asked if anything would be accomplished by a public meeting. Kroeger stated that the council cannot solve the issue, the community needs to decide how it should be done. Kroeger suggested writing a letter to the township stating that the council knows that a sewer

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system is needed, but the council cannot design it. If the current system is going to be continued to be funded progress must be made. Ebert stated that a public meeting would serve no purpose. Wetherill will draft a letter to bring to the next meeting. Spaetti stated that no meeting will be scheduled by the council.

Long Range Building Planning Meeting

Kroeger stated that another Long Range Building Planning Meeting needs to be called with the commissioners and a facilitator to discuss the needs of the county. Spaetti asked if a Saturday morning would work for most of the council.

LOIT

Kroeger stated he does not need another meeting to discuss LOIT, but if the other councilmen would like to have an informational meeting he would participate. Information is available from Dr. DeBoer on LOIT.

Mileage Logs

Kroeger suggested that Wetherill draft a letter from the council to the commissioners suggesting a policy of the use of mileage logs in county vehicles.

Longevity Pay

Shelton collected several different longevity pay policies from other counties. Kroeger and Wetherill asked for a copy.

Ebert made a motion to adjourn. Cochenour seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 pm.

County Council,

President

Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor
