

Council Meeting

March 17, 2009 – 5:16 pm

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

Minutes

2/17/2009 minutes; Winsett made a correction under the LTRSD discussion, changing his name for Spaetti. Kress made a motion to approve after correction. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Voter Registration Information

Voter Registration Clerk John Rudisill discussed with the council possible legislation that is being discussed which may impact Spencer County. The items being discussed are as follows:

- Federal over-sight of voter registration
- Use of provisional ballots
- Ballot design
- Post election audits
- Restriction of poll watcher protests
- Electronic ballots elimination
- Paper ballots
- No excuse absentee ballot by mail
- Early voting in all states
- Elimination of the ID law
- Auto restore felon voting rights

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- Equitable allocation of resources to shorten wait times
- Grant program to develop countrywide software
- Enforcement of the Help America Vote Act

Rudisill also stated that the state funding of the SVRS (State Voter Registration System) will continue to decrease and counties will have to take over more of the cost. The state mandated the use of the system.

Additional Appropriation

Probation User Fee

Auto Attendant – Judge Dartt requested an auto attendant to funnel calls to the correct person at a cost of \$699. He said there would always be an option to speak to a live person. Kress made a motion to approve the request. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

County General

Surveyor / Paper Toner – Surveyor Herron requested \$600 for paper and toner. Kress made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Auditor / Official Records – Auditor Shelton requested \$1,800 for official records needed. New minutes books were needed for both the Commissioners and the Council. Ebert made a motion to approve the \$1,800. Kroeger seconded. All in favor.

Auditor / Law Books – Shelton requested \$2,100 to sign up for an online law books service, as requested by the council. Discussion was had by commissioner attorney Lueken about the convenience of having the books in hand versus on the computer. Kroeger made a motion to approve the request for \$2,100. Bunner seconded. The motion passed with a vote of six to zero with Waninger abstaining.

Clerk / Election Software – Clerk Harney requested \$4,000 for needed election software which was inadvertently left out of the budget. Kress made a motion to approve. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

Veteran's Office / Computer – VSO Lawson requested \$1,000 to replace the computer and printer in his office. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Cornerstone Perpetuation

Office Supplies – Herron requested \$500 for supplies needed in the upkeep of the Cornerstone Books. Ebert made a motion to approve. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

Equipment – Herron requested \$2,000 for office equipment. He said if necessary he can wait until budget time for the needed computer. Ebert made a motion to approve \$1,000. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Homeland Security Fund

Reimbursable Grant – EMA Director Perdue requested the appropriation of the money received for a 100% reimbursable grant from Homeland Security to purchase radio equipment. The \$219,706 has already been received by the county. Bunner made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment

Ratio Study Contract – Assessor Arnold requested \$28,600 for a ratio study needed by the county which was not known about at budget time. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment – Arnold requested \$500,000 for the reassessment contract. She will be accepting bids soon and the contract will need to be awarded prior to the next council meeting.

CEDIT

Paving Projects – Engineer Lloyd requested \$1,500,000 for the CEDIT projects to be done this year. Bunner made a motion to approve the request. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

Lloyd reported that she will probably not hire an intern this summer, but she would like the council to keep the position in the budget for next year.

Rainy Day Fund

PA System – Dartt requested the replacement of the public address system in the main courtroom and the auxiliary courtroom. Parts can no longer be purchased for the old system. A complete total for the new system is \$30,117. Dartt said it can be done in phases with the first phase having a total of \$16,797 plus \$2,850 for a

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maintenance contract. Discussion was had on purchase versus a lease to own option. Dartt was asked to come back next month with both options. Kroeger made a motion to table the request. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Drainage Project Lake Drain – The drainage board requested \$5,000 for the drainage project at Lake Drain. Ebert made a motion to approve the request. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

Children's PRTS

Psychiatric Treatment Services – Connie Branch, in a letter, requested \$1,405 for child psychiatric treatment for which the county is responsible to pay. Kress made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. The motion passed with a vote of six to 1, with Winsett voting against because Branch did not attend the meeting.

Luce Township Regional Sewer District

Matt Bunner, the president of Leadership Spencer County, stated that LSC will be working on the requested survey when some clarifications are made.

Matt Steinkamp, the council appointment to the board, discussed the board vote regarding the de-obligation of Rural Development funds. At present no valid vote has been taken.

Spaetti asked Steinkamp if LTRSD would be eligible for any of the stimulus money available. Steinkamp stated that LEDC did list the sewer project on their submission for stimulus money. Representative Crouch and the board's attorney have spoken to the state about the possibility.

Ebert asked about the board meeting with the bank to work out paying off the loan.

Spaetti asked if the Town of Richland had contacted the board about the sewer system. Steinkamp stated that no official contact has been made, but he heard that they have been advised by an engineer that the current project is their best option.

Steinkamp stated that even if an alternative system is used, the easements will still be needed. Steinkamp discussed the tiered billing option. He further stated that with prices down, now is the best time to bid projects.

Kroeger reiterated that even though the council supports a sewer project, the county has no current obligation to give any further COIT funding. The bank and the board need to come together and make an agreement among themselves. Richard Wetherill, representing Freedom Bank, stated that the bank is willing to meet with the board, but in the past they did not get a response until they sent a default letter.

Further discussion was held and the council encouraged the board to move forward.

The next sewer meeting will be Thursday, March 26th.

Council Meeting Time

Discussion was had on moving the meeting time to 6 pm. The majority decided against making a change.

Coal Gasification Corrections

Spaetti stated that there were several inaccuracies in the editorial in the Courier Press regarding the possible coal gasification project. LEDC listed the corrections as follows:

- Indiana's gas utilities are not being required to purchase the output of Indiana Gasification.
- The Indiana Finance Authority will not sell the natural gas to the gas utilities, and the gas utilities will not be selling the gas to the consumers. Rather, the finance Authority will buy the gas from Indiana Gasification and sell it directly to consumers. The natural gas utilities will deliver the gas and collect the bills as an agent of the IFA, compensated appropriately for these services.
- The project is putting up its own equity amounting in the range of \$400 to \$500 million.
- The debt on the project is not coming from the federal government. It will be private investment in bonds that will be backed by federal loan guarantees.
- The full faith and credit of the State of Indiana is not at risk or involved in any way. The creditworthiness of the project (which the federal government is measuring to determine which projects warrant a federal loan guarantee) is based on the developer's equity and the cash flows from gas consumers to the IFA and finally to the plant.

A brief discussion was held on the potential project.

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Ebert made a motion to adjourn. Winsett seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54pm.
County Council,

President

Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor

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