

Council Meeting

May 18, 2010 – 5:34 pm

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

Minutes

04/19/2010 minutes; Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Budget Hearing Dates

After a brief discussion, Kress made a motion to set the Budget Hearings for August 23, 24, and 25. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Additional Appropriations

County General

Commissioners / Inmate Housing Fund – Judge Dartt requested \$20,000 for Inmate Housing. Discussion was had on how juvenile housing is handled. Winsett made a motion to approve \$20,000. Kress seconded. All in favor.

EMA/ Equipment for Coastal Boat – EMA requested \$3,950 for equipment for the coastal boat that will be 100% reimbursed through a grant. Kress made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

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Prosecutor / Computer Access – Prosecutor Wilkinson requested \$2,080 for computer access. After a discussion the council asked for Wilkinson to re-request under Pre-trial. No motion was made.

Pre-trial Diversion

Scanner / Reimbursable by State – Wilkinson requested \$1,000 for a scanner that is reimbursable by the state. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Rental Property – Wilkinson discussed the need for additional storage and requested \$1,050 for rent of the apartment next to the Community Corrections office. Ebert made a motion to approve. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

Law Enforcement Fund

Tasers/ Santa Claus Police Department – Wilkinson requested \$3,500 for tasers for the Santa Claus Police Department. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Prosecutor/ Recording Equipment and Monitor – Wilkinson requested \$2,200 for forensic recording equipment and monitor for interviews in child molestation cases. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

Cumulative Capital

Server/ Auditor, Assessor, Treasurer – Shelton requested \$15,660 for a new server that will be used by the Auditor, Assessor and Treasurer offices. Ebert made a motion to approve. Kroeger seconded. All in favor.

COIT

Luce Township Regional Sewer District – LTRSD requested \$150,000 from COIT. Attorney Jeff Lindsey changed the request to \$75,000, which is the balance of the 2009 payment. He stated the district needs to pay for additional clerical help, another push for easements and the defense of the litigation.

Spaetti asked when the \$9 million grant will be awarded. Lindsey said the project must go to bid and the loan close, then the money can start being drawn down with help from Indiana Region 15.

Ebert asked if the district will be charging tap-in fees. Lindsey said no. Ebert stated that is a substantial savings for the residents. Discussion was had by some requesting another system be considered.

Kroeger re-stated the council cannot do this project; it is in the hands of the LTRSD. The only decision before the council is whether to give money to the district. Kroeger stated no project will be completely fair to everyone. It is the council's opinion that infrastructure is good for the county. Further discussion was had on the numbers provided by Umbaugh and the balloon payment.

Kroeger said if the sewer district needs money to run the office, that money should not come from the original commitment. The original intent for COIT was to build infrastructure in the county, not for operating expenses. Discussion was had on the operating expenses. Winsett stated the money should not be used to fight a lawsuit. Lindsey said the alternative is to give up.

Kroeger said the council wants to support this project, but operating expenses should not come out of these funds.

Steve Buse said a lawsuit has been filed and if the project gets shut down then the money would be wasted; he asked the council to wait until the lawsuit is settled.

Kroeger said if this district goes under, then there will be no other system.

Larry Blair, representing the Luce Township Advisory Board (LTAB), said LTAB can resolve the problems and have a system in the ground in 18 months but they are not allowed to speak at the meetings.

LTRSD board member Nora Yeager said the district has milestones to meet and a small amount of time to reach them. She said this is an investment and an opportunity for the county.

Discussion was had on the county's need to increase assessed values. The alternatives are to increase taxes or cut services provided by the county. Blair said lower sewer rates will promote growth and there are systems that will have lower rates.

The council requested the district come back with a breakdown of the estimated operating expenses. The council will consider a request from the Rainy Day Fund. No motion was made on the request for COIT funds.

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Emergency Communication System - Scott Meadors of the Carter Fire District discussed the Emergency Communication System recommended by the county's Communication Committee. Discussion was had on the requirement for the county to replace the current system with one using narrower bands. The original request was for \$66,000. After discussion, it was determined \$1,500 is needed now, as long as the county makes a commitment to fund the project. Kroger made a motion to re-consider a request for \$1,500 next month out of the Rainy Day fund for a grant writer. Kress seconded. All in favor. Kroeger made a motion to state the council's intent is to fund 10% of the project up to \$35,000 for the communications grant applied for by the Carter Fire District, and Wetherill is authorized to write a letter of intent if necessary. Waninger seconded. All in favor.

Animal Control

Commissioner Gogel asked the council if their intent is still to fund an animal control department if the building is built. Discussion was had on the funding.

Kress made a motion to adjourn. Winsett seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:38 pm.

County Council,

President

Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor

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