

DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

January 30, 2023

The Dubois County Council met on Monday, January 30, 2023 in the Commissioner/Council Chambers in the Dubois County Annex. President Michael W. Kluesner called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. Present at the meeting were Board Members Michael W. Kluesner, Sonya Haas, Alex P. Hohl, Doug Uebelhor, Ryan Craig, Meredith I. Voegerl, Daryl L. Schmitt and Auditor Sandra L. Morton.

RE: MINUTES

President Kluesner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the meeting held on December 28, 2022. On motion made by Sonya Haas, seconded by Ryan Craig, the minutes were approved as written.

President Kluesner asked if there were any corrections or additions to the minutes from the meeting held on January 9, 2023. On motion made by Ryan Craig, seconded by Meredith I. Voegerl, the minutes were approved as written.

RE: NEW MEMBER

President Kluesner welcomed new member Daryl L. Schmitt caucused into office to fill the vacancy of Craig M. Greulich for Council District #1.

RE: SHERIFF DEPARTMENT WAGES

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter and Chief Deputy Jesus Monarrez discussed a proposal to increase wages for the deputies in the Sheriff department. A review of wages from the past 10 years, the current inflation rates, and a comparison of local municipality wages was presented. The total request is \$307,000. A discussion was held on the wage study and ramifications to other departments. President Kluesner proposed forming a study committee to review the wages for the entire County.

Use of the LIT-CR tax will become available when construction is completed to assist with funding for the department. Sheriff Kleinhelter also discussed the need to implement a Local Income Tax for Public Safety.

No action was taken.

RE: H.E.L.P. UPDATE

Community Coordinator Rilyn Bawel provided an update on the list of projects from the Pathway Committees. The Core Committee will hold a prioritization meeting on February 2, 2023 to choose 3 to 5 projects for the Strategic Investment Plan.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Mary Austin, PE, Clark Dietz, via teleconference, provided an update on the Regional Sewer District. Survey work is on schedule. Letters have been sent to the property owners in the area. Work is proceeding on the preliminary engineering report.

Clark Dietz is working concurrently with the City of Jasper and Midwestern Engineering on their plans to construct a new treatment plant on the northside of Jasper. The next meeting will be on February 7, 2023.

Clark Dietz met with the Town of Holland and City of Huntingburg. They are interested in merging with the Regional Sewer District in the next phase in 2024.

RE: EARTH CHARTER INDIANA CLIMATE EDUCATION

Resident Mark Nowotarski introduced Danni Schaust, Resiliency Coordinator and Environmental and Climate Advocate, to discuss climate education and to develop a Climate Action Plan for Dubois County. Schaust provided information on Earth Charter Indiana and climate change projections for Dubois County. She feels Dubois County can become a leader in developing a regional climate plan.

Schaust and Nowotarski have launched a local community group called Greendrinks 812 to provide more information and education on this topic. The group is open to anyone interested in the environment and wanting to get involved. Greendrinks 812 will hold the first meeting on February 21, 2023 at St. Benedicts Brew Works from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Ferdinand.

RE: DRUG FREE COMMUNITY – SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNCIL

Substance Abuse Council Treasurer Terry Tanner and Board members Jennifer Lampert, Joe Crutchfield and Nancy Eckerle presented the Comprehensive Community Plan and Quarterly report for the Substance Abuse Council. Council Coordinator Brooke Lampert has resigned her position. Interviews will be held to find a new Coordinator.

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Tanner requested the appropriation of the 2023 funding in the amount of \$42,211.42. A motion to approve the Personal Services in the amount of \$10,552.85 was made by Ryan Craig and seconded by Daryl Schmitt. The motion carried unanimously. A motion to approve Other Services for contracted services in the amount of \$31,658.57 was made by Doug Uebelhor and seconded by Ryan Craig. The motion carried unanimously.

Auditor Morton presented an Amendment to the Salary Ordinance for the Substance Abuse Council Coordinator to be paid \$22.50 per hour maximum. The position will work 22 hours per month with six additional hours to be used during grant time. A motion to approve the Amended Salary Ordinance was made by Daryl Schmitt, was duly seconded by Meredith I. Voegerl, and carried 7-0.

RE: 911 – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

911 Director Stuart Wilson discussed staffing issues at the 911 Center and requested funding for overtime in the amount of \$40,000 from the Statewide 911 fund. Consensus was to advertise for the additional appropriation.

RE: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg presented the Four Year Equipment Rotation Plan for the Department. Berg discussed the need to purchase a new mechanic service truck chassis and truck body and requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$175,000 from the Cum Cap fund. Consensus was to advertise for the additional appropriation.

RE: RAINY DAY FUND - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg reported on the broken water pipe that damaged much of the flooring and walls of the department offices. Insurance will be covering the damages minus the deductible and the ceiling repairs. Berg requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$30,000 from the Rainy Day Fund Other Services. A motion was made to approve the request by Doug Uebelhor, seconded by Daryl Schmitt. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: DISTRESSED ROAD LOAN

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg reported the Distressed Road Loan will be due in August 2023. Following an early repayment of the loan, County Engineer Brent Wendholt will be applying for a new interest free loan to be repaid in 10 years.

RE: COMMUNITY CROSSING MATCHING GRANT - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg requested an Additional Appropriation in the Community Crossings Fund Capital Outlay in the amount of \$ 610,584.30 for paving of roads. A motion was made to approve the request by Sonya Haas, seconded by Ryan Craig. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: TRASH STICKER PRICE CONCERN

A discussion was held in regard to a letter received from a citizen on the price of an oversized trash bag. Berg reported one sticker is needed for a trash bag no larger than 45 gallons. Two stickers are needed for anything larger. Stickers are used for accountability and tracking purposes.

RE: PROJECT INCOME – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Project Income Personal Services in the amount of 2,554.51 for salary and benefits of the CQI-QA Specialist. A discussion was held. A motion was made to approve the request as advertised by Ryan Craig, duly seconded by Meredith I. Voegerl. The motion carried 5-2 with Alex Hohl and Doug Uebelhor being the dissenting votes.

Auditor Morton presented an Amendment to the Salary Ordinance for the CQI-QA Specialist to be paid \$1,955.10 bi-weekly. A motion to approve the Amended Salary Ordinance was made by Ryan Craig, was duly seconded by Sonya Haas and carried 7-0.

RE: VETERAN SERVICES OFFICE SUPPORT – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Veteran Services Support Fund Other Services in the amount of \$5,000 for miscellaneous operation expenses. A motion was made to approve the request by Ryan Craig, was duly seconded by Alex Hohl and carried unanimously.

RE: PROBLEM SOLVING COURT GRANT AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE

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Auditor Morton discussed an extension to use the Problem Solving Court Grant for Drug Court purposes. The grant was awarded by the Indiana Supreme Court in 2021 but was unused. The extension will terminate on June 30, 2023. Auditor Morton requested an Amendment to the Salary Ordinance for the Community Corrections Administrative Assistant at a maximum hourly rate of \$17.66. The position is part-time and will work an addition 9 hours bi-weekly on Adult Drug Court tasks. The total hours worked will not exceed 29.5 hours weekly. A motion was made to approve the request by Meredith I. Voegerl, seconded by Ryan Craig. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: BOARD REPORTS

Doug Uebelhor provided information from the 911 Advisory Board meeting.

Alex Hohl provided information from the Dubois County Community Corrections Advisory Board meeting.

Meredith I. Voegerl provided information from the Indiana 15 Regional Planning Commission meeting.

Michael Kluesner provided information on the Justice Construction project. Community Corrections is expected to move into their facility in July 2023.

RE: WAGE STUDY COMMISSION

President Kluesner discussed forming a Wage Study Commission. Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes is working on collecting data from other Counties. Members Craig, Voegerl and Schmitt agreed to serve.

RE: ENCUMBRANCES

Auditor Morton presented a list of the Encumbrances from 2022 into the 2023 budget.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council set the next meeting for February 27, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. Future meetings are as follows: March 30, 2023; April 24, 2023; May 22, 2023; June 19, 2023; and July 31, 2023. All meetings will be held in the Commissioner/Council Room on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse Annex and begin at 4:30 p.m. The Budget Review meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023 beginning at 8:00 a.m.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Doug Uebelhor, seconded by Alex Hohl. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.