

DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

February 21, 2024

The Dubois County Council met on Wednesday, February 21, 2024 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 Schmitt, and Auditor Sandra L. Morton.

RE: MINUTES

President Kluesner asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the meeting held on January 29, 2024. On motion, made by Daryl Schmitt, seconded by Ryan Craig, the minutes were approved as written.

RE: HIGHWAY CR 500 EAST - ARPA

Highway Superintendent Steve Berg requested additional funding to complete CR 500 East at a cost of \$70,000. The County-Gravel Road improvement program was established in 2015 with nine roads remaining on the list to be paved. CR 500 East has been prepped with a stone base and is ready for pavement; however, only \$38,000 remains to pave the road in 2024 which would cover approximately 0.77 miles leaving 1.4 miles to be completed in 2025. On the request of the Commissioners to complete the entire road in 2024, Berg requested an additional appropriation. Following discussion, consensus was to proceed with the project using ARPA funds.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – SOLID WASTE (STICKER)

Highway Superintendent Berg requested an Additional Appropriation in the Solid Waste (Sticker) Fund Other Services for dumpster site boxes in the amount of \$45,000. Ryan Craig made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Daryl Schmitt, and carried unanimously.

RE: AMENDED SALARY ORDINANCE – HIGHWAY PART TIME LABOR MOWER

Auditor Morton presented an Amendment to the Salary Ordinance for the Highway Part Time Labor Mower to be paid \$18.75 per hour maximum. The position will operate the boom mower, is a seasonal part time position, and will work 37.5 hours per week from April until September, if possible. A motion to approve the Amended Salary Ordinance was made by Alex Hohl, was duly seconded by Meredith Voegerl, and carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY EQUIPMENT ROTATION

Highway Superintendent Berg presented the Highway Equipment Five Year Rotation Plan. Items to be replaced in 2024 were discussed.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST– DISTRESSED ROAD REPAVEMENT

County Engineer Brent Wendholt requested an additional appropriation in the Distressed Road Repavement Fund for the \$1,000,000 loan received. Consensus was to advertise the request for the next meeting.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST - LIT-ED

County Engineer Brent Wendholt requested an additional appropriation in the LIT-ED Fund Capital Outlay for the Safe Streets for All in the amount of \$81,000.00. Consensus was to advertise the request for the next meeting.

RE: COMMUNITY CROSSINGS MATCHING GRANT

County Engineer Brent Wendholt presented information on the Community Crossings Matching Grant for 2024. The State increased the matching grant amount from \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000. The County applied for \$1,000,000 during the first call with the local match of 25% coming from MVH funds. Wendholt discussed the possibility of applying for the remainder of the funds available during the second call but would need the local match appropriated from a different fund because the MVH funds would be depleted. Consensus was to proceed with the application and to match the funds from LIT-ED in the amount of \$170,000 by a vote of 6-1. Doug Uebelhor was the dissenting vote.

RE: DUBOIS PARK AND 4-H FAIRGROUNDS MAINTENANCE EQUIPMENT REQUEST

Ed Boeglin, 4-H Council President, introduced members of the 4-H Building and Grounds Committee Scott Schnell, Blake Lindauer and Chad Hunefeld, to discuss maintenance equipment which is no longer effective or safe. It was determined that the cost of repairs would be more than the current

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value of the equipment and would only be temporary fixes. A maintenance schedule and replacement plan is needed for future budgeting of maintenance items. The 4-H Council and Park Board received quotes from three dealers – Hopf Equipment, Hutson John Deere, and Blesch Brothers, which were previously reviewed. The decision to proceed with the quote from Hopf Equipment, pending funding by the County Council, for a Skid Loader and Front Mount Trim Mower at a cost of \$65,727 which included trading in the current trim mower, the C90 Tractor, a Batwing Brush Hog, and the JD 6675 Skid Steer was presented. Park Superintendent Carson Kaiser was also present. Following discussion, the consensus was to advertise for an Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$65,727 or to use ARPA Funds to replace the equipment.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS (ARPA)

President Kluesner opened discussion for uses of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds which were previously committed to the Regional Sewer District. Since Bids will not be awarded for the construction phase by the end of 2024, other uses of the funds would need to be determined, such as purchasing Police Cars, Ambulances, Annex Chiller Replacement, Park Maintenance Equipment, and the Regional Wellness Center. President Kluesner will work with Auditor Morton and Commissioner President Chad Blessinger to compile a list of options.

RE: AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT FUNDS (ARPA) – PARK PLAYGROUND IMPROVEMENTS

President Kluesner discussed the use of ARPA funding for the Dubois County Park Bid Alternates 1 and 2 which could not be included in the contract awarded by the Board of Commissioners for Park READI Grant Phase II Improvements on February 5, 2024. The alternate bids were to install an additional zipline play feature and a new climbing play feature at a cost of \$126,500. Ryan Craig made a motion to approve the use of ARPA funds for the Alternate Bids, was duly seconded by Sonya Haas, and carried unanimously.

RE: LOCAL ASSISTANCE and TRIBAL CONSISTENCY FUNDS (LATCF)

Auditor Morton presented a quote from Tom Schroering Construction to install a pass-thru window between the Auditor's and Treasurer's office in the amount of \$3,125.50 using LATCF funds. Following discussion, the consensus was to use up to \$5,000 for the window installation and the possibility of moving electrical and computer lines in the wall, if needed.

RE: CHILD ADVOCACY FUND

Auditor Morton provided information on the Child Advocacy Fund (1115-111) which was repealed in 2012. Per the State Board of Accounts, the fund has been dormant and can be closed out to the County General or Rainy Day funds. Following discussion, the consensus was to close the fund and transfer the balance of \$450 to the County General fund.

RE: VETERAN SERVICE OFFICE DONATIONS

Auditor Morton presented a request to create a donation fund for the Veteran Services Office. Various service organizations would like to donate funds to be used by Veteran Service Officer Susan Bramlet instead of using her personal funds to provide miscellaneous items such as coffee, drinks, snacks for the veterans that visit the office. Auditor Morton is researching the possibility of using the Veteran's Service Office Support Fund (4105-144) which is funded by the William Rudolph, Jr. Endowment at the Community Foundation. No action was taken.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST - CORNERSTONE PERPETUATION

Auditor Morton presented a request from Surveyor Ken Brosmer for an Additional Appropriation in the Cornerstone Perpetuation Fund Capital Outlay in the amount of \$30,085 for purchase a Trimble R12i Model 60 Base and Rover Mode, with a rechargeable battery, a dual battery charger with power supply and cords, a transport case and firmware updates for 5 years as approved by the Board of Commissioners on February 20, 2024. Consensus was to advertise the request for the next meeting.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – CUM CAP/ARPA - SHERIFF CARS

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Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Cum Cap Fund Capital Outlay for Sheriff Cars in the amount of \$217,728. Following discussion, a motion was made by Michael Kluesner to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds instead of Cum Cap Funds. The motion was seconded by Ryan Craig and carried unanimously.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – LIT-ED/ARPA – SIREN MAINTENANCE

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the LIT-ED Fund Capital Outlay for Siren Maintenance in the amount of \$41,292. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ryan Craig to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds instead of LIT-ED Funds. The motion was seconded by Doug Uebelhor and carried unanimously.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – STATEWIDE 911

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Statewide 911 Fund Personal Services in the amount of \$40,000 for Holidays/Overtime. Doug Uebelhor made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Meredith Voegerl, and carried unanimously.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – HEALTH

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Health Fund Supplies in the amount of \$75,000 for Medical Supplies - Vaccines. Meredith Voegerl made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Sonya Haas, and carried unanimously.

RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION – ST. CHARLES ANNEX MAINTENANCE

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the St. Charles Annex Maintenance Fund Other Services in the amount of \$5,000 for Repairs/Maintenance. Doug Uebelhor made a motion to approve the additional appropriation, seconded by Meredith Voegerl, and carried unanimously.

RE: 2023 COUNTY ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Auditor Morton presented the 2023 County Annual Financial Report for review.

RE: COPS FOR HIRE GRANT APPLICATION

President Kluesner reported the COPS for Hire Grant application is due in April 2024. Discussion was held on possibly hiring Community Solutions or Indiana 15 Regional to assist with applying for the grant. President Kluesner will follow up on the process.

RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

President Kluesner provided an update on the Regional Sewer District. The City of Jasper's application with IDEM to use Mill Creek as an output for a new treatment facility was denied. The flow will revert to the original plan to use the existing facility. Clark Dietz Engineering will continue to work on the design.

The formation of the Dubois County Regional Sewer District was formally approved by IDEM. Councilmember Daryl Schmitt will serve on the District Board. Council appointments will be made at the next meeting in March.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The 2024 regular monthly meetings will be held on March 18, April 22, May 13, June 17, and July 29, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. in the Dubois County Annex Commissioner/Council Room. The August – December meeting dates have not been set.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ryan Craig, seconded by Doug Uebelhor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:02 pm.