

DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

May 22, 2023

The Dubois County Council met on Monday, May 22, 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 April 24, 2023. On motion made by Doug Uebelhor, seconded by Ryan Craig, the minutes were approved as written.

RE: PROSECUTOR WAGE REQUEST

Prosecutor Beth Schroeder presented information for an increase in staffing and wages for the Prosecutor's office. She requested a Full Time Prosecutor Assistant for Circuit Court and a new Part Time Investigator to work 20 hours per week. She also requested an increase of \$15,000 each for the three deputy prosecutors' wages. Consensus was to review the request during the 2024 budget process.

RE: PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENT – FISCHER FARMS NATURAL FOODS

Auditor Morton presented the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Personal Property CF-1/PP forms for Fischer Farms Natural Foods, LLC. Diana Fischer, representing Fischer Farms Natural Foods, was in attendance to provide information on the company's operations.

A motion was made to approve the compliance form by Alex Hohl, was seconded by Ryan Craig and carried unanimously. President Kluesner signed the form as presented.

RE: PURDUE EXTENSION SERVICES

Purdue Extension Director Chelsea Brewer provided an update from the Location Subcommittee on the search for a new office location. Purdue Extension Services will be moving to a temporary office location at the Center on 5th in Jasper, Indiana in July 2023 for approximately one year as they continue to search for a permanent location. The rent will be \$800 per month including utilities.

RE: EDP RENEWABLES

EDP Renewables Program Manager Sarah Greenberg announced she will be leaving the company and introduced the transition team: Tom LoTurco - Executive VP; Bridget Chia - Project Manager; and Chase Glotfelty - Project Developer.

Bridgett Chia provided a project update. EDP Renewables has signed an interconnection agreement with Vectren, the grid operator, which allows connections into the existing substations. They have also contracted with an external engineering firm to do grid work on the layout. Indiana Senate Bill 390 passed into law which provides financial incentives to Counties that qualify as a solar ready community. Based on initial estimates, the County could receive \$150,000 to \$200,000 each year over the next 10 years. EDP is working to find an off taker by the end of 2023 and begin construction in 2024.

RE: SHERIFF PENSION

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter presented the First Amendment to the Sheriff Pension as discussed on April 24, 2023. Following discussion, consensus was to have the documents reviewed by County Attorney Schnarr and Human Resources Generalist Markie Rhodes. Kleinhelter was instructed to return to the next meeting for approval.

RE: SHERIFF - COPS FOR HIRE GRANT

Sheriff Chief Deputy Jesus Monarrez provided information on the COPS FOR HIRE grant. The Sheriff department hired a grant consultant to assist with the application submission. The grant is a federal grant that will provide \$250,000 over a three year period to hire two deputies. The Grant requires a local match of 25% and a commitment to continue the positions upon completion of the grant funding. Upon receipt of a grant award notice, Monarrez and Kleinhelter are to contact the Council and Commissioners for creation of the positions and for approval before accepting the grant, if awarded.

RE: SHERIFF COMMENTS

Sheriff Tom Kleinhelter addressed the members on discrepancies that he felt had been made at previous meetings without his presence. A lengthy discussion was held to address the issues presented.

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RE: PROSECUTOR FORFEITURE FUND - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Prosecutor Forfeiture Fund Capital Outlay in the amount of \$3,000 for office furniture. A motion was made to approve the request by Ryan Craig and seconded by Daryl Schmitt. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: HIGHWAY RESTRICTED FUND - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Highway Restricted Fund Capital Outlay in the amount of \$110,000 for Paving Projects. A motion was made to approve the request by Meredith Voegerl and seconded by Doug Uebelhor. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: CLERK'S PERPETUATION FUND - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund Capital Outlay in the amount of \$10,591 for office renovations. A motion was made to approve the request by Daryl Schmitt and seconded by Sonya Haas. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: COUNTY GENERAL - APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

Auditor Morton requested a transfer of appropriation in the General Fund in the amount of \$10,000 from Corrections Maintenance Other Services Repair and Maintenance to Office Supplies. On motion made by Ryan Craig, seconded by Alex Hohl, the transfer was approved unanimously.

RE: MONTHLY REPORTS

Auditor Morton presented the Clerk and Treasurer monthly reports for January, February, March, and April 2023. The reports were reviewed.

RE: HUNTINGBURG REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION -TIF DISTRICTS

The Huntingburg Redevelopment Commission sent notice that they have determined the TIF areas will have no excess assessed value that may be allocated to other taxing units located in the following allocation areas:

OFS Economic Development Area
Northwest Industrial Economic Development Area
Industrial Park West Economic Development Area
East Styline Economic Development Area
400 W (Township) Economic Development Area
400 W (City Portion) Economic Development Area
West Styline Economic Development Area

RE: TAX ABATEMENTS

The Council will hold a special meeting on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 3:30 p.m. to discuss tax abatement applications. The Tax Abatement Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 31, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. in the Assessor's Conference Room on the 3rd Floor of the Courthouse.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council set the next regular meeting for Monday, June 19, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. Future meetings to meet at 4:30 p.m. are as follows: July 31, 2023; August 28, 2023; September 18, 2023; October 30, 2023; November 27, 2023; December 11, 2023. The Budget Review meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 16, 2023, beginning at 8:00 a.m. The 2024 Budget Public Hearing will be held on October 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. The final meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. All meetings will be held in the Commissioner/Council Room on the 2nd floor of the Courthouse Annex.

RE: LOCAL INCOME TAX - PUBLIC SAFETY

Sheriff Chief Deputy Jesus Monarrez inquired on the status of the Local Income Tax for Public Safety. He urged the County to begin the process and questioned the hesitancy. A discussion was held. No action was taken.

RE: COMMITTEE REPORTS

Reports were given by council members that serve on the following committees:
Emergency Management Agency – Doug Uebelhor reported on the EMA budget and the need to reclassify the Assistant Director from COMOT III to PAT III. The request will be taken to the Board of Commissioners in June 2023.

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RE: ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Doug Uebelhor, seconded by Sonya Haas. The meeting was adjourned at 6:32 p.m.