

DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

August 28, 2023

The Dubois County Council met on Monday, August 28, 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 additions or corrections to the minutes from the August 16, 2023, budget review meeting. On motion made by Ryan Craig, seconded by Daryl Schmitt, the minutes were approved as written.

RE: HUNTINGBURG LIBRARY – FISCAL BODY CHANGE

Donna Neuman, Huntingburg Public Library Accountant, Board Members Chris Neu, Melissa Boeglin, Mary Schumaker and Library Director Lisa McWilliams presented information on the fiscal body change required by statute due to changes in the parcel count for the City of Huntingburg.

A motion was made by Ryan Craig to acknowledge the Declaration of Fiscal Body, seconded by Doug Uebelhor, and carried unanimously. The Fiscal Body Acknowledgement was signed by President Kluesner.

DECLARATION OF FISCAL BODY

HUNTINGBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY (“the library”)

WHEREAS, library officials typically submit the library’s annual budget for nonbinding review by a separate fiscal body pursuant to the provisions of IC 6-1.1-17; and

WHEREAS, under certain conditions designated in IC 6-1.1-17-20.3 and 20.4, the library’s budget is subject to binding review and adoption by a separate fiscal body; and

THEREFORE, this report identifies the fiscal body that would do any binding budget adoption in the event such binding adoption is required under the provisions of IC 6-1.1-17-20.3 or 20.4.

In the case of a triggering event under IC 6-1.1-17-20.3 or 20.4 which requires the library to submit its budget to a separate fiscal body for binding budget adoption, the fiscal body that is responsible for that binding adoption is the Dubois County Council.

This report was adopted by the library board on August 17, 2023.

The proposed building project for the Huntingburg Public Library was also discussed. The project will be put out to bid in the next few months with an anticipated cost of \$4,130,000. The board will finance the construction with existing funds, a short term loan, and are seeking a Public Facilities Grant from the Office of Community and Rural Affairs.

RE: SCHOOL BUS CAMERAS – SAFE SCHOOL FUNDS

Prosecutor Beth Schroeder requested permission to use Safe School funds that are collected as part of plea agreements for misdemeanor stop arm violations be distributed to the four school corporations to purchase school bus cameras. The fees are collected by the Clerk of the Courts with seventy-five percent submitted to the Indiana safe schools fund and twenty-five percent deposited into County General. Following discussion, the consensus was for the Clerk to determine the amount receipted into County General at year’s end and to appropriate the funds into the Prosecutor’s budget in the following year. The funds will be divided among the four school corporations.

RE: NORTHEAST DUBOIS SCHOOL CORP – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Northeast Dubois School Superintendent Dr. Tara Rasche discussed the need for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$64,000 in Debt Services to cover the costs for interest payments due on the bond. Consensus was to proceed with advertising the additional appropriation for the meeting on September 18, 2023. The County Council is the Fiscal Body for the Northeast Dubois School Corporation because the school board is not an elected body.

RE: RESOLUTION 2023-13 – COMMUNITY CROSSINGS

The County has been awarded a Community Crossings Matching Grant and must provide a 25% match. Auditor Morton presented Resolution 2023-13 to transfer funds from the Motor Vehicle Highway

Restricted Fund and the LOIT Special Distribution Fund for the local match. A motion was made by Ryan Craig to approve Resolution 2023-13, was duly seconded by Meredith Voegerl, and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION 2023-13

Resolution to Transfer Funds to the Community Crossings Grant Fund

Whereas, the Dubois County Council finds the Motor Vehicle Highway Fund can be used as a local match to the Community Crossings Grant per Indiana Senate Enrolled Act No. 67; and,

Whereas, Dubois County has been awarded a Community Crossings Grant from the Indiana Local Road and Bridge Matching Grant Fund, established by HEA 1001-2016, in the amount of \$756,302.25; therefore,

Be it Resolved, that the Dubois County Council does hereby transfer \$240,000.00 from the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted Fund (Fund 060-1173) and \$28,979.52 from the LOIT Special Distribution Fund (Fund 174-1229) into the Community Crossings Grant Fund (Fund 185-9130). This fund shall be subject to the same appropriation process as other funds. Upon completion of the Road Preventative Maintenance Projects, remaining grant funds shall be returned to the Grantor and remaining local matching funds shall be returned to the Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted fund.

ADOPTED THIS 28th DAY OF AUGUST 2023.

RE: PRETRIAL DIVERSION - APPROPRIATION TRANSFER

Auditor Morton requested a transfer of appropriation in the Prosecutor Pretrial Diversion Fund in the amount of \$900 from Capital Outlay Equipment to Other Services for Promotional Items. Ryan Craig made a motion to approve the transfer, seconded by Meredith Voegerl, and carried unanimously.

RE: RAINY DAY - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an additional appropriation in the Rainy Day Fund Other Services for Tornado/Storm Debris Clean-up in the amount of \$100,000. A motion was made to approve the request by Doug Uebelhor and seconded by Alex Hohl. The motion carried unanimously.

RE: 2024 BUDGET – GENERAL FUND

Auditor Morton provided information on changes made to the 2024 budget requests during the reviews. County General increased approximately 20% over the previous year. Revenue projections are supporting the increased budget.

Doug Uebelhor distributed a chart he prepared showing fund balances, receipts, and disbursements from 2011 to 2022 for the following funds: County General, Cum Cap, LIT-ED, LIT-CR, Project Income and Rainy Day. Revenue projection trends and expenses were discussed.

RE: WAGE CLASSIFICATION CHANGES

During the budget preparations, an error was found in the CPOLE III wage classification range for the 911 Dispatchers, the Chief Courthouse Security Officer and the two Jail Shift Supervisors. The proposed salary increases for 2024 will be above the maximum wage rate. Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Ryan Craig to change the 2024 CPOLE III pay range from \$19.09 - \$25.07 to \$19.09 - \$25.53. Meredith Voegerl seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-2 with Uebelhor and Hohl being the dissenting votes.

A discussion was held on the proposed wage increases in 2024 for three Deputy Prosecutors. A 9% raise would place the positions above range for the PATVI wage classification. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ryan Craig to change the 2024 PATVI pay range from \$35.81 to \$50.13 to \$35.81 to \$51.33. Alex Hohl seconded the motion which carried 6-1. Uebelhor was the dissenting vote.

President Kluesner provided information on the Sheriff Master Deputy classification. The sheriff deputy must obtain certification and training to be eligible to receive the increased wage.

RE: JASPER REGIONAL WELLNESS CENTER

Ryan Craig opened discussion on the request from Jasper Mayor Dean Vonderheide to donate funds to the Jasper Regional Wellness Center. Craig would like to propose pledging support of \$500,000 over a 5-year period. His recommendation would be to add \$100,000 to the 2024 LIT-ED Fund budget. Meredith Voegerl stated she is still gathering information and would like to wait. After a lengthy discussion, the consensus was to wait for a decision to be made at the meeting on September 18, 2023.

RE: COUNTY FOOD AND BEVERAGE TAX

The City of Jasper passed a Food and Beverage Tax for the City of Jasper to begin January 1, 2024. Mayor Vonderheide suggested, via email, the Council pass the tax county-wide to help fund the Regional Wellness Center. The consensus was not to pass the tax.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council set the next regular meeting for Monday, September 18, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. The Public Hearings for the 2024 budget will be held on Wednesday, October 4, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., and the budget adoption on October 30, 2023, at 4:30 p.m.

Future regular meetings are as follows beginning at 4:30 p.m. - October 30, 2023; November 27, 2023; and December 11, 2023. The final meeting of the year will be held on 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: ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Ryan Craig, seconded by Doug Uebelhor. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.