

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 12, 2001

The meeting was called to order by President, Richard Mason.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Charles Canary, Ron West, Richard Mason, Keith Wright, Brent Waltz, and Pam Young. John P. Wilson was present as the Council's Attorney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 3/12/01 AGENDA

Mr. Mason requested to add under "Old Business", Personnel Discussion. Mrs. Young requested to add under "Old Business", Communication System. Mr. West moved to approve the agenda as presented including the two additions. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 2/12/01 & 2/20/01 MINUTES

Mrs. Young moved to approve the minutes as presented with one correction of the 2/20/01 minutes to include Daniel Dennis present at the meeting. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kathy Stolz, representing Leadership Johnson County, appeared with invitations for the Council members to participate in the County Government Day on Wednesday, April 11th. She noted that Pam Young, representing the Council, participated in 1999.

VII. SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENTS, ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS, REDUCTIONS, & TRANSFERS:

APPROVAL OF THE SALARY ORDINANCE (144) AMENDMENTS

Mr. Dennis moved to approve the following salary ordinances amendments as presented.

#101-113.7 - \$20,953.00 to \$22,001.00 (4-02-01)
#101-115.1 - \$20,953.00 to \$22,001.00 (2-08-01)
#101-115.2 - \$23,101.00 to \$20,953.00 (2-26-01)
#117-132.0 - \$24,923.00 to \$26,168.00 (4-10-01)
#124-127.8 - \$22,664.00 to \$23,799.00 (3-10-01)
#132-119.0 - \$20,953.00 to \$22,001.00 (3-07-01)
#137-112.0 - \$23,101.00 to \$20,953.00 (1-26-01)
#140-120.3 - \$22,664.00 to \$23,799.00 (3-12-01)
#140-117.1 - \$23,799.00 to \$24,870.00 (2-09-01)
#204-132.0 - \$27,085.00 to \$24,339.00 (1-01-01)
#206-132.0 - \$27,085.00 to \$23,181.00 (2-12-01)
#206-160.0 - \$19,696.00 to \$18,758.00 (2-14-01)
#219-113.2 - \$18,676.00 to \$17,788.00 (2-06-01)

Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE – (206) (tabled from 2-12-01)

John Price, Highway Director, appeared to request a five-year Step increase for an Equipment Operator (#206-125.0) who has a hire-in date of 1-5-96.

Mr. West commented that the Council would be discussing this type of request later on the agenda.

Mr. Waltz moved to table the request; Mr. Dennis seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

INSPECTION & TESTING (276)

David Hirschle, Planning & Zoning Director, appeared to request a five-year Step increase for a Building Inspector III/Eng. Assist. (#276-111.0) who has a hire-in date of 1-1-96.

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Mr. Wright noted he has approved the requests with a hire-in dates up to the 4th of January. Mr. Wright then moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Dennis seconded the motion.

Mr. West commented that the Council would be discussing this issue later and feels the Council needs to get a consensus of what needs to be done without voting each issue separately. Mr. Mason concurred with Mr. West.

Mr. Hirschle noted several employees have received the Step increase with hire-in dates of January 1st.

Mr. Waltz commented the Council needs to establish some level of consistency with these requests.

Mr. West moved to table the request; Mr. Waltz seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. Wright voted nay.

SURVEYOR – (106)

Doug Lechner, County Surveyor, appeared to request a reclassification for Instrument Man (#106-113.2) from a COMOT IV to LTC IV with a salary change of \$20,580.00 to \$26,519.00 (effective 1-1-01). Also, the reclassification for the Party Chief (#106-113.0) from a COMOT II to LTC II with a salary change of \$25,469.00 to \$30,105.00 (effective 1-1-01). He explained that when the job classification was done the Instrument Man's job description stated the position was a COMOT classification however the job posting calls it an LTC job category.

Mrs. Young commented she feels a clarification needs to be made on which job category the position should be in.

Mr. Lechner feels the positions should be in the LTC category. The employees spend most of their time outside performing labor-intensive type of work.

Mr. West commented this is another issue the Council will be discussing and hopefully will have some answers in the next thirty days.

Discussion was held on the type of work the employees perform and similar jobs in each category.

Mr. Canary moved to table the request; Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

COURTHOUSE SECURITY – (126) (tabled)

J.D. Richards, Sheriff, appeared to request for a five-year Step increase for Security Officer Supervisor (#126-110.0) who has a hire-in date of 1-4-96.

Mr. Dennis moved to table the request; Mr. Waltz seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mrs. Young moved to approve the following requests as presented.

WIC – (215)

From: #215-350.0 – Professional Services (\$ 800.00)
To: #215-217.0 – Office Supplies \$ 800.00

MARCH OF DIMES GRANT – WIC – (360)

#360-210.0 – Claims \$ 421.82

ONE FOR THE ROAD GRANT – (358)

#358-310.0 – Professional Services \$ 4,000.00

ELECTRONIC MAP GENERATION – (905)

#905-210.0 – Claims \$ 2,200.00

ENHANCED ACCESS – (906)

#906-210.0 – Claims \$ 400.00

COMPUTER SERVICES – (141)

#141-360.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance \$ 500.00

#141-399.0 – Professional Services \$ 2,200.00

ANIMAL SHELTER – (219)

#219-225.0 – Operating Supplies \$ 6,000.00

#219-311.0 – Professional Services \$ 6,000.00

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATION – (262)

#262-200.0 – Claims \$ 6,000.00

Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – (105)

Sheriff Richards appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$4,000.00 instead of \$7,000.00 for Office/Other Equipment. He explained the additional funds are needed to replace a computer server in the amount of \$12,536.00.

Mr. Dennis asked if Robert Norris, Computer Director, reviewed the specifications for the computer server. Sheriff Richards responded "no" the equipment is comparable to the current system and he could not answer some of the technical questions.

Mrs. Young commented \$30,000.00 was appropriated for Office/Other Equipment beginning January 1 and she obtained the expenditure statement for the line item disbursements. A payment has been made for lawn equipment for approximately \$6,800.00. She noted that several purchases for equipment have been made from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and perhaps this request should be made to the Board of Commissioners.

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Sheriff Richards responded he was not prepared to discuss the purchase of the lawn equipment and requested that the Council submit their questions in writing to him.

Mr. Waltz moved to table the request until Sheriff Richards discusses the computer equipment with Robert Norris, Computer Director. Mr. Dennis seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mrs. Young voted nay.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – (122)

William Walker, County Commissioner, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$25,000.00 for Social Services Contracts (Johnson County Development Corporation Dues). He noted that in the past the dues were paid from the Inspection & Testing Fund but the extra funds are very low.

Mrs. Young stated she met with the Planning & Zoning Director to discuss the available funds from Inspection & Testing and approximately \$15,000.00 could be used for this expenditure. She noted that payment to the Development Corporation can be paid monthly and that the Council needs to address the salary that is currently being paid from this fund. The funds were not advertised under the Inspection & Testing Fund and the Board of Commissioners would need to return next month for the additional appropriation.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – (254)

PARK-SAWMILL BUILDING

Tim Davis, Park Superintendent, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$16,000.00 for a Sawmill Building at the Johnson County Park. The total cost of the project is \$53,000.00. He explained the project is a joint effort between the County, Johnson County Park (\$5,000.00), Johnson County Antique Machinery Club (\$16,000.00), and the Johnson County Historical Society (\$16,000.00). The building would be constructed to allow the Sawmill to operate for public demonstrations and also allow storage of various historical artifacts.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#254-407.0 – Park-Sawmill Building \$ 16,000.00

FAIRGROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

Larry Vandenberg, Fairboard Chairman of the Expansion Committee, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$129,500.00 for fairground improvements. He explained the following improvements of the Fairgrounds.

I.	Premium Money	\$ 12,000.00
II.	Maintenance Money	\$ 30,000.00
	a. Electrical Upgrades for Commercial Areas	
	b. Miscellaneous Painting	
	c. Re-work Drainage in Grandstand Arena	
	d. Grading & Seeding of Midway Area	
	e. Remodeling of Existing Fair Office	
	f. Upgrading the Existing RV Area	
III.	Expansion Project	
	a. New Fairgrounds entrance off Hwy 144	\$130,000.00 (does not include the purchase of the property)
	b. Paving of Existing Roadways	\$ 25,000.00
	c. Upgrade Fitzpatrick Building	\$ 12,500.00
	Total	\$209,500.00

FUNDING AVAILABLE

Max & Lois Fitzpatrick Donation	\$ 5,000.00
Johnson County Fairboard Funds	\$ 25,000.00
Build Indiana Funds	\$ 50,000.00
Requested Money not Encumbered from 2000	\$ 13,000.00*
Total	\$ 93,000.00

Funds requested from the Cumulative Capital Dev. \$129,500.00 (*includes \$13,000.00 of money not encumbered from 2000)

Mrs. Young stated that the Board of Commissioners has \$10,000.00 in their budget for Premiums and does not believe that is a type of expenditure that can be paid from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund anyway. She expressed concern about appropriating funds for the entrance since the property has not been purchased.

Mr. Vandenberg explained they have been negotiating with Franklin United Methodist Home for the entrance. They have appraisals of the home where the entrance would be located and the average amount is \$112,000.00. The Commissioners have a meeting with the Board of Directors of the Methodist Home on March 28th. At that time the County will make a proposal for the purchase of the property and the Methodist Home should have a proposal to purchase a portion of the Fairgrounds property. The money to purchase the property would be requested from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Mr. Waltz commented he supports the concept for the new entrance but feels additional work needs to be completed before the Council approves the \$130,000.00 for the entrance construction.

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Discussion was held on the fairgrounds priorities and how they arrive at them as expansion projects.

Mrs. Young noted that according to Indiana Code 36-2-2-20, it states “A conveyance or purchase by a county of land having a value of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) or more must be authorized by an ordinance of the county fiscal body fixing the terms and conditions of the transaction”.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the following for the Fairgrounds:

Maintenance Money	\$ 30,000.00
Paving of Existing Roadways	\$ 25,000.00
Upgrade Fitzpatrick Building	\$ 12,500.00
Total	\$ 67,500.00

Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#254-430.2 – Fairgrounds Improvements \$ 67,500.00

Mrs. Young stated that the meals for the inmates were being prepared at the Fairgrounds Kiwanis Building while the new kitchen was being completed at the jail. She did find out that Dunlap (Jail Construction Company) has paid the Kiwanis Club \$4,500 for the use of the kitchen equipment at the fairgrounds. The Club has received a new stove and she thinks a new freezer. The Fairboard has not received any compensation of the use of the facility of which they pay the utility bills. Much of the old jail equipment has been given to the Shrine Club. She does not believe the county has received any credit from Dunlap for the compensation of the Correctional Officers that was stationed at the Fairgrounds.

Mr. Vandenberg responded if an organization builds a building at the Fairgrounds the building is the property of the Fairgrounds. The Fairboard provides the insurance of the buildings and the personal property inside the facility is insured by the organization. The contracts state the organization has the availability to the building a week prior, the week of, and week after the County Fair. If they want to use the building any other time they then pay for the use of the facility. The Fairboard was not notified of the use of the facility being used to prepare the meals for inmates. At this time the Fairboard is trying to locate the contract with the Kiwanis Club and hope to have this issue resolved in April.

COURTHOUSE CLOCK TOWER/ROOF RENOVATION

Jack Matthews, Maintenance Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$529,000 from the original amount of \$550,000 for the Courthouse Restoration as follows:

Contract Amount	\$458,000.00	(American Restoration Corporation)
5% Contingency	\$ 22,900.00	
Reimbursables	\$ 3,346.35	(Printing, Mileage, etc.)
Architects Fees	\$ 43,884.00	(RQAW Corporation Design & Monitoring)
Total	\$528,130.35	

Mr. West questioned why would there be an architect fee for restoration of a building. Mr. Matthews responded for the design and monitoring of the project.

Mrs. Young commented that the Board of Commissioners has paid \$40,230.35 for architect fees from their budget and the money should be reimbursed to the County General Fund from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Mr. Waltz moved to approve \$529,000.00 for the restoration and to reimburse County General \$40,231.00 for the architect fees. Mrs. Young seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#254-412.0 – Courthouse Clock Tower/Roof Renovation \$529,000.00

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Highway – Offset Intersection Study Priority List and Curve Re-alignment List

John Price, Highway Director, appeared to discuss the offset intersection and curve re-alignment list. He disseminated and explained the intersection priority list to all the members to review. The list included the location, township, offset distance, R/W cost, construction cost, engineering, and curve realignment list.

Discussion was held on the Morgantown/ Smith Valley Intersection when the construction will begin, how long the construction will take, and the landscaping around the intersection.

Interlocal Agreement – Drainage Board and The Town of Trafalgar

Mr. Dennis moved to approve the Interlocal Agreement as submitted. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mr. Mason moved the discussion of Personnel Issues to “New Business”.

Communication System

Mrs. Young stated that on September 25, 2000 the Council approved the issuance of \$5.5 million bonds for a County-Wide Communication System and she requested an update on the status. It was so important that the Council approve the issuance of the bonds before the end of the year. Also discussion was held concerning changing the E-911 Statute that would allow funding of communication equipment to be purchased from the fund. She did receive information on House Bill 1525 that would authorize funding for Hoosier Safety through a \$.45 telecommunication surcharge to fund system construction for

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five years of backbone maintenance. This would help the State pay their portion of the backbone but there was nothing in the bill to help counties with the cost of the equipment.

James Rhoades, County Commissioner, appeared stating he was not prepared to speak about the Communication System and their attorney, Joe Pitcher who has been working on the System was not present. He stated they would investigate the status and report to the Council as soon as possible.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Sheriff - Request for payment of mileage claim over the 90 days from date of travel

Sheriff Richards requested approval of the mileage claim over the 90 days from date of travel in the amount of \$75.00.

Mr. Dennis moved to approve the mileage claim as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Sheriff's Correctional Officers (see 2/12/01 Council minutes)

Mr. Waltz requested that Sheriff Richards discuss the issue of opening the newly renovated jail. Mr. Waltz stated according to the Sheriff's press conference he said that it would not be safe to open the other portion of the jail without having eight additional Correctional Officers.

Sheriff Richards distributed letters from the Indiana Civil Liberties Union and Indiana Department of Correction. He said the letters basically state that both departments have a problem with the current number of CO's for the jail. He is going to have the National Institute of Corrections do a jail staff study that will be paid for through a grant. Until that is completed the jail will be open; however, he will be using road officers to do so due to safety.

Mr. Waltz commented that some of the issues being discussed should be done in an executive session due to pending litigation. He would only prefer discussion so that the public can understand where all the boards are concerning the opening and staffing of the jail. Mr. Waltz stated he is having a difficult time understanding the reports that the consultants have done concerning staffing and the number the Sheriff is saying he needs.

Sheriff Richards stated that according to the letter that was submitted by the Indiana Department of Correction, it states there might be a flaw in the initial proposal presented by RQAW:

- The proposal makes allowances for three 8-hour shifts. However the jail operates on four 12-hour shifts, with two shifts off duty at any one time.

Sheriff Richards commented his duty as Sheriff is to operate the jail and to service the courts, even if that means pulling road officers to work in the jail.

Mr. Dennis questioned if that is the best remedy for the citizens of Johnson County. Sheriff Richards responded "no"; the best remedy is to approve additional CO's and Deputies.

Mr. Waltz suggested a meeting be held with the jail staffing consultants, Indiana Civil Liberties Union, and the Indiana Department of Correction. Sheriff Richards agreed but suggested on waiting for the analysis to be completed by the National Institute of Corrections.

Sheriff Richards read a letter from the Indiana Sheriff's Attorney stating the Sheriff has the sole authority of the operation of the jail. He also read a court case pertaining to St. Joseph County when the Council tried to stop the construction of a new jail.

Mr. Dennis remarked the Council has met the obligation concerning staffing over the last two years until last month when twelve additional CO's were requested.

Mr. West concurred with Mr. Waltz on having a meeting with all parties involved to resolve the staffing issue.

Joseph DeHart, County Commissioner, appeared stating the Jail Management Committee has worked on the staffing concept since the expansion of the jail began. They were under the impression that the number of CO's at this time was adequate, if the numbers are wrong then the Committee would need to be convinced of it also.

The Council Members and Sheriff concurred to have a meeting in the near future.

Board of Commissioners – Discussion of the Renovations of the Museum

Noel Baker, representing the Johnson County Historical Society, appeared for the discussion of the Museum along with several of their board members. Mr. Baker distributed and discussed a report of the renovations to the Council Members that contained the following information:

A. Introduction

B. Purpose of Study

C. Facility Evaluation

Restoration and Building Maintenance \$920,000.00

1. Water Infiltration at Basement
2. Front Steps and Terrace
3. Back Entrance to the Basement
4. Mechanical and Electrical Systems in Conjunction with the Building Shell
5. Roof and Attic
6. Exterior Elevations and Miscellaneous

Remodeling and New Construction Dictated by Code Requirements \$200,000.00

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1. New Stair Tower
 2. Toilet Rooms
- Remodeling for the Building Usage as a Museum \$150,000.00**
1. Display and Storage Spaces
 2. Public Auditorium

D. Summary of Preliminary Construction Cost
E. Floor Plans and Photographic Documentation

Mr. Baker stated the total preliminary construction cost is \$1,270,000.00; additional costs such as architectural fees and contingency fees would increase the total to approximately \$1.5 million dollars. The Historical Society has a \$300,000.00 grant from the Lilly Endowment and \$50,000.00 from the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. They hope to secure \$400,000.00 from the Build Indiana Funds, totaling \$750,000.00. The other half of the funds needed they would ask for it to be paid from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Mrs. Young asked what would happen if the Build Indiana Funds were not granted or only a portion. Mr. Baker responded the Board would have to readdress the project.

Mr. Wright expressed concern on the hours that the Museum is open for the public to visit. Mr. Baker responded the problem is the shortage of staffing. Discussion was held on the hours that the Museum is open and the possibility of volunteers helping.

Mrs. Young commented she has concern if the Build Indiana Funds are not granted then the terms of developing the bid specifications should be contingent upon the availability of the money.

Mr. West asked if the Historical Society has approached the City of Franklin to see if they would participate in the renovation. Mr. Baker responded they have not since the county does own the building.

Personnel Discussion

Mr. Mason remarked that the Council has had some discussion on the current salaries and changes that could be made. They did hold a special meeting on 2/20/01 to allow office holders, department heads, and county employees to voice their opinions.

Mr. West submitted the following proposals on the salary and wage issues. The Council members expressed their thoughts on each proposal.

Anniversary Dates: Propose changing the employees, hired in the last two years, to anniversary hire date and adjust their salaries accordingly. Also, all future employees would be on an anniversary hire date for pay increases and tenure.

First Deputies: Salary would be based on a percentage of elected officials salary and special certifications and or licenses would be reimbursed on the same scale.

Job Descriptions: All elected officials and department heads with like employee classifications, would collectively establish job descriptions for those classifications and a starting salary range. Job descriptions and salary ranges would be based on the current system.

Longevity: Propose the five-year step percentages be reduced to annual pay increase percentage, thereby allowing for a slightly higher annual pay increase. The compounding effect of salary and pay increase would offer a premium benefit to the long-term employee.

Cost and Funding: Propose the elected officials and department heads calculate the overall cost of the above mentioned salary changes in their respective departments. These calculations would be presented to the Council during the April Council meeting. During the same period of time the Council must research any and all sources of revenue, existing and available.

Conclusion: The Proposals are by no means all encompassing, nor are they suggested being all conclusive, rather they are intended to bring immediate thought and definitive decision to them. The process of eliminating areas of easy consensus will simplify the total process.

Mr. Mason commented if any other Council members were going to submit proposals they should be in by the next meeting.

Deborah Shutta, County Auditor, presented each Council Member with a copy of the annual report for the year 2000.

There being no further business, Mr. West moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion that carried unanimously.