

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 14, 2003

The meeting was called to order by President, Brent Waltz.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Charles Canary, Ron West, Paul Reed, Richard Mason, and R.J. McConnell. Keith Wright arrived during the discussion of the Animal Shelter's request. John P. Wilson was present as Council's Attorney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 4/14/03 AGENDA

Mr. Waltz requested the following amendments to the agenda:

- Old Business: Report from John Price, Highway Director, concerning a Wheel Tax
- New Business: Sheriff-Discussion of bulletproof vests, pension, and salary ordinance amendment

Mr. McConnell requested to add the following:

- New Business: Discussion to have representatives from the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) attend a Council meeting to explain what other counties are doing with regards to the road program

Mr. West requested to add the following:

- New Business: Revenue Sources

Mr. Reed moved to approve the agenda including the amendments. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 3/10/03 MINUTES

Mr. Mason moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Waltz explained he would like to establish a dialog that allows the Elected Officials to appear before the Council to discuss various issues within their department. He noted that Jan Richhart, County Treasurer would address the Council at this time.

Mrs. Richhart appeared reporting on the current balances of county funds. She explained the county has approximately \$20.9 million in checking and savings accounts. The amount invested is \$12.1 million leaving \$8.8 million that is made up of excise taxes in the amount of \$1.6 million and the property tax replacement for \$4.3 million. The remainder of \$2.9 million is for county claims and unexpected expenditures. She noted the county has been earning 2.5% on a savings account with Irwin Union that expires on 4/14/03. Starting 4/15/03 the savings account interest rate will be 1.35%. She will start purchasing more Certificates on Deposits (CD). She explained the figures she presented are the current amounts in the banks and investments. These figures are different from the actual cash flow and operating budget of the county general. Those amounts are obtained from Deborah Shutta, County Auditor.

Mr. West noted that during the tax collection period the Treasurers' Office is very busy and he asked Mrs. Richhart to address some of department's issues.

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 14, 2003- (Cont.)

Mrs. Richhart explained at the 2003 budget hearings she submitted her budget within the recommended guidelines however she will need to return at a later date to request additional funds for part-time employees. She noted the department needs another full-time position.

Mr. West asked if other departments could share employees during busy times. Mrs. Richhart stated she would be glad to accept any help.

VII. JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Appointment to the Johnson County Public Library

Mr. Canary moved to appoint Niki Downey to the Johnson County Public Library Board for a four-year term. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Discussion of the Proposed Library Capital Projects Fund

Beverly Martin, Director, appeared to answer any questions the Council members might have about the process of the Library Capital Projects Fund. She explained one project the Library Board is planning is the expansion of the Trafalgar Branch. She noted the Capitals Projects Fund is a way to supplement their operating funds for remodeling. The Library Board will hold a public hearing and meeting to adopt the Library Capital Projects Fund Plan on April 15th. They propose that the Council hold a public hearing on the plan at their regular scheduled meeting on May 12th. The Council approves the actual rate that cannot exceed .0617 per (100) one hundred dollars, and they propose a tax rate of .0133.

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

ANIMAL SHELTER DONATION FUND – (262)

Laura Adams, Deputy Animal Warden, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,000.00 to pay for the care of several equines in their possession. The Council approved \$2,000.00 last month to help feed the fostered horses. She noted the Prosecutor has asked their department to keep all receipts so that he maybe able to recoup some the costs incurred.

Mr. West suggested that the Commissioners pass an ordinance stating that after a certain period of time if an equine is still in the care of the county the owners would have to pay all incurred expenses to have the animal back and if they did not do so the animal would be surrendered to the county. Ms. Adams stated that issue has been discussed several times, but the current ordinance only includes dogs and cats.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion that carried unanimously

#262-200.0 – Claims \$ 2,000.00

ELECTRONIC MAP GENERATION FUND – (905)

Robert Norris, Computer Services Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,000.00 to purchase supplies needed for supplying the electronic maps to the public and services needed to maintain the maps. The cash fund balance; as of 3/16/03 was \$9,749.72. The funds are generated from the fees charged for map data sold from the geographical information system (GIS). He noted the additional funds should be enough for the remainder of 2003.

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

#905-210.0 – Claims \$ 6,000.00

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR – (112)

Donna Zelner, Pleasant Township Assessor, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,188.00 to purchase a printer. She noted the request was denied last month from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund and the Council suggested the expenditure be paid from the General Fund.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#112-410.0 – Office Equipment \$ 2,188.00

DUI GRANT 10/1/02 – 9/30/03 – (365)

OPERATION PULL OVER 10/1/02-9/30/03 – (366)

Deana McMurray, Program Coordinator, appeared to request additional appropriations for the two grants that end 9/30/03. She explained the monies were appropriated at the end of 2002 however were not disbursed at that time and reverted back to the funds. The DUI grant will be used for DUI enforcement and the Operation Pull Over is for occupant safety.

Mr. West asked if the requirements for the grants are fulfilled and are the reports available for the Council to review. He noted by reviewing the reports the Council could see the effectiveness and the actual expenditures of the grants. Ms. McMurray responded “yes”.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#365-310.0 – Professional Services \$ 23,958.00
#366-310.0 – Professional Services \$ 23,058.30

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 14, 2003- (Cont.)

PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL PROGRAM – (327)

Michelle Murray, Prosecutor's Office Manager, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$918.00 for the Indiana State Police participation in the deferral program. The money will be used to purchase tactical equipment.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#327-313.0 – Deferral Program Participants \$ 918.00

REGIONAL GANG GRANT – 4/1/03-3/31/04 (270)

Ms. Murray requested the approval the Gang Grant for 2003. She noted the amounts are the same as 2002.

Mr. Reed asked for clarification of the appropriation (\$45,176.00) for vehicles.

Ms. Murray explained they have five vehicle leases, two for the Greenwood Police Department, one to the Johnson County Prosecutor's Office, one to the Franklin Police Department, and one for the Marion County Prosecutor's Office.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#270-100.0 – Deputy Prosecutor	\$50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
#270-142.0 – Social Security		\$ 3,825.00
#270-143.0 – PERF		\$ 4,000.00
#270-144.0 – Insurance		\$ 3,077.00
#270-210.0 – Reimbursement to Marion County		\$ 57,850.00
#270-215.0 – Operating Supplies		\$ 1,600.00
#270-216.0 – Witness Fees		\$ 2,500.00
#270-310.0 – Travel & Training		\$ 2,198.00
#270-315.0 – Communications		\$ 4,100.00
#270-410.0 – Office Equipment		\$ 2,000.00
#270-415.0 – Vehicles		\$ 45,176.00

PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM – (286)

Ms. Murray requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,927.75 to reconcile the 2002 STOP Grant that was over spent in the personal services.

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

#286-200.0 – Claims \$ 2,927.75

VICTIM ASSISTANCE 7/1/02-6/30/03 –(305)

Ms. Murray requested a transfer of funds from the Director's position into two new lines, operating supplies (\$4,500.00) and travel/training (\$1,349.76). She explained the newly hired victim advocate will need to attend some training classes and they propose to purchase a new printer and computer.

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

From: #305-111.0 – Director	(\$ 5,849.76)
To: #305-215.0 – Operating Supplies (new line item)	\$ 4,500.00
To: #305-315.0 – Travel & Training (new line item)	\$ 1,349.76

JAIL – (124)

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$80,000.00 for the line item hospital/medical (inmates). He also requested \$5,000.00 for professional services. He explained the hospital/medical line started with an appropriation of \$165,000.00 and encumbered \$2,691.00 for 2003. The current balance is approximately \$36,000.00. They had to pay several invoices in 2003 that were incurred in 2002, approximately \$87,300.00. He explained they did find that the county paid some medical claims and Medicaid had also paid the same claims. They are working with the hospital and Medicare on reimbursements to the county. They will request from the inmates on whether they are covered under a Health Care Plan or Medicaid. He noted they have billed the Department of Corrections (DOC) for their medical payments due to the county. He explained some of the medical procedures that have taken place in the past few months. Sheriff McLaughlin noted the \$5,000.00 additional into professional services is to pay medical specialists when the doctor makes referrals.

Mr. Reed commended the Sheriff and staff for their efforts in trying to recoup some the money due to the county. Mr. Waltz concurred with Mr. Reed.

Mr. West noted that the Council needs to review and budget a more accurate figure for hospital/medical during the budget hearings.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the requests as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#124-309.0 – Hospital/Medical	\$ 80,000.00
#124-315.0 – Professional Services	\$ 5,000.00

NEW BUSINESS

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 14, 2003- (Cont.)

Sheriff – Bulletproof Vests, Pension Fund, Salary Ordinance Amendment

Sheriff McLaughlin explained the deputy's current bulletproof vests are over eight years old and the expiration dates are ten years. Sheriff's Chief Deputy, Doug Cox, has found a way to help offset the costs by applying for a grant. If the grant is approved it would cover approximately 30% to 50% of the total amount. The lowest bid of the vests is \$799.00 each and they would like to purchase 100 of them.

Sheriff McLaughlin noted he met with Elaine Beatty, from McCready and Keene Inc., concerning the Sheriff Deputies Pension Fund. Ms. Beatty explained the retirement Plan Trust is short \$176,671.00 based on the annual actuarial valuation and to meet the minimum funding requirements. She noted because of the down turn in the economy and actual expenses have caused the shortfall.

Mr. Waltz commented that a lot of pension funds in the public and private sector are currently down because of the stock market and interest rates. Moves in the market could have a significant impact on the amount the county has to pay.

Sheriff McLaughlin requested a salary ordinance amendment for the 911 Coordinator/Dispatcher #105-128.9 (20%) and #901-113.0 (80%) from \$28,327.00 to \$29,868.00. The position is paid from the general fund and E911 fund. He explained a current county employee was moved to fill the vacancy and Sheriff McLaughlin is requesting to pay the same amount the employee was making in their former position. The Board of Commissioners approved the amended salary from the 911 funds. He noted the line items have sufficient appropriations for the increase in salary.

Mr. West moved to approve the salary ordinance amendment as requested effective 4/10/03. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Sonoco Flexible Packaging – Approval of the Compliance with Statement of Benefits Form (CF-1)

John P. Wilson, Council Attorney, stated he reviewed the CF-1 form and has determined the company is in compliance and recommended approval.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the CF-1 as presented. Mr. Mason seconded that carried with six ayes. Mr. Reed abstained from voting.

Miscellaneous Revenue Sources

Mr. West reported he attended an Association of Indiana Counties (AIC) Budget and Finance Seminar on April 8, 2003. He distributed a copy of the handout that was presented at the seminar. Some of the highlights were a charge for property record cards because of a reassessment year and "Request for Proposal" to banks for the best interest rates.

Some counties are forming a revenue review committee to begin the task of reviewing the idea of imposing new fees.

Mr. Waltz asked Mr. West if he would contact some of the elected officials and department heads that would be involved in implementing some of the suggestions and fees. Then report to the Council at the May 12th meeting. Mr. West agreed and informed the Council that AIC is having a half-day budget workshop on May 13th.

OLD BUSINESS

Wheel Tax (see minutes 3/10/03)

John Price, Highway Director, appeared to report on some of the town meetings he has attended concerning a county wide Local Option Highway User Tax (LOHUT). He stated the Town of Bargersville unanimous supported a wheel tax. The Town of Whiteland had a lot of positive input, however they wanted to discuss the issue among themselves and send their response to Mr. Price. He still has several meetings to attend. Some of the concerns the boards had were if there would be a stipulation on what this type of tax could be used for such as construction and reconstruction of roads. The boards were not in favor of using the funds for salaries and equipment.

Mr. Waltz asked for an update on the repair work needed currently for the roads, and have there been any discussions or proposals on how to solve of the short-term road issues.

Mr. Price responded they are currently patching and filling potholes. Some of the roads need more extensive work. He reported the Board of Commissioners has discussed using half of the one million dollars that the Council appropriated for road re-alignments to help the Local Road & Streets budgets for 2003. A bond issue was also mentioned for road repairs and construction.

Mr. Waltz commented for a short-term solution the money that was appropriated in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund for Sheriff's vehicles (\$300,000.00) could be paid from the General Fund in order to free up the money in the Cum Cap Fund for roads.

Mr. Price commented he was concerned in taking funds from the General Fund because that could affect the other departments and their budgetary needs. The county needs to have a long-term program in place for next year and every year after that for road projects.

Mr. McConnell suggested finding a way to fund roads that is more equitable throughout the county instead of property tax owners paying to solve the problem. Mr. Canary concurred.

Discussion was held on the amount of money that should be used from the Cum Cap Fund to solve the roads issues at this time.

Mr. Mason noted reviewing impact fees to help with the damage the developers are doing to the roads might be another option.

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – APRIL 14, 2003- (Cont.)

Mr. Price asked if the majority of the Council is not in favor of a wheel tax then he would like to know now so he does not waste any more time attending various city and towns meetings.

Mr. West commented before he could say he was in favor of or against he would need more information, such as is the fee going to be at the minimum or maximum and exactly what type of vehicles will be charged. Also, exactly what will the funds be used for? He thinks meeting with the different entities is a good idea.

Mr. McConnell stated he thinks attending the various meetings to obtain their inputs is a good idea. He proposed that a representative from the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and a representative from the County Commissioners Association attend the May Council meeting to give a presentation on various miscellaneous revenue sources. He noted if the county would vote to impose a wheel tax it must be approved by July 1.

After further discussion, the consensus of the Council was to add to the May Council Agenda to have a representative from the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) and a representative from the County Commissioners Association give a presentation on miscellaneous revenues at 6:00 P.M.

Mr. Waltz stated he feels the Board of Commissioners should make a recommendation to the Council on if they are in favor of or against a wheel tax.

Mr. Wright agreed with Mr. West in that he needed to know the logistics of a wheel tax and felt that to make a decision before July 1 would not be prudent.

Mr. Waltz and Mr. Reed stated they are not in favor of a wheel tax.

Mr. Mason commented he would like to see Mr. Price continue meeting with the various entities to obtain their opinions.

Emergency Management

Mr. West noted the Council received a letter from Forest Sutton, Director of Emergency Management, urging the board to contact our United States Representatives to help support the Federal Funding for Emergency Management needs.

Update on Reassessment, Financial Cash Flow Charts & 2004 Budget

Deborah Shutta, County Auditor, reported that the reassessment is close to being completed and the Assessor plans sending the equalization study to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) this week for approval. After approval the assessed valuations are certified to the DLGF in order to obtain tax rates and prepare the abstract. After the abstract is approved the tax bills will be mailed and hopefully taxes collected in July with settlement in late August. She noted that several units would borrow from the Indiana Bond Bank due to the late settlement. The county will borrow from the Cumulative Capital Development fund (\$1.2 million) for cash flow. She distributed a cash flow worksheet for 2002, 2003, 2004 and 2005. She invited the Council Members to meet with her to discuss any of the financial accounting and budgeting.

She requested that the Council consider having the 2004 budget hearings earlier because of the amount of time that will be needed for the late settlement. Her recommendation is to adopt the 2003 budget for 2004 because there will not be any additional revenue.

Mr. Waltz asked Mrs. Shutta to present proposed 2004 budget advertisements, public hearings, and date of adoption dates for the Council to review at their May Council meeting.

There being no further business, Mr. Reed moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. Wright voted nay.