

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2003

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

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Richard Mason, Keith Wright, Charles Canary, and Paul Reed. Councilmen Ron West and R.J. McConnell arrived during the adoption of the 2004 budget.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 8/11/03 AGENDA

Mr. Waltz added the hourly rates and mileage rate approval for 2004 to be included with the Date of Adoption of the 2004 Budgets.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the agenda including the addition. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

V. ADOPTION OF THE 2004 BUDGETS

Mr. Waltz noted that the rumors of massive layoffs and cuts across the board were false. He stated the Council's commitment is to the taxpayers and county employees.

Mr. Wright moved to reduce line item #122-144.0 (Employee Group Health Insurance) from \$1,125,000.00 to \$900,000.00.

Mr. Waltz explained by reducing the health insurance line item there would not be a material impact in the quality of the county insurance. He noted Public Law 267 amends the manner of computing and distributing CAGIT taxes. The new law requires supplemental distributions in excess of certified distributions to be deposited in the county's Rainy Day Fund that could be appropriated for insurance.

Deborah Shutta, County Auditor, explained the CAGIT reserve of three months was required to be held in the trust. Now with the amendment the State will send the reserve to the counties probably in January of 2004, however the money must be deposited into a Rainy Day Fund. The amount has not been determined at this time, but the last projection was approximately \$1 million dollars. The fund requires an ordinance specifying the purpose and sources of funding for the Rainy Day Fund in order to establish the fund. The fund would be appropriated in the same manner as other funds receiving tax money.

Discussion was held on reducing the Adult Child Mental Health line item for 2004. The Council concurred not to reduce the line item because the amount is outside the levy.

Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried with five votes. Mr. McConnell and Mr. West were not in attendance.

Mrs. Shutta explained that with the reductions that have been made the county general fund budget would be \$20,707,655 for 2004. That would leave an operating balance of approximately \$730,000.00. However that amount could be less depending on the amount of additional appropriations approved for the remainder of 2003 and the miscellaneous revenue received for 2003.

Mr. Mason moved to adopt the 2004 budget including all the reductions made on the first, second, and third readings. Mr. Wright seconded the motion.

Mr. McConnell arrived at this time.

Mr. Reed commented he would be voting against the adoption of the budget for 2004 because he cannot vote for a deficit budget. He feels with the current economy and the State of Indiana financial difficulties he does not want Johnson County to end up the same way.

Mr. West arrived at this time.

The Council recessed for five minutes to brief Councilman West on the budget discussion.

The motion carried with a four to three vote, Mr. McConnell, Mr. West, and Mr. Reed voted nay.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the hourly rates and mileage rates for 2004 to remain the same as 2003. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Clerical: **\$ 7.50 per hour**
 \$ 7.75 per hour after six months
 \$ 8.00 per hour after two years

Outside Help: **\$ 8.00 per hour**
 \$ 8.25 per hour after six months
 \$ 8.50 per hour after two years

Mileage Rate: **.\$30 per mile**

VI. APPROVAL OF 7/14/03 MINUTES

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

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2003 – (Cont.)

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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

PARK – (128)

Tim Davis, Superintendent, appeared to request a transfer of funds from two salary positions into overtime.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the transfers as requested. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

From: #128-113.0 – Recreation Director	(\$ 793.11)
From: #128-123.0 – Maintenance	(\$ 1,737.12)
To: #128-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 2,530.23

SUPERIOR COURT NO. 3 – (134)

Kim Van Valer Shilts, Superior Court No. 3 Judge, appeared to request a transfer of funds from Assistant Court Reporter into Part-time because of a full-time employee being off on bed rest expecting a baby in October. She withdrew the request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,000.00 for office furniture & equipment.

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

From: #134-115.0 – Assistant Court Reporter	(\$ 3,000.00)
To: #134-117.0 – Part-time	\$ 3,000.00

ANIMAL SHELTER – (219)

Julie Hively, Animal Warden, appeared to request a transfer of funds for overtime.

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

From: #219-445.0 – Vehicles	(\$ 2,500.00)
To: #219-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 2,500.00

PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM – (286)

Michelle Murray, Prosecutor's Office Manager, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,000.00 for special services. She explained the money would be used for blood draws on intoxicated drivers.

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

#286-113.0 – Special Services	\$ 1,000.00
-------------------------------	-------------

PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL PROGRAM – (327)

Mrs. Murray requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,200.00 for Communications to pay for cell phones. She noted they had requested the funds from the general fund last month and was asked to request the money from another fund.

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

#327-340.0 – Communications	\$ 1,200.00
-----------------------------	-------------

Mrs. Murray requested to prepay one-night deposit of \$160.00 for a conference in New Orleans. The conference will be for five nights

Mr. Wright moved to approve the request. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

MAGISTRATE COURT – (136)

Richard Tandy, Magistrate Court Judge, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$18,000.00 for Professional Services. He explained the money is needed to pay their public defenders, interpreting services and psychological evaluations.

Mr. Canary commented perhaps in the future the county might need to hire an interpreter for all the courts.

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

#136-301.0 – Professional Services	\$ 18,000.00
------------------------------------	--------------

SHERIFF & JAIL – (105) (124)

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to request an additional appropriation (\$534.39) for a Correctional Officer that was promoted during the restructuring, a title change from Payroll Clerk/Computer to Payroll Clerk, and an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000.00 for Hospital/Medical. He explained the Council approved \$62,000.00 last month for Hospital/Medical and to request the funds from the county Medical Care of Inmates Fund for \$18,379.58, which he noted was next on the agenda. Even with the funds already approved he still needs an additional \$50,000.00 for the line item. He noted the department just started with a new nursing staff at the Jail and are hopeful this will reduce some of the medical expenses. He also noted a meeting is scheduled for this week with the hospital to discuss the possibility of receiving a reduced rate because of the high volume the county does with them.

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2003 – (Cont.)

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

#124-125.4 – Correctional Officer \$24,775 to \$25,988 \$ 534.39
#105-127.5 – Payroll Clerk/Computer to Payroll Clerk (title change)
#124-309.0 – Hospital/Medical \$ 50,000.00

COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FOR INMATES – (903)

Sheriff McLaughlin explained the additional funds are needed to pay for the Hospital/Medical claims.

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

#903-200.0 – Claims \$ 18,379.58

DRUG ALCOHOL RESISTANCE EDUCATION – (304)

Sheriff McLaughlin requested an additional appropriation the amount of \$4,195.86 to be used for McGruff (drug and gang education programs).

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

#304-200.0 – Claims \$ 4,195.86

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – (254)

Capital Improvements Buildings

Jack Matthews, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$150,000.00 to repair the windows and walls in the Annex and to repair the parking lot behind the North Annex. Mr. Matthews distributed pictures of the needed repairs for the Council to view. He explained the windows at the Annex have not been resealed for 20 years and are leaking. The outside ledges that are flowerbeds are causing some of the damage. It has been suggested to build small roofs over the flowerbeds so that the water is not running back towards the building. The leakage has caused damage to the walls and wallpaper. They have only received two estimates to fix the walls in the Annex and are still waiting on estimates for resealing the windows. The north side parking lot of the North Annex has fallen in two areas. Three contractors have looked at the parking lot but have not presented actual bids because they are concerned on what they will find under the asphalt. Mr. Matthews noted the funds would be used for the two repairs only and any remaining money would revert back to the Cum Cap Fund.

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

#254-427.0 – Capital Improvements Buildings \$ 150,000.00

Voting Equipment (see minutes 6/9/03 & 7/14/03)

Brenda Jones-Matthews, Clerk, appeared along with, Rob McGinnis from Election Systems & Software and a financial consultant, Timothy Holmes from Public Finance. She explained the Board of Commissioners negotiated the cost of the voting equipment and agreed upon \$2,424,760. She noted the county would have on-going costs regardless of the type of voting equipment used, approximately \$114,400 for both primary and general elections. Unfortunately, interest rates have continued to go up and based upon a 7-year financing with the first payment due January 15, 2004 the interest rate would be 3.59% with an annual payment of \$390,015. Reimbursement to the county is approximately \$3,100 per precinct which would result in \$320,000 to Johnson County. She requested an additional appropriation from the Cum Cap Fund in the amount of \$390,015 to make the first payment in January.

Mr. Waltz commented the United States has a four hundred billion dollar deficit projected for next year and the State of Indiana has a projected one billion dollar deficit.

Yet the Federal and State government are mandating to the local governments to spend approximately \$2.4 million dollars on voting machines. He stated he was not convinced that there is a need for the equipment. To change an effective voting system (punch card system) by raising property taxes by 2 million dollars because this is very likely where the funding will come from seems to be the wrong answer at the wrong time and plans to vote against the request.

Mr. Wright noted the mandate to change the system still exists and if the county waits the reimbursement funds could be gone if Johnson County waits too long.

Mr. Canary concurred with Mr. Wright.

Mr. McConnell commented he does not like un-funded mandates either and does not feel this will go away. He would rather go ahead with the project to obtain some of the reimbursement money.

Mr. Reed stated he does not want to raise property taxes at this time. He does not feel its fair to approve a new voting system when the Council is unable to increase the deputy's salaries.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews commented she would like to see the Sheriff's deputies receive a raise also, however the mandate is not going to go away and interest rates are going to just increase.

Mr. Wright moved to approve \$390,015.00 for voting equipment from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried five to two, Mr. Reed and Mr. Waltz voted nay.

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2003 – (Cont.)

#254-431.0 – Voting Equipment

\$ 390,015.00

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – (122)

Joseph Pitcher, County Attorney, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$184,427.00 for Professional Liability & Casualty. He explained the new plan took effect July 1st and in the past the county made payments twice a year, however with the new plan the full amount is due all at once.

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

#122-342.0 – Professional Liability & Casualty

\$ 184,427.00

IX. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Health Department

John Bonsett, Health Director, appeared to request the approval for the Health Department to accept payments with a bankcard or credit cards. He explained they do a lot of out-of-state business and they do not like to accept personnel checks from out-of-state requests. They are still in negotiations with some of the local banks to provide the service. The department is discussing an overall fee increase for their services to help offset the credit card's service charges.

Council members suggested the Health Department work with the Board of Commissioners on a local bank to use for the county because other departments may want to offer the same service in the future.

Deborah Shutta, Auditor, noted the County Treasurer may use credit cards but that is governed under another statute that allows the Treasurer to charge a fee for the use of a credit card.

Mr. McConnell moved to authorize the Health Department to accept payments with a bankcard or credit card. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mr. West apologized to the Council and everyone in attendance for being late to the meeting due to a power outage at his residence.

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