

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MAY 10, 2004

President, Brent Waltz, called the meeting to order.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 5/10/04 AGENDA

Mr. Wright moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 4/12/04 MINUTES

Mr. Reed moved to approve the 4/12/04 Council minutes as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Reed recognized the newly elected Senator Brent Waltz and congratulated the other newly elected individuals.

Mr. Waltz thanked Mr. Reed and noted as soon as the November Election is over he assured everyone he would be a good advocate for local government at the State House.

VII. JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY – LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND APPROVAL

Beverly Martin, Library Director, appeared asking for approval of the Library Capital Projects Fund Plan (LCPF) for the 2005 budget. She noted the Plan attempts to meet several goals for the Library in various areas: expansion of services through building expansion and improvement, technology development, and equipment replacement. The LCPF being proposed for 2005-2007 is based upon a levy rate not to exceed \$0.0133 cents per year of the plan.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the Resolution of Appropriate Fiscal Body of Action on Library Capital Projects Plan. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

VIII. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & TRANSFERS:

MAGISTRATE COURT – (136)

Barbara Davis, First Deputy Auditor, noted that judge Tandy would be attending the meeting, however may be a little late. She explained the transfer request he has proposed is because of overtime that was spent in the last few weeks of 2003 and the departments were not allowed to encumber the funds into 2004.

Mr. West noted he was not in favor of allowing funds to be transferred into overtime from various line items.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the request as submitted. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried four to one, Mr. West voted nay.

From: #136-113.1 – Proceedings Supp. Court Reporter	(\$ 332.60)
From: #136-114.0 – Assistant Court Reporter	(\$ 332.60)
To: #136-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 665.20

SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION – (297)

Richard Pfifer, Chief Probation Officer, appeared to request a transfer of funds from salary supplement into part-time. He explained the funds are needed because an employee was on maternity leave and two other individuals have left employment.

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

From: #297-121.3 – Salary Supplement	(\$ 3,900.00)
To: #297-114.0 – Part-time Professional/Clerical	\$ 3,900.00

SHERIFF – (105)

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to request a transfer of funds from two full-time positions into a Lieutenant's Position to pay for unused sick/personal and vacation time when the employee separated from the county.

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

From: #105-115.4 – Deputy	(\$ 8,769.73)
From: #105-127.0 – Administrative Assistant	(\$ 677.02)
To: #105-113.4 – Lieutenant	\$ 9,446.75

HOMELAND SECURITY BOMB SQUAD EQUIPMENT GRANT – (916)

Sheriff McLaughlin requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$199,845.00 to purchase a robot (\$140,000), bomb suits (\$15,000 each), bomb transport trailer (\$24,500), and hook and line kits.

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

#916-410.0 – Equipment	\$199,845.00
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TRAFFIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT GRANT – (917)

Sheriff McLaughlin requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3,324.75 to purchase one video camera and three portable breath tests. The grant will reimburse 75% of the total cost and the remainder 25% would be paid from the Sheriff's Commissary Fund.

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

#917-410.0 – Equipment \$ 3,324.75

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE – (116)

Kimberly Carter, Extension Educator, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,960 to utilize the State Student Assistance Summer Work-Study Program. The State will reimburse the county for half the salary of a part-time student and the amount she is requesting is for the reimbursement portion.

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

#116-112.4 – Part Time Clerical \$ 1,960.00

MUSEUM – (125)

Sarah Rogers, Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$17,000 for utilities. She distributed a 2004 utility budget history to the Council members showing the comparison from the old HVAC system to the new. She explained the current system is more efficient than the previous one and it now includes humidity control. It is vital that the system run 24 hours a day to maintain a constant, stable environment for the historical artifacts and county records that are housed in the building. They have spent approximately \$12,000 in four months for utilities and based upon calculations they would need an additional \$15,074 and are requesting \$17,000 to insure that all unknown costs are covered for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Rogers noted that the 2004 visitation to date is approximately 1,684. She also listed the various organizations the Museum serve and the upcoming events for 2004.

Mr. Waltz noted he was under the understanding that once the new system was in place the cost of utilities would decrease.

Mr. Reed asked if she has explored other avenues to help offset some of the costs of the Museum.

Ms. Rogers responded they received an educational grant for \$100,000; however the money cannot be used for operational costs. They hope to do more events at the Museum and perhaps a partnership with Franklin College Continuing Studies that could result in some revenue.

Mr. Wright asked if the Museum could be self-supporting through donations. Ms. Rogers responded she has only been on the job three weeks and could not answer that question at this time. Mr. Wright suggested the building be donated to the Historical Society and the Society could take over the operational costs.

Discussion was held on the chart showing the kilowatts usage and the rates for electricity.

Mr. Waltz noted that when the original arrangement was made between the County and the Historical Society that both would own the building jointly. There has always been some confusion as to who is responsible for the operational costs of approximately \$110,000. Last year at the budget hearings the Council made a reduction of \$15,000 in the Museum budget. This type of arrangement should become a definite partnership in all aspects including financial elements.

Ms. Rogers responded that perhaps that could be a possibility for 2005 however that does not help the shortage she currently has in utilities.

Mr. West moved to table the request until the June Council meeting. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#125-342.0 – Utilities \$ 17,000.00

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of Rules & Regulations for County Employees

Mr. Waltz explained he met with the Board of Commissioners and they are still in the process of developing the Employees Personnel Manual. Mr. Waltz requested this matter be added to the June Council meeting.

2005 Budget Guidelines

Brenda Jones-Matthews, County Auditor, reported some of the recommendations that Mr. McConnell suggested in his absence:

- believes the 2005 budget should be less than the approved 2004 budget
- suggested a 10% overall reduction in each budget
- greater accountability of all discretionary funds
- perhaps a reduction in the Cumulative Bridge rate
- perhaps a reduction in the Reassessment rate
- review all insurance premiums paid by part-time individuals

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Mrs. Jones-Matthews also mentioned that she and Mr. McConnell discussed removing all travel expenses within the budgets; departments would then have to appear before the Council for permission. She noted that Henry County has removed their travel from budgets to save money.

Discussion was held on what an impact a 10% reduction in all budgets would make especially to the smaller departments. Several departments would have to lay-off employees. They also discussed the reductions of the Reassessment and Cumulative Bridge rates.

Mr. West noted the Council should also discuss the EDIT tax at some point to replace the loss of assessed valuations when the inventory assessment is removed. He suggested the Council might want to consider removing the inventory now and replacing it with the EDIT tax to help the economic development in the county.

Mr. West stated for the 2005 budget he suggested that each department take a hard look at their budgets and submit an honest forthright budget. Then the Council can see how much money it takes to run the county and do what ever needs to be done by the Council to make the county continue operating.

Mr. Reed suggested that each department present a budget for 2005 at a bare minimum.

Mr. Waltz felt a prioritization of budgets and which functions of government are the most important to fund. He noted the Museum would be one department to review.

Mr. Wright stated the Council needs to give specific guidelines for the 2005 budgets.

Mr. West suggested the Council look at the budgets at a more performance base. The Council also needs to review the Community Corrections department.

Mr. Canary noted if budgets are going to be prioritized then he feels the Council needs to review all and determine which ones are considered non-essential to the county, not just the Museum.

Richard Pfifer, Chief Adult Probation Officer, stated he would like to see more interaction between the Council's liaisons and the departments especially during the budget process.

County Assessor, Marla Hash, stated the Council members have not been to her office to see what her department does.

Mr. Wright noted a Council member could not visit a department in one day and understand everything the office does.

Mr. Waltz asked the Council members if they perhaps could enter face with their departments over the next 30 days through the liaison system.

After further discussion, Mr. West moved to approve the following guidelines for 2005:

The 2005 budgets do not exceed the approved budgets of 2004. The Council will allow salary adjustments within a department by using the funds available within the 100 series. However, you must also calculate for any salary increases the additional amount needed for social security and PERF. These amounts will then need to be transferred from your budget into the social security and PERF line items of the General Fund. If your budget is not in the General Fund, your social security and PERF line items will need to be increased from the funds within your 100 series. The rate for social security is 7.65% and PERF is 8.25%. No other line items outside the 100 series may be used for salary adjustments.

Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

X. NEW BUSINESS

A Review of Multi-Year Contracts from Other Law Enforcement Deputy Associations

John P. Wilson, Council Attorney, reported he reviewed four contracts that were left at the Auditor's Office. He noted two of the contracts were the same document that was between Steven Goldsmith, Indianapolis Mayor, Fraternal Order of Police and the Marion County Sheriff's Department. As for the other two contracts; one contract dealt with strictly medical insurance issues, the other was a bargaining agreement; one was for one year and the other was a multi-year contract. The multi-year contract was between the Lake County Sheriff's Board and the Police Union. The Council was not involved in either of the contracts. He did note the multi-year contract contained an escape clause stating if one of the parties determine there was not sufficient funding to meet the obligations then the contract would be re-negotiated.

Mr. West commented he feels the County Sheriff is elected and should be the one managing his department. Mr. Reed concurred.

Anthony Meziere, Vice-President of the Johnson County Deputies' Association, stated he left more copies of contracts from other police departments at the last Council meeting for the attorney to review.

Mr. Wilson agreed and would review them also.

Mr. Waltz requested this matter be included on the June Council Agenda.

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

May 10, 4004

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Attest:

Johnson County Auditor