

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 14, 2005

The meeting was called to order by President, Ron West.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Charles Canary, Paul Reed, Richard Mason, Josh McCarty, John Price, and Steve Hollenbeck. John Phil Wilson was present as the Council's attorney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 3/14/05 AGENDA

Mr. West noted that there was one additional request by the Maintenance Department for a transfer of funds within the Cumulative Capital Development Fund that needed to be added to the agenda. Also, a draft ordinance in regards to an excise surtax/wheel tax was submitted by the Board of Commissioners for the Council to review.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 2/14/05 MINUTES

Mr. Hollenbeck moved to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ordinance- Draft Wheel Tax

R.J. McConnell, appeared distributing a proposed "Ordinance of the Johnson County Council Authorizing the Imposition of an Annual License Excise Surtax and a Wheel Tax". He explained the Commissioners would be requesting the ordinance be included on the April's Council Agenda for consideration. He also distributed a proposed use of the funds to each member. The proposed ordinance would generate approximately one million and four for the county's portion and the other portion would be distributed to cities and towns. They are also considering bonding approximately 50% to 60% of the proposed work so work could be completed faster. He noted if anyone has questions, feel free to address the Commissioners or the Highway Task Force. The Task Force will be meeting March 21st at 7:00 pm in the Lower Level of the Courthouse Annex.

Mr. West commented he intends on having some discussion at the end of this meeting in regards to Local Option Highway User Tax (LOHUT).

VII. PRESENTATION FROM JOHNSON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Gregg Bechtold, Johnson Memorial Hospital President, appeared to give a presentation to the Council on the Hospital. The following topics were discussed:

- Mission, Vision, Values
- 2005 Strategic Goals for the Hospital
- Johnson Memorial Facts
- Johnson Memorial Market Share

- Quality of Care
- Community Impact
- New Services Since 1998
- Financial Situation
- Effect of Contractual Allowances
- Effect of Charity/Bad Debt
- Future Issues

John Hall, an individual in attendance, made comments in reference to the Hospital.

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

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS/ADULT PROJECT INCOME – (209)

Albert Hessman, Community Corrections Director, appeared to request a part-time rate of \$15.00 for sworn officers. He explained their part-time line item is self funded through user fees. He feels their staff is short in correctional officers and field officers and a part-time sworn officer would help with their shortage. Law enforcement officers would benefit their department because they are already trained and certified through the State of Indiana. The current hourly rate is at a maximum of \$10.97 per hour and law enforcement officers can obtain part-time work for around \$20.00 per hour.

Mr. Reed asked if any current correctional officers are making \$10.97 per hour. He is reluctant to allow new employees coming in making \$15.00 per hour if there are current CO's only making \$10.97 per hour.

Mr. Hessman responded the County Sheriff has CO's making a little more than \$10.97. He feels that his current employees actually receive more because of the benefit package they receive.

Mr. Price asked if any of the current employees are certified through the law enforcement academy. Mr. Hessman responded "no".

Mr. Hessman noted he intends on removing the CO'S paid from the County General Fund in the near future.

Mr. Price moved to approve the part-time hourly rate of \$15.00 for sworn officers. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. Reed voted nay.

209-113.2 – Part-time (sworn officer) \$15.00 per hour

BIOTERRORISM/PREPAREDNESS GRANT- (Health Dept.) – (919)

John Bonsett, Health Department Director, appeared to request the approval of additional appropriations for several line items from the Bioterrorism/Preparedness Grant. He noted they pay an individual by contract for the planning of the unknown of bioterrorism emergency response from this grant.

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

919-211.0 – Office Supplies	\$ 450.98
919-323.0 – Travel & Training	\$ 5,474.36
919-324.0 – Communication	\$ 1,102.86
919-361.0 – Contractual Services	\$ 37,085.00
919-362.0 – Other Services	\$ 5,100.00
919-410.0 – Office Equipment	\$ 730.88

TREASURER – (103)

Jan Richhart, Treasurer, appeared to request a transfer of funds of \$794.00 for the purchase of a drop box that would be located at the main entrance of the Courthouse Annex. This would allow taxpayers to make payments any time of the day. She received approval from the Board of Commissioners in December of 2004. The maintenance department feels that they will be able to install the unit.

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

From: 103-338.0 – Tax Statements & Duplicates	(\$ 794.00)
To: 103-410.0 – Equipment	\$ 794.00

SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE PROBATION – (296)

JUVENILE PROBATION FEES – (281)

Suzanne Miller, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, appeared to request reductions of two salary supplements from fund #296 to #281 and additional appropriations for operating supplies and office equipment. She explained the fund #281 was established a year ago and is to be used for probation officer's salary. The salary supplement amounts are not changing, only the fund from where they are paid is changing.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the following as submitted. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Reduction: 296-121.5 – Salary Supplement	(\$ 9,645.15)
Reduction: 296-121.6 – Salary Supplement	(\$ 11,317.10)
296-241.0 – Operating Supplies	\$ 210.00
296-410.0 – Office Equipment	\$ 2,163.00
281-111.1 – Salary Supplement	\$ 9,645.15
281-111.2 – Salary Supplement	\$ 11,317.10

SHERIFF – (105)

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to request title changes for three office staff positions. He also requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$752.61 for overtime that was used in the seatbelt enforcement. The money has been transferred from the DUI/Seatbelt Grant into General Fund.

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

- 105-127.1 – Records/Warrant Clerk to Investigation Secretary
- 105-127.2 – Civil Process Clerk to Records/Warrant Clerk

105-127.3 – Investigation Secretary to Civil Process Clerk
105-165.0 – Overtime (seatbelt grant) \$ 752.61

JAIL – (124)

Sheriff McLaughlin requested to withdraw the request for a transfer in the amount of \$17,000 to purchase a new water heater at the Jail. He explained that the maintenance department was able to contact someone to repair the heater.

Sheriff McLaughlin informed the Council they raised the fees for Sheriff Sales by ordinance last year. They have collected an additional \$30,200 compared from March of 2004 to March of 2005. He noted his lowest paid employee does the work on Sheriff Sales. Sheriff McLaughlin would like to talk to the Council about increasing the salary of this individual.

HOMELAND SECURITY BOMB SQUAD EQUIPMENT – (916)

Sheriff McLaughlin requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$140,833.50 for the purchase of a robot from the grant.

After some discussion, Mr. Reed moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

916-410.0 - Equipment \$140,833.50

HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE & REPAIR – (204)

Don Sanders, Highway Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation for the disposal of old tires. The Council has tabled this request for several months.

John Price, the Council representative to the Solid Waste District, explained the Solid Waste Board had discussed this issue and the Director of the District is willing to compile and review requests for proposals. He felt \$4,500.00 would be a more realistic amount instead of the requested \$9,393.00.

Mr. Price moved to approve \$4,500 for the disposal of tires and for Mr. Sanders to work with the Director of Solid Waste to compile request for proposals. Mr. McCarty seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

204-332.1 – Tire Disposal \$ 4,500.00

Mr. Sanders also requested an additional appropriation of \$60,375.94 for vehicle maintenance supplies that reverted back to the fund at the end of 2004. He explained all of their mowers need repair. He spoke to the Board of Commissioners and they will decide next week if they would like for him to purchase new mowers or to not mow roadside ditches. He will be contacting surrounding counties to see what their policies are for mowing the roadsides.

Mr. West noted that last month \$10,000 was transferred from this line item into professional services.

Mr. Price commented if they decide to purchase mowers the expenditure could not be paid from the requested line item (200 series).

After further discussion, Mr. Sanders withdrew his request until further information and decisions are made.

HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION & RECONSTRUCTION – (205)

Mr. Sanders requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$90,858.75 from the funds that reverted back at the end of 2004. He would like to divide the amount into two separate line items for paving projects.

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

205-460.0 – Liquid Asphalt/Hot Mix/Chip Seal	\$ 45,429.37
205-470.0 – Asphalt	\$ 45,429.38

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND – (254)

Jack Matthews, Maintenance Director, appeared to request a transfer of funds from line item 254-408.0 (Highway Improvements) into 254-428.0 (Capital Improvements Equipment). He explained the request is needed to purchase a generator for the Courthouse Annex to use during power outages. Water runs into the Courthouse Annex around the clock and they must have a generator for back up. The basis for the transfer instead of an additional appropriation is the emergency regarding the installation of the generator and legal requirements for advertising additional appropriations. If this request is granted the Board of Commissioners will request to be on the April’s Council Agenda to replenish the 254-408.0 line item.

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

From: 254-408.0 – Highway Improvements	(\$ 22,928.00)
To: 254-428.0 – Capital Improvements Equipment	\$ 22,928.00

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Travel & Training

Mr. Mason requested if the Council could have an expenditure list for travel and training for all departments.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Local Option Highway User Tax (LOHUT) Discussion

Mr. West felt that it is very important for the Council to see what type of highway projects would be completed and if certain restrictions are going to be placed on heavy trucks using the county roads. He has tried to obtain information from the State of Indiana on how much money is collected every year for gasoline tax and how much the county receive from that tax. The State has not been able to tell him that information. He is also concerned if the county is receiving its share of the excise tax. He thinks the State is keeping a considerable amount of money that is actually due to the county. This issue really needs to be addressed before the county considers implementing a wheel tax.

The other issue the Council needs to consider is that the county general fund is in worst shape than the county roads. The Board of Commissioners and various departments are planning on submitting a more realistic budget for the year 2006. The medical insurance will more than likely increase around \$900,000. The inventory tax assessment will be eliminated for 2006 pay 2007 and the taxpayers will have to make up the difference. He noted the Commissioners are considering reestablishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund for 2006 and that will impact the county general fund immensely. He agrees the highway department does need additional money however some of the mentioned issues need to be considered.

Mr. Canary commented there are 320 registered heavy trucks in the county; he feels a lot of the damage being done to the roads are from trucks registered outside the county. He noted a lot of the county roads were built in the early 70's and the life expectancy of them were 25 years.

Mr. Reed feels a restriction should be made on the heavy trucks using the county roads. He noted that 70% of the population is in White River and Pleasant Township and he has been asked if that area would receive 70% of the money to repair their roads. He also commented as for the Cumulative Bridge Fund how many bridges can be repaired in one year and how many were not fixed because the general fund was receiving a portion of the bridge tax rate.

Mr. McCarty noted most gravel companies will not let the trucks leave the quarry overloaded.

Mr. Price commented bridges are very expensive to repair and eventually the county will suffer if they do not keep up with them. He feels the roads are important and agrees with Mr. West that the general fund issue needs to be addressed.

Mr. Mason expressed concern that he is more committed on how to give county employees a raise that he is to the roads.

Mr. West suggested a proposal should be requested to the cities and towns asking if they would be willing to relinquish a portion of their money if the wheel tax were implemented.

Mitch Ripley, County Commissioner, appeared to report that he just left the City of Franklin's Council meeting and he proposed to them that they provide a resolution in support of a wheel tax and consider cooperating the money for bonding purposes.

Mr. West suggested on having someone from Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) attend a Council meeting to give a presentation on how some of the taxes that are sent to the State and where the money actually ends up.

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

March 14, 2005

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Attest:

Johnson County Auditor