

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – NOVEMBER 14, 2005

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 11/14/05 AGENDA

Mr. Mason moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Price seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

V. APPROVAL OF 10/11/05 MINUTES

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

VII. JOHNSON COUNTY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Cheryl Morphew, the newly appointed Johnson County Development Corporation Executive Director, appeared introducing herself to the Council. She commented she is looking forward to working with the Council and would like to appear before them on a quarterly basis to report any new developments in the community.

VIII. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & TRANSFERS:

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

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – (122)

From: 122-305.0 – Interest & Fees	(\$ 858.00)
To: 122-258.0 – Law Books	\$ 858.00

CASA FEE & DONATION FUND – (361)

From: 361-215.0 – Operating/Office Supplies	(\$ 1,000.00)
From: 361-323.0 – Travel & Training	(\$ 4,000.00)
To: 361-114.0 – Part-time	\$ 5,000.00

CASA/GUARDIAN AD LITEM – (274)

From: 274-330.0 – Printing	(\$ 300.00)
From: 274-411.0 – Office Equipment/Furniture	(\$ 400.00)
To: 274-395.0 – Dues (new)	\$ 700.00

COURT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT GRANT CASA – (344)

From: 344-215.0 – Misc. Office Supplies	(\$ 1,573.05)
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To: 344-301.0 – Professional Services \$ 1,573.05
344-301.0 – Professional Services \$ 4,800.00

HEALTH – (210)

From: 210-116.1 – Salary 1st Public Health Nurse (\$ 5,061.40)

To: 210-116.0 – Salary Director Nursing \$ 5,061.40

WIC – (215)

From: 215-350.0 – Professional Services (\$ 1,400.00)

To: 215-217.0 – Office Supplies \$ 1,400.00

COMPUTER SERVICES – (141)

From: 141-104.0 – Computer Admin/Courts (\$ 1,000.00)

To: 141-360.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance \$ 1,000.00

JUVENILE DETENTION CENTER – (140)

Jim Higdon, Director of the Juvenile Detention Center, appeared to request a transfer of funds for salary line items that are running short because of paying employees their unused vacation and sick time when they left employment. The other transfer into equipment is needed to purchase a new milk cooler for the center.

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

From: 140-122.8 – Youth Care Manager (\$ 6,115.56)

To: 140-113.0 – Assistant Director \$ 5,384.08

To: 140-120.3 – Youth Care Manager/EMT \$ 731.48

From: 140-222.0 – Food (\$ 1,290.00)

To: 140-441.0 – Equipment \$ 1,290.00

PARK – (128) & PARK NON-REVERTING CAPITAL – (271)

Tim Davis, Park Superintendent, appeared to request transfer of funds from several line items into the utilities line item. He noted the recreation director's position has been vacant since March and they did not fill the position because of the anticipated increase in utilities and fuel.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the requests and submitted. Mr. Mason seconded the motion.

Mr. West questioned the amount of utilities that show being disbursed from the #128 budget versus the amount budgeted for 2006.

Mr. Davis explained they pay utilities from their non-reverting funds also. He noted they do not have revenue coming in the first of the year for improvements and other expenses so they use budget money until their revenue begins to come in. They must do their capital improvements to the park early in the year before the horse show and other facilities open; then they use their non-reverting funds to pay expenses.

The motion carried unanimously.

From: 128-113.1 – Recreation Director	(\$ 19,800.00)
From: 128-118.1 – Salary Park Maintenance	(\$ 200.00)
From: 128-120.0 – Salary Park Maintenance	(\$ 1,200.00)
From: 128-199.0 – Overtime	(\$ 1,000.00)
From: 128-119.1 – Part-time	(\$ 3,700.00)
From: 128-162.0 – Per Diem Park Board	(\$ 700.00)
To: 128-351.0 – Utilities	\$ 26,600.00

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

From: 271-410.0 – Equipment	(\$ 2,500.00)
To: 271-210.0 – Supplies	\$ 2,500.00

Mr. Canary moved to approve the following requests as submitted. Mr. Price seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER – (120)

From: 120-323.0 – Travel & Training	(\$ 462.00)
From: 120-390.0 – Dues & Subscriptions	(\$ 439.00)
To: 120-114.0 – Part-time \$10.00 hourly rate	\$ 901.00

MAGISTRATE COURT – (136)

From: 136-225.0 – Operating Supplies	(\$ 1,400.00)
From: 136-340.0 – Travel & Training	(\$ 1,000.00)
From: 136-391.0 – Jury Expenses	(\$ 1,900.00)
To: 136-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 4,300.00

SUPERIOR COURT NO. 1 – (132)

From: 132-215.0 – Office Supplies	(\$ 2,000.00)
From: 132-323.0 – Travel & Training	(\$ 1,000.00)
From: 132-370.0 – Equipment Leases	(\$ 4,000.00)
To: 132-440.0 – Office Equipment	\$ 7,000.00

ADULT PROBATION – (297)

From: 297-323.0 – Travel & Training	(\$ 900.00)
To: 297-114.0 – Part-time	\$ 900.00
From: 297-323.0 – Travel & Training	(\$ 1,100.00)
To: 297-122.2 – Probation Officer Supplement	\$ 1,100.00
From: 297-301.0 – Professional Services	(\$ 200.00)
To: 297-470.0 – Office Equipment	\$ 200.00

TREASURER – (103)

Rita Sievertson, Treasurer, appeared to request a transfer of funds in the amount of \$2,500 into professional services to hire a consultant to help the office with the collection of the food and beverage tax. She distributed a report of the food & beverage collections, a correspondence sent to non-filers and late filers, and a resume from Kenneth Miller for consultant services.

She noted one problem she has had is the vendors that have not paid or they paid the State instead of the county and the process of trying to collect money. She is also having a difficult time in having some questions answered from the Department of Revenue. She felt that Mr. Miller could help her with some of these issues and also represent the county as a hearing officer if necessary. Mr. Miller was the Revenue Commissioner for the State of Indiana for thirteen years and with the Department of Revenue for thirty-four years.

Mr. West noted he met with Mrs. Sieverston to discuss some of issues that the office is experiencing. He called John Eckart, Commissioner of the Department of Revenue, and a meeting is going to take place around the first of December for the Council, Treasurer, Auditor, and Department of Revenue to meet and discuss the future cooperation between the County and the State in reference to the collection of the food & beverage tax. Mr. West commented he would like to wait before any action is taken in hiring a consultant until the meeting with the State is held. He feels the State should answer any questions the County may have and probably would not be in favor of ever hiring a consultant.

Mr. McCarty asked if the County is keeping all the penalties and interest. Mrs. Sieverston responded "yes". She noted she recently opened a "super fund savings account" in order to deposit the money into.

Discussion was held on the amount of money the new position in the Treasurers Office is costing versus the money we are keeping from interest and penalties and to review it in a year.

Mrs. Sieverston noted she does not want to give the collection of the food & beverage tax to the State.

Mr. West suggested the request be tabled until the meeting with the State is held.

Mr. Mason expressed concern that if Mrs. Sieverston has questions she needs answered now before the meeting she has no way of paying someone if the request is tabled.

Mr. West suggested perhaps the County Attorney could send a letter to the establishments that are not paying.

R.J. McConnell, County Commissioner, appeared and explained the County Attorney's retainer fee does not extend to help with the collection of the tax. It would be additional work and they would need the resources to compensate him.

Mr. West stated the Council's Attorney could draft a letter for the Treasurer to use to send to the establishments that are not paying.

Mr. Mason moved to table the request until the December Council meeting. Mr. Price seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mr. Hollenbeck moved to approve the following requests as submitted. Mr. Price seconded the motion.

COUNTY MEDICAL CARE FOR INMATES – (903)

903-200.0 – Claims \$ 1,335.70

PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL PROGRAM – (327)

327-220.0 – Books \$ 1,000.00

327-221.0 – Printing \$ 2,500.00

Mr. Mason questioned what types of books are going to be purchased by the Prosecutor's Office from the Deferral Fund.

Michelle Murray, Prosecutor's Office Manager, appeared and explained they would use the funds to purchase law books.

The motion carried unanimously.

MUSEUM – (125)

Sarah Rogers, Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$8,000 for utilities. She noted she mailed information to each member showing the differences in the utilities from last year to this year. She explained the dehumidifying system has never run properly since the installation. A portion of the equipment was not running at full capacity until Frank Irish (heating & cooling) repaired the system in late summer. This has resulted in a huge increase in their gas and electric bills.

Mr. Reed asked if the County could go back on the company that installed the equipment.

Jack Matthews, Maintenance Supervisor, appeared and stated the company has gone bankrupt. He explained that Frank Irish could not work on the system until the warranty had expired.

Mr. Price noted the utilities line item would be depleted in July of 2006 at the current rate.

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

125-342.0 – Utilities \$ 8,000.00

PLEASANT TOWNSHIP ASSESSOR – (112)

Donna Zelner, Pleasant Township Assessor, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,000 for utilities.

Mr. Price moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. McCarty seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

112-373.0 – Utilities

\$ 2,000.00

ANIMAL SHELTER – (219)

Shawn Donovan, Animal Warden, appeared to request several transfers and additional appropriations in the budget. He is short in the part-time and overtime line items. The reason is because of paying individuals for their unused vacation and sick time when they leave employment he is not able to hire someone in those positions so he has utilized more part-time and paid current employees overtime. They are running only two road deputies for the entire county at this time. He noted that because they are a small department it is very difficult to utilize compensatory time.

Discussion was held on the amount that is currently in the red in the overtime and with the requests still would not be enough for the remainder of the year. The Council was concerned that the overtime was disbursed prior to requesting the money. Mr. Donovan commented he would probably need to return next month.

They also discussed how the cash fund is in the red approximately \$94,000. The department just recently submitted their report of collections for the months of March, April, May, June, July, August, and September and does not reflect that on the Council report. Also, the majority of the revenue is derived from property taxes that are received in June and December. Next year the Council may need to borrow from another fund such as Cumulative Capital Development for the Shelter’s cash flow problem.

Mr. Mason would like to know at the next meeting where the funds are coming from to cover the shortage in the Animal Shelter’s budget.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the requests as requested. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

From: 219-113.4 – Salary Deputy Warden	(\$ 1,500.00)
From: 219-113.1 – Deputy Warden	(\$ 3,000.00)
To: 219-113.3 – Kennel Attendant (Part-time)	\$ 4,500.00
From: 219-118.0 – Advisory Board Members	(\$ 320.00)
To: 219-143.0 – Retirement	\$ 320.00
From: 219-113.0 – Dispatch	(\$ 717.36)
To: 219-112.0 – Salary Administrative Asst.	\$ 307.61
To: 219-113.3 – Kennel Attendant (Part-time)	\$ 409.75
From: 219-141.0 – Unemployment	(\$ 2,068.91)
To: 219-113.3 – Kennel Attendant (Part-time)	\$ 2,068.91
From: 219-113.2 – Deputy Warden	(\$ 3,573.15)
From: 219-113.1 – Deputy Warden	(\$ 3,800.00)
To: 219-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 7,373.15
219-113.3 – Kennel Attendant (Part-time)	\$ 7,500.00
219-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 6,000.00
219-221.0 – Vehicle Maintenance Supplies	\$ 2,500.00

219-225.0 – Operating Supplies	\$ 1,200.00
219-215.0 – Office Supplies	\$ 450.00

COURTHOUSE – (123)

Jack Matthews, Director of Maintenance, appeared to request some transfer of funds and additional appropriations for utilities and communications. He explained the transfers are needed to replenish two salary line items that are short because of paying vacation and sick time to former employees.

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

From: 123-213.0 – Preventive Maintenance Supply	(\$ 3,950.00)
To: 123-114.0 – Part-time Custodian Help	\$ 3,000.00
To: 123-119.0 – Salary Custodian	\$ 950.00
From: 123-113.0 – Salary Custodian	(\$ 2,687.00)
To: 123-119.0 – Salary Custodian	\$ 2,687.00

Mr. Matthews requested \$40,000 for utilities and \$600 for communications.

Discussion was held on the amount of money that has been transferred from the utilities line item and how the Council can determine the exact amount needed for specific line items when transfers are done throughout the year. They discussed the possibility of departments requesting additional appropriations when line items run short instead of transferring the money.

The communications request of \$600.00 is needed for cell phones and pagers. They changed their service provider and the cost increased. The department has twelve pagers and two cell phones.

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

123-351.0 – Utilities	\$ 40,000.00
123-361.0 – Communications	\$ 600.00

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – (254)

Mr. Matthews requested additional appropriations in the amount of \$50,000 for capital improvement equipment and buildings. He explained the money is needed to purchase a compressor for the Annex air conditioning system, carpet in the lower level of the Annex, and various repairs to the county buildings.

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

254-428.0 – Capital Improvement Equipment	\$ 25,000.00
254-427.0 – Capital Improvement Buildings	\$ 25,000.00

IX. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion of the Capital General Obligation Bond

R. J. McConnell and Mitch Ripley, County Commissioners, appeared to discuss the proposed bond issuance. The proposed bond is not to exceed \$3.5 million. They distributed a proposed debt service schedule, projected property tax rates, property tax impact, and projected revenue and expenditures for a three million bond with a four-year payback. Mike Reuter the county's financial consultant prepared the report. Mr. McConnell reviewed some of the figures of the report with the Council. He noted there would be a debt service rate coming off for 2006 payable 2007 at which time if approve this debt would take effect. The property tax impact will happen when the inventory tax is eliminated from personal property resulting in a decrease in the assessed valuation.

Mr. McConnell reviewed some of the items that are included on the capital equipment list. He explained the \$700,000 is needed for a new telecommunications system and noted that Johnson Memorial Hospital has offered the use of their telecommunications personnel consultant to help the county through this process at no charge. The local phone bill is running approximately \$16,000 per month and if and when the new system is installed the monthly bill is estimated to be around \$5,000. The other large expenditure on the bond list is the Sheriff's vehicles in the amount of \$1,182,435. He noted there is approximately \$750,000 that is not on the list that is needed for the Highway Department and they plan to propose a separate bond later for this equipment and use Cumulative Bridge money to make the debt payments.

They removed the following from the proposed list:

Carpet lower level Annex - \$15,000
HVAC repairs for the Museum
Utility Vehicle Fairgrounds - \$ 6,000

Brian Young, the new Fairboard President, appeared to introduce himself to the Council and asked that the Council please consider their requests that have been included on the list.

The Council concurred to hold a Public Hearing on the General Obligation Bonds at their regularly scheduled meeting on December 5th at 8:00 pm.

X. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

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