

## **COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – DECEMBER 28, 2006**

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

### **I. ROLL CALL**

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

### **II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **III. INVOCATION**

### **IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

### **SHERIFF'S CONTRACT FOR 2007**

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, and Tom Jones, Sheriff's Attorney, appeared to discuss the contract for 2007. Sheriff McLaughlin reviewed with the Council some of the accomplishments he has made while serving as Sheriff. In four years he has brought in \$513,835 in Department of Corrections money, \$327,161 in Sheriff Sale fees, \$87,316 in Grant funds, and \$35,034 in Inmate Medical. He explained how they request quotes every week for things like toiletry paper to save money. He has used \$588,000 of their commissary funds in four years. He would agree for his 2007 salary to be 90% of the Prosecutor's salary, \$103,754.

Sheriff McLaughlin reported the following Sheriff's salaries for 2006 of other counties.

Boone County: \$93,000 (contract)

Grant County: \$90,000

Hancock County: \$50,000 plus meals and tax warrants

Jennings County: \$94,000

Kosciusko County: \$88,000 (contract)

Lagrange County: \$87,500 (contract)

Laporte County: \$99,450 plus meals and tax warrants

Elkhart County: \$99,500 plus meals

Lawrence County: \$90,000 plus meals

Madison County: \$99,500 (contract)

Morgan County: \$93,000 plus tax warrants

Parke County: \$85,000 (contract)

Wayne County: \$88,400

Wells County: \$88,240

Whitley County: \$86,000

Hendricks County: \$98,748

Hamilton County: \$135,395 plus meals and tax warrants

Delaware County: \$91,122 (contract)

Porter County: \$110,500 (contract)

Tippecanoe County: \$101,537 (contract)

Vanderburg County: \$115,135 (contract)

Bartholomew County: \$90,000

R.J. McConnell, County Commissioner, appeared commenting he is troubled of only paying 90% of the Prosecutor's salary because the Sheriff has to deal with things that no other department of his size has to deal with, and that is term limits. After two terms, the Sheriff has to have some other type of career plan to continue on. So one of the reasons counties have allowed what seems to be a lot of money is to attract the very best to do the job. The Prosecutor does not have term limits and can continue on as long as he is re-elected.

Several Council members commented on how the Sheriff has done a good job over the past four years.

Mr. Jones stated he has represented the Sheriff's Department and Merit Board off and on for thirty-five years and he has never seen the department better organized and have less problems since Terry McLaughlin has been Sheriff.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the 2007 salary contract for the Sheriff at \$103,754. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mr. West read the following resolution into the record:

**RESOLUTION OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY COUNCIL  
IN MEMORIAL AND APPRECIATION OF RICHARD L. "RICK" MASON**

**WHEREAS**, the Johnson County Council is the fiscal body in and for the County of Johnson, State of Indiana; and,

**WHEREAS**, the said Richard L. Mason, (hereinafter referred to as "Rick Mason") faithfully served the citizens of Johnson County as a council member for twenty-four (24) years having been elected seven times to said office; and,

**WHEREAS**, the said Rick Mason discharged his duties with diligence and common sense; and,

**WHEREAS**, the said Rick Mason did represent his County faithfully and with enthusiasm having diligently served on several boards and committees over the years which were involved with local government and its administration; and,

**WHEREAS**, the said Rick Mason was a leader on the Johnson County Council who could address issues at their most fundamental level and resolve conflicts in a manner that was always in the best interests of Johnson County; and,

**WHEREAS**, the said Rick Mason unexpectedly did depart this life on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2006;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Johnson County Council that because we share with his family in the acute grief occasioned by his demise and because we share with them the satisfaction and the pleasure occasioned by his life, we the members of said Council do direct that a copy of this Resolution of Memorial and Appreciation be entered into the minutes of this governmental body and to be there kept in perpetuity and the original be given to the family of Rick Mason as a token of our respect and esteem.

**RESOLVED BY** the Johnson County Council at the seat of government in and for said County on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of December 2006.

Josh McCarty  
John Price  
Ron West  
Charles Canary  
Paul Reed  
Steve Hollenbeck

Attest: Jan Richhart, Johnson County Auditor

Mr. Canary moved to approve the resolution. Mr. Price seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

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