

COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – FEBRUARY 1, 2006

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – (208)

Albert Hessman, Community Corrections Director, appeared to request a salary ordinance amendment for the Program Manager, #208-113.3 from \$34,344 to \$40,000, effective 1/1/06. He explained the Council approved the salary in October of 2005, however failed to have it approved last month along with their other amendments.

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

208-113.3 – Program Manager \$34,344 to \$40,000, effective 1/1/06

AUDITOR –(102)

Jan Richhart, Auditor, requested a transfer of \$100 from equipment repair and maintenance into office equipment. She explained the office transcriber no longer works and needs to be replaced. The request for a new transcriber was included on the equipment bond and if this transfer is approved it would be removed from the bond request.

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

Mr. Canary noted that the Council needs to keep track of things that are being purchased now and can be removed from the GO Bond.

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| From: 102-362.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance | (\$100.00) |
| To: 102-440.0 – Office Equipment | \$100.00 |

COUNCIL ORDINANCE 2006-01 – Ordinance of the Johnson County Council Authorizing Tax Anticipation Warrants for 2006

Kim Blanchet, Bond Counsel for the Bond from Barnes & Thornburg, appeared noting that an amendment needs to be made in Section 3 (a): first paragraph, the date needs to read February 23, 2006 when the bids will be received by the County Auditor. The

warrant requested for 2006 is in the amount of \$4,050,000 and shall mature on December 31, 2006 with an interest rate not to exceed 8% per annum.

Mr. Canary moved to approve Ordinance 2006-01 including the amendment. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – Highway Director’s Position (see 1/9/06 Council minutes)

R. J. McConnell, Mitch Ripley, and Tom Kite, County Commissioners, appeared to request an amendment to the highway director’s salary for 2006. The Commissioners requested the following proposal:

Current Positions and Salary:

HIGHWAY

#202-111.0 – Director \$ 57,711

#202-113.0 – Engineer \$ 60,000

BRIDGE

#206-121.0 – Engineer Designer \$ 32,221

Requested Amendments:

Director’s Salary \$100,000.00

Engineer’s Salary \$ 60,000.00 (no change)

Engineer Designer’s Position - eliminate

The additional funds needed for the highway director would come from the engineer designer’s position and an additional appropriation, both requests from the Cum Bridge Fund. The director would have a professional engineer degree.

Mr. McConnell commented this would allow the county to have two individuals with a P. E. degree at the highway department and feels with the size of Johnson County this is needed.

Discussion was held on how the highway director/PE would have time to actually work on bridge designs. Mr. McConnell commented the position would be in a more supervisory role than hands on engineer designer role.

Mr. McConnell noted the Commissioners might hire the current highway director under contract to help with some of the current projects until they are completed, as funds are available.

Some of the Council members did not have a problem with the concept but with the salary of \$100,000.

Mr. Mason expressed concern of eliminating the engineer designer position to increase the salary then in a year ask for the position back. He suggested the highway director

should assume the fleet managers position and pay them the additional \$10,000. That would make the director being paid more than the engineer.

Mr. Price distributed a comparison of highway director's salaries throughout the State of Indiana and the highest base salary was \$91,368 with the average of \$63,120. The highway engineer's salary averaged \$66,415. He feels the highway engineer should be paid more than \$60,000 and the planning & zoning engineer's salary needs to be reviewed also. Mr. Price then made a motion that the highway director's salary be \$85,000 and the engineer's salary at \$68,000 and to transfer the funds from the overtime line item to make up the \$3,068.

After some discussion, Mr. McConnell noted they would like to have some time to review the issue of the county engineers salaries and come before the Council at their March meeting. He said the Commissioners would be willing to change the title of the highway director to highway director/P.E. with a salary of \$85,000 and if they are not successful in hiring an individual with a P.E. degree they would need to return to the Council.

Mr. Mason stated he is not in favor of paying the director \$85,000 especially when it does not include the responsibility of fleet manager.

Mr. Kite commented the Board is not asking for an additional appropriation, they are using existing funds.

Mr. Price moved to amend his motion to change the title of Director to Director/Professional Engineer with an annual salary of \$85,000 and to transfer \$27,289 from 206-121.0 into 206-110.0. Mr. McCarty seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. Mason voted nay.

HIGHWAY – (202)

202-111.0 – Director to Director/P.E. \$ 57,711.00

CUMULATIVE BRIDGE – (206)

206-110.0 – Director to Director/P.E. \$ 27,289.00

From: 206-121.0 – Engineer Designer (\$ 27,289)

To: 206-110.0 – Director/P.E. (new) \$ 27,289

COUNCIL ORDINANCE 2006-02 – Ordinance to establish an Emergency Telephone System Fee and Setting and/or Amending the Amount Thereof

Mr. West noted the surcharge for the E-911 was approved last month from \$.70 to \$1.95.

Mr. Price moved to approve Ordinance 2006-02. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

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