

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 3, 2007

The meeting was called to order by President, John Price.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Charlie Canary, Steve Hollenbeck, Beth Boyce, Ron West, Anita Knowles, and Josh McCarty. Phil Wilson was also present as the Council's attorney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 12/03/07 AGENDA

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 11/13/07 MINUTES

Mr. West moved to approve the 11/13/07 minutes as submitted. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

VII. STATE LEGISLATORS- Property Tax Update & Funding Issues

Senator Patricia Miller and State Representative Woodrow Burton appeared to discuss property tax and funding issues.

Senator Miller thanked the Council for allowing them the opportunity to have this dialog with the County. Some of the proposed key issues she spoke of were as follows:

- School General Fund off of Property Taxes
- Welfare Costs off of Property Taxes
- Supplement the loss of Revenue with an additional Sales Tax
- Caps of Property Tax on Homestead Residential (1%), other Residential Property (2%), and Businesses (3%)

She noted that they are aware of the concern of local government in regards to additional revenue for roads. They do not have the issue resolved, however feels this is something that needs to be addressed at some point.

Mr. Burton commented the issues that Ms. Miller spoke of are basically in draft form and several things could change until it's finalized. He does feel something will be done on the property tax issue. He noted the assessment of property is not working correctly throughout the State and feels the problem needs to be corrected. He also noted on the

road funding issue that the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) does have money available to award for certain road repairs.

Mrs. Boyce asked what is the authority of the Capital Projects Board.

Mr. Burton explained the Board would have the authority to review the various budgets and make decisions locally.

Mr. McCarty asked what types of impact will the proposed property tax issue effect local government. He read that local government would have to make drastic reductions.

Senator Miller commented they are reviewing other mechanisms of funding to help offset the loss of property tax revenue to local government. The State is looking on restructuring to reform the whole system of taxing.

Mr. West remarked sales tax should be the only avenue taken to help offset property taxes. Anything outside the sales tax such as income only shifts the burden to another segment of society. A three percent (3%) sales tax would effect approximately two-thirds reduction in property tax if the money were used to fund schools. He does not feel the proposed property tax cap of various percentages is fair. He feels if the State would give counties \$.01 to \$.03 per gallon of gasoline tax for road improvements that would benefit everyone.

Mr. Burton noted Indiana has to look at the sales tax in the surrounding States.

Mrs. Knowles commented sales tax is the best source of revenue to help with property tax relief. Also, local government needs some type of assurance of funding for the shortfall of revenue. She does not favor the Capital Projects Board.

The Council members thanked Senator Miller and Representative Burton for attending the meeting and discussing the forthcoming issues.

CLERK – (101)

Jill Jackson, County Clerk, appeared to request a transfer of funds from Deputy Clerk line item into overtime to pay the Deputies for the additional time they will work because of the increase in court filings coming through the Clerk's Office.

Mr. West expressed concern of the compensatory time being worked. He is also concerned of the transfers being requested at the end of the year that could revert back to the general fund. He recommends that next year the Council not allow any transfers only additional appropriations.

Mr. Canary concurred with Mr. West on the transfers being requested at the end of the year.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

From: 101-113.2 – Deputy Clerk (\$ 3,500.00)
To: 101-199.0 – Overtime \$ 3,500.00

MUSEUM – (125)

Sarah Rogers, Museum Director, appeared to request a transfer of funds from Equipment Repair & Maintenance into Office Supplies.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

From: 125-366.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance (\$ 723.10)
To: 125-216.0 – Office Supplies \$ 723.10

TITLE IV-D JUVENILE COURT – (137)

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

From: 137-312.0 – Equipment Repair & Maintenance (\$ 500.00)
From: 137-323.0 – Travel & Training (\$ 500.00)
To: 137-216.0 – Office Supplies \$ 1,000.00

NATIONAL CHILDRENS ALLIANCE – (383)

Lisa Vanek, Representing the Prosecutor's Office, appeared to request a transfer of funds from Training into Equipment to purchase a laptop computer, projector, and acoustical panels for their interview room.

Mr. Canary expressed concern transferring funds to purchase equipment. Even though the money is grant funds they are still taxpayers money.

She explained the funds are from a grant and if they are not spent the money has to be returned.

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

From: 383-323.0 – Training (\$ 2,370.00)
To: 383-410.0 – Equipment \$ 2,370.00

SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE PROBATION – (296)

Mr. West moved to approve the following transfers as submitted. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

From: 296-372.0 – Communications	(\$ 250.00)
To: 296-121.4 – Salary Supplement	\$ 250.00
From: 296-121.1 – Salary Supplement	(\$ 15.00)
To: 296-143.0 – PERF	\$ 15.00

Mr. Canary moved to approve the following transfer as submitted. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

From: 296-310.0 – Professional Services	(\$ 1,000.00)
To: 296-210.0 – Office Supplies	\$ 1,000.00

JUVENILE MENTAL HEALTH SCREEING GRANT – (406)

James Higdon, Juvenile Detention Center Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$5,749.73 to purchase the following:

- Equipment-computers and supporting technology
- Furniture-desks, chairs, room dividers for privacy
- Travel directly associated with Pilot Project
- IT support
- Training on the mental health needs of incarcerated youths

The Juvenile Detention Center was selected as a pilot site for the State of Indiana Juvenile Mental Health Screening and Assessment Pilot Project.

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

406-210.0 – Claims	\$ 5,749.73
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PARK & RECREATION – (128)

Chris Johnston, Park Superintendent, appeared to request some transfer of funds for Utilities (\$7,000) and Building/Land Improvements (\$23,815.72).

Mr. West noted he is meeting with the Park Board tomorrow evening to discuss the future building and land improvements of the Park.

Mr. Johnston withdrew the request of the transfer for Building/Land Improvements.

Mr. West moved to approve the request for Utilities as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

From: 128-225.0 – Operating Supplies	(\$ 2,000.00)
From: 128-231.0 – Vehicle Maintenance Supplies	(\$ 5,000.00)
To: 128-351.0 – Utilities	\$ 7,000.00

SUPPLEMENTAL PUBLIC DEFENDER SERVICE FEE – (299)

Mr. McCarty moved to approve an additional appropriation of \$6,686.25 to pay for Public Defenders.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as submitted. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

299-310.0 – Superior Court No. 2 \$ 6,686.25

WIC – (215)

Tracy Smith, WIC Director, appeared to request a bonus for the employees that the State of Indiana allotted them for their increase caseload and extraordinary full-time ratio of 407 clients per each employee.

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

215-111.0 – Salary Registered Nurse	\$ 300.00
215-112.0 – Coordinator	\$ 300.00
215-113.0 – Clinic Assistant	\$ 200.00
215-113.1 – Registered Dietitian	\$ 300.00
215-113.2 – Clinic Assistant	\$ 200.00

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – (254)

Gary Vandegriff, Highway Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$490,000 for the East-West Corridor Phase I. This project is a 100% Federal Grant for \$990,000 that is reimbursed as the work is completed and paid for by the county. The Council appropriated the first \$500,00 earlier in the year from Cum Cap and they have received \$537,591.57 in reimbursements. He distributed an East/West transportation enhancement financial progress report to each Council member.

Mr. West asked what direct benefit does the county receive if the East-West Corridor never occurs.

Mr. Vandegriff stated the grant funds can only be used for this type of project and the contract is to perform this study for a regional significance. In order for Johnson County, municipalities, and surrounding counties to receive future funding this study must be in place first.

After further discussion, Mrs. Boyce moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

254-416.0 – East-West Corridor Phase I \$490,000.00

TREASURER – (103)

Jan Richhart, Auditor, and Rita Sievertson, Treasurer, appeared to request additional appropriations for printing (\$3,300), and postage (\$16,752) to issue the homestead refund checks to homeowners pursuant to P.L. 234-2007. The total amount the county received for the rebates is \$5,649,890. Since the money is invested they are trying to refund the homeowners as soon as possible and doing most of the work in-house.

Mr. West moved to approve the requests as presented. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

103-312.0 – Printing	\$ 3,300.00
103-322.0 – Postage	\$ 16,752.00

SHERIFF – (105)

JAIL – (126)

JOHNSON COUNTY SHERIFF L.E.C.E. – (325)

BYRNE JUSTICE ASST. GRANT – (349)

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to request the following:

105-165.0 – Overtime	\$ 2,121.71
From: 126-111.2 – Security Officer	(\$ 1,000.00)
To: 126-199.0 – Overtime	\$ 1,000.00
325-400.0 – Equipment	\$ 669.00
349-200.0 – Supplies	\$ 300.00

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

Sheriff McLaughlin explained one of his merit deputies will be going to Iraq for one year and he would like to hire a reserve deputy to do the job as a part-time employee. He will ask for a transfer of funds next month into a temporary part-time line item.

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – (254)

Jan Richhart, Auditor, and Tom Kite, County Commissioner, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$19,104.32 for the Storm Water Management. Commonwealth Engineers, Inc. is due \$4,204.32 and Umbaugh \$14,900.

Mr. Price commented the Council was supposed to be involved with this project and he was asked to be the representative for the Council. He has not been contacted at any point by the firms or Mitch Ripley, Commissioner’s Chairman, to attend any of the meetings. The county has already paid to at least \$107,000 for this study. He does not agree with this and will vote against the request. He noted the county already does a lot of the services such as erosion control and education for Storm Water Management.

Mr. Kite explained the Storm Water Management service will be done with in-house staff and there will not be an assessment charged to property owners at this time.

Mrs. Knowles concurred with Mr. Price that there needs to be better communication between the Commissioners and Council.

After further discussion, the Council requested to have copies of the signed contracts from the vendors.

Mr. West moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that failed with a three to four vote, Mr. Canary, Mr. Price, Mr. McCarty, and Mr. Hollenbeck voted nay.

COMMISSIONERS – (122)

Jan Richhart, Auditor, requested a transfer of funds from Juvenile Care into Employee Medical in the amount of \$200,000.

Mr. West commented unless the Board of Commissioners are going to take action to help offset the increase in medical costs the County cannot continue to fund Health Insurance.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

From: 122-329.0 – Juvenile Care	(\$ 200,000.00)
To: 122-144.0 – Employee Group Health Insurance	\$ 200,000.00

Mrs. Richhart reported the county will be implementing a new financial system starting January 1, 2008. The software will be P.C. based instead of using the computer main frame. All the line items numbers will change to a new account number that will consist of fourteen numbers. Training meetings will be held tomorrow December 4th in the Courthouse Annex Lower Level conference room at 9:00 am, 11:00 am, and 2:00 pm.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no “old business” to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Sheriff’s Salary Contract for 2008

Terry McLaughlin, County Sheriff, appeared to discuss his contract for 2008. He explained there are three ways the Sheriff could be paid. First by contract, second by the county’s population and 90% of the County Prosecutor’s salary, plus tax warrants, and the third way, a salary, meals for prisoners, and tax warrant revenue. He chose the contract method, of which is 90% of the Prosecutor’s salary. The tax warrant revenue goes to the General Fund.

Mr. West moved to approve the Sheriff’s Salary Contract for 2008 at \$107,904.00 annually. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mr. Price reported the new contract individual for the Rockies Pipeline is now Ryan Clem at (317) 472-2801.

Mr. Price explained Mike Reuter, Financial Advisor, reported the county should receive an additional distribution of County Adjusted Gross Income Tax (CAGIT) in January. The county's portion of CAGIT for the Rainy Day Fund is estimated to be \$2,000,000.

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