

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 12, 2007

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

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 3/12/07 AGENDA

Mr. Price noted that the Board of Commissioners asked to be first on the agenda.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the agenda including moving the Board of Commissioners to the beginning of the agenda. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

V. APPROVAL OF 2007 BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

Mr. West moved to approve the 2007 budget hearing minutes as presented. Mr. McCarty seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

VI. APPROVAL OF 1/29/07 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Canary moved to approve the 1/29/07 special meeting minutes as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

VII. APPROVAL OF 2/12/07 SPECIAL JOINT MEETING WITH COUNCIL & COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the 2/12/07 special joint meeting as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

VIII. APPROVAL OF 2/12/07 MINUTES

Mr. West moved to approve the 2/12/07 regular minutes as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

IX. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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

COMMISSIONERS – (122) & COURTHOUSE – (123)

R. J. McConnell, County Commissioner, appeared to request approval for a new position titled "County Executive Manager" with an annual salary of \$70,000. Mr. McConnell noted he appreciated the Council allowing him to appear before them first. He explained

the current position of "County Coordinator" at \$45,000 would be eliminated and they would transfer funds from that position. Also, they would eliminate the "Assistant Supervisor" in the Courthouse (maintenance) budget to also fund the new position. He stated several projects have been completed; however, there are still several more and felt that a County Executive Manager's position would benefit the county such as managing the risk of increased attorney fees. The new position could be a representative on the Community Corrections Advisory Board, oversee the safety program, would be a liaison to the GIS department, unemployment claims, and help with special projects such as the Railroad Crossing issue. They could also work on the second phase of funding for the East/West corridor. He noted he is amazed how a county the size of Johnson has survived as long as it has without somebody at an executive level. He commended the current County Coordinator on his job performance, which has human resource experience but not executive leadership experience. Mr. McConnell stated several other counties have already in place this type of an executive level position or have at least one full time Commissioner. He noted they have had discussion with one individual, however it was not a job interview because there is no position. They cannot advertise or seek applicants for the job until the Council has approved the new position.

Mr. Price commented he has heard in the past that the Courthouse Maintenance Department needed additional help. He also asked if the new position was approved what is the estimate of savings for the county.

Mr. McConnell commented if you lumped together what the county would save in human resources, consulting, and legal fees the savings would be approximately the amount of the salary requested (\$70,000).

Mr. McConnell noted they would like to see the maintenance department ran more like a business and he has had several taxpayers suggest privatizing the maintenance department.

Mr. West discussed the past County Manager's position and County Attorney's. He does agree the county needs a Human Resource position; however, he expressed his concerns of having a County Executive Manager and the responsibilities of the Commissioners.

Mr. Canary and Mr. McCarty expressed their thoughts about the new position and would like to see a job description.

Mrs. Knowles asked from a fiscal standpoint do the Commissioners feel the new position is a need or a want.

Mr. McConnell remarked he feels that it is a need. He would like to see the county ran professionally and responsibly.

Mitchael Ripley, County Commissioner, appeared stating that he feels hiring a County Executive Manager is the direction the county should go, because the Commissioners cannot communicate outside their public meeting. This position could make sure that

things move forward and not fall through the cracks. He noted that there are two counties that have three full time commissioners.

Mr. McCarty remarked he would rather see more full time County Commissioners instead of a non-elected County Executive.

Mr. McConnell committed in the next thirty days to work on a job description for a County Executive Manager. He asked if the Council members would contact some of the larger counties to see what they are doing and how things are working for them.

Mr. Canary asked once the job description is completed can the Council members receive a copy prior to the next Council meeting.

Mrs. Knowles moved to table the following requests until the April Council meeting. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. McCarty voted nay.

122-131.0 – County Executive Manager (NEW)	\$ 24,000.00
From: 122-130.0 – County Coordinator	(\$ 25,000.00)
To: 122-131.0 – County Executive Manager (NEW)	\$ 25,000.00

Mr. Ripley withdrew the following request and explained it is part of the new position request that was tabled.

123-111.0 – Assistant Supervisor – Reduction	(\$ 24,000.00)
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Mr. Ripley also requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$85,000 for the phone service and phone switch boxes.

Jan Richhart, Auditor, explained the monthly phone service has not decreased as soon as expected because there are still some issues that need to be resolved. The phone bill has been averaging around \$24,000 for January and February. The March bill was \$18,000, and they hope after all the issues are addressed they anticipate the monthly bill to be \$7,000 to \$10,000. She explained the budget for phone service was reduced for 2007, however, because of the problems the monthly amount has not been reduced yet.

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

122-324.0 – Telephone Commissioners	\$ 85,000.00
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ANIMAL SHELTER – (219)

Shawn Donovan, Animal Warden, appeared to request a transfer of funds for overtime in the amount of \$4,469. He stated the transfer is needed to cover the workload of a Deputy Warden that has been off work for six months.

Discussion was held that the Animal Shelter's overtime line item has over \$8,000 still in it at the end of February.

Mrs. Knowles noted the Animal Shelter spent \$22,000 in 2005 and \$23,000 in 2006 for overtime.

Mr. Donovan withdrew his request for a transfer of funds into overtime.

PLANNING & ZONING – (117)

Brian Waterman, Planning Director, appeared to request a transfer of funds from Building Inspector II into Building Commissioner and to change the title to Senior Building Inspector. He also requested the salary for the Senior Building Inspector be increased from \$33,211 to \$37,500 with an effective date of May 1, 2007.

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

From: 117-132.0 – Building Inspector II	(\$ 4,289.00)
To: 117-130.0 – Building Commissioner -change title to Senior Building Inspector (\$33,211.00 to \$37,500.00)	\$ 4,289.00

SUPERIOR COURT NO. 3 – (134)

Kim VanValer, Superior Court No. 3 Judge, appeared to request additional funding for professional services for the remainder of 2007. She distributed a breakdown of expenses of her professional services line item for 2005, 2006, and thru February of 2007. The original request was for \$75,000 but she reduced the amount to \$43,275. She explained professional services include conflict/appeal public defenders, psychological evaluations, interpreters, and transcripts for indigent defendants. She noted that her docket carries 75% of the misdemeanor cases and 1/3 of the felonies.

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

134-301.0 – Professional Services	\$ 43,275.00
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IDENTIFICATION SECURITY PROTECTION – (378)

Sue Anne Misiniec, County Recorder, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$7,500 for professional services. The funds are needed for redacting technology equipment and support provided by Cott Systems. This directly relates to the redacting of social security numbers from recorded documents.

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

378-300.0 – Professional Services	\$ 7,500.00
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COMM CORR/ADULT PROJECT INCOME – (209) – tabled from February

Albert Hessman, Executive Director for Community Corrections, appeared to request a part-time increase from \$10.97 to \$13.75.

Discussion was held last month on why the appropriation line items had a negative balance.

Community Corrections Grants and Community Corrections Project Income budgets do not require County Council approval of disbursements; however, the Council must approve salaries and hourly rates.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the hourly rate as requested. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

209-113.2 - Part-time – increase starting hourly rate from \$10.97 to \$13.75

CHILD ADVOCACY FUND – (284) –tabled from February

DEFERRAL – (327) –tabled from February

Mr. West moved to approve the following requests as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

284-200.0 – Claims	\$ 3,250.00
327-313.0 – Deferral Participant Money	\$ 900.00
327-313.0 – Johnson County Sheriff’s Dept (NEW)	\$ 58,361.00

PROSECUTOR IV-D – (118) - tabled from February

118-115.0 – Office Administrator \$11,974 to \$13,974	\$ 2,000.00
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PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM – (286) - tabled from February

286-116.0 – Diversion Assistant \$29,175 to \$32,900	\$ 3,725.00
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PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL PROGRAM – (327) - tabled from February

327-120.0 – Asst Office Manager \$32,960 to \$35,340	\$ 2,380.00
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PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – (108) - tabled from February

108-115.5 – Victim Advocate (NEW)	\$ 31,000.00
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Lance Hamner, Prosecutor, appeared to request the above salary amendments and new position. He first explained the request for the Office Administrator is because the increase duties for this individual in the IV-D department. He noted the county is reimbursed 2/3 from the State for the IV-D budget.

Mr. Hamner then explained the handout presented to the Council concerning the request for a new Victim Advocate position. He noted the office currently has two full-time Victim Advocates that are paid from grants; one for domestic violence and the other is for special victims. Indiana law requires that Victim Assistance Programs provide victim services on all juvenile cases. This service has previously been performed by Juvenile Probation, but must now be assumed by the Victim Assistance Program at the Prosecutor’s Office. The current staff cannot provide legally required services to victims

at the current caseload. As the caseload continues to rise, the quality of services provided to victims will go down. Additional staff is required to provide basic services on juvenile cases as required by law. He explained the various services that are provided to the victims. Both the adult caseloads and juvenile caseloads have increased over 41%. Victim services are important to help crime victims both procedurally and emotionally throughout the criminal justice process. In conclusion, they do not have the staff to take on the Victim Advocacy tasks in juvenile court and their staffing has been funded and planned for the adult courts only. Victim Advocacy is required by law in Juvenile Court as well as the Adult Courts.

After some discussion, Mr. Canary moved to approve the following new position as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – (108) - tabled from February

108-115.5 – Victim Advocate (NEW) \$ 31,000.00

Mr. West noted the Council has asked other departments if they are going to make salary adjustments within the year to find the funds in their present budget. He was referring to the salary amendment for the Office Administrator request.

Mr. West then moved to table the following request until the April Council meeting. Mr. McCarty seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

PROSECUTOR IV-D – (118) - tabled from February

118-115.0 – Office Administrator \$11,974 to \$13,974 \$ 2,000.00

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the following requests as submitted with a 3/1/07 effective date. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

PRETRIAL DIVERSION PROGRAM – (286) - tabled from February

286-116.0 – Diversion Assistant \$29,175 to \$32,900 \$ 3,725.00

PROSECUTOR DEFERRAL PROGRAM – (327) - tabled from February

327-120.0 – Asst Office Manager \$32,960 to \$35,340 \$ 2,380.00

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Grant Match – City of Franklin (Krista Linke, Planner) - \$18,642.80

Ms. Linke appeared explaining the City of Franklin intends on submitting a grant application to the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs in the amount of \$500,000. The grant money will be used to replace sidewalks, install new streetlights, plant trees, replace street signs, and purchase new benches and trash receptacles. This the third time the City of Franklin has applied. She noted Franklin College has committed a

\$10,000 match and the City of Franklin has committed to \$75,000 match. They also have several property owners and community groups that have committed funds. She attended the County Commissioners meeting in February and presented the proposal to them. They were in favor of the request but asked her to get final approval from the County Council. At this time, the match commitment can be in the form of a commitment letter. It would need to state that if the grant is awarded, Johnson County is committed to contributing \$18,642.80 towards the project.

Mrs. Knowles asked when would the City of Franklin know if they are approved.

Ms. Linke replied the award date is May 11th.

Mr. Price asked if the Commissioners stated which fund the money would be disbursed from for the project.

Discussion was held concerning the location of the improvements is in the States right-of-way and whether Cumulative Capital Development Fund could be used.

Jan Richhart, Auditor, talked with Mitchael Ripley, County Commissioner, and he stated the Board recommended the match be disbursed from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. She noted, Jeff Eggers, County Attorney, reviewed if the funds could come from Cum Cap and stated “yes” it was an allowable expense.

Mr. West moved to commit \$18,642.80 match towards the project with the money coming from Cum Cap. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

Gary Vandegriff, Highway Director, appeared to update the Council on the signage of railroad crossing.

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