

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – AUGUST 11, 2008

The meeting was called to order by President, Josh McCarty.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Anita Knowles, Ron West, Beth Boyce, John Price, Steve Hollenbeck, and Charlie Canary. Phil Wilson was present as the Council’s attorney.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 8/11/08 AGENDA

Mr. McCarty noted that there is a change to the agenda; add under “New Business”, Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement (Ron West), Support Letter for Additional Judicial Resources in Johnson County, and An Update on the Long Term Community Recovery Meeting.

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

V. APPROVAL OF 7/14/08 MINUTES

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. McCarty noted the Council received a letter from Mike Pence, Member of Congress, expressing his gratitude for the efforts in Johnson County during the recent severe weather in Indiana and a copy of the remarks were entered into the Congressional Record.

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

JUVENILE ACCOUNTABILITY INCENTIVE BLOCK GRANT – (417)

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

a. 417.11755.000.417 – Case Manager \$ 13,400.00

SUPPLEMENTAL ADULT PROBATION – (297)

Richard Pfifer, Chief Adult Probation Officer, appeared to request an increase of \$1,000 annual salary for a new hire that has Spanish speaking skills. He distributed a memo of the directions for implementing the salary schedule of Probation Officers. The memo indicated salaries for experienced probation officers and or officers having extensive

training, or special skills that will be utilized in their duties or responsibilities as a probation officer should be greater than the minimum salaries provided in the schedule. Discussion was held on the various special skills and when an employee would be entitled to an increase of \$1,000.

Mr. Pfifer reported the office spent approximately \$8,000 in 2006 for professional services for interpretation.

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

a. From: 297.11200.000.297 – Salary Supplement	(\$ 384.06)
To: 297.11121.000.297 – Salary Supplement	\$ 384.06

SUPPLEMENTAL JUVENILE PROBATION – (296)

Suzanne Miller, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$17,112.76 of the funds the department received from Johnson County Citizens Against Substance Abuse.

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

a. 296.31000.000.296 – Professional Services	\$ 17,112.76
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WIC – (215)

Mr. McCarty noted he spoke with the WIC Coordinator, Tracy Smith, and she was not able to attend the meeting. He explained the \$9,500 in professional services is needed for a part-time position and the \$2,000 is for an infant scales and changing table.

Mr. Price moved to approve the requests as submitted. Mrs. Boyce seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

a. 215.31000.000.215 – Professional Services	\$ 9,500.00
b. 215.31500.000.215 – Travel & Training	\$ 200.00
c. 215.44000.000.215 – Equipment	\$ 2,000.00

SHERIFF – (105)

JAIL – (124)

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to request additional appropriations in the overtime line item for their participation in OPO/BCC and DUI for the month of June. He also requested \$4,050 to purchase digital cameras and three portable breathalyzer testers. The funds for the equipment were received from the Johnson County Citizens Against Substance Abuse.

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

- a. 100.19900.000.105 – Overtime \$ 1,343.20
- b. 100.44100.000.105 – Miscellaneous Equipment \$ 4,050.00

Mr. McLaughlin also requested a transfer of funds from two correctional officers line items to part-time.

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

- a. From: 100.12522.000.124 – Correctional Officer (\$ 2,350.00)
- From: 100.12526.000.124 – Correctional Officer (\$ 3,650.00)
- To: 100.11400.000.124 – Part-time Prof/Clerical \$ 6,000.00

TREASURER – (103)- tabled (also see July 14th Minutes)

Rita Sievertson, Treasurer, was present to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$20,000 for part-time. The request was discussed at the July Council meeting, however was tabled until August. She stated the rebate checks have caused the shortage in part-time.

Mr. McCarty asked if taxpayers have been making voluntary payments. Mrs. Sievertson responded “yes”. She noted the exact due dates of property taxes has not been established at this time.

Mrs. Knowles noted the line item “Lockbox Fees” has \$17,000 and suggested a portion be used to help with the part-time expense.

Mrs. Sievertson explained the Lockbox Fees are used to pay a bank that receives property tax payments for the county and charges for their service. The other banks deduct the fee from the county’s interest.

Mr. West commented he is in agreement with using part-time instead of full-time to save the county money in benefits; however a full time position was eliminated last year to give her employees salary increases, plus money moved to part time.

Mr. Price moved to transfer \$10,000 from Lockbox Fees into Part-time. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

- From: 100.31002.000.103 – Lockbox Fees (\$ 10,000.00)
- To: 100.11400.000.103 – Part-time Clerical Assistants \$ 10,000.00

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – (122)

Mitch Ripley, County Commissioner, and Rob Norris, IT Director, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$50,000 for the telephone service. Mr. Ripley noted they met with Embarq and Apex Communications to discuss the billing. He distributed a breakdown of the Embarq Communication bills comparison.

As of April 2007 the total monthly bill was \$31,650 and today the telephone service bill is approximately \$15,700.

The county is currently spending \$15,950 less per month than 16 months ago on the total dial tone expenses. Apex Communications Group has identified and in the process of removing an additional \$2,889.42 per month in Embarq expenses and removing an additional \$500 in charges from the County Sheriff's Embarq bill. When changes are complete the bill should be approximately \$9,500 monthly, including surcharges.

Mr. Norris explained the 2008 budgeted amount did not include all the various surcharges that must be paid. The surcharge amount is approximately \$2,745 per month.

Mr. McCarty suggested transferring money from the Interest & Fees line item to telephone.

Mr. Price moved to approve the transfer of \$50,000 from Interest & Fees to Telephone. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

From: 100.30501.000.122 – Interest & Fees	(\$ 50,000.00)
To: 100.32400.000.122 – Telephone	\$ 50,000.00

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT – (254)

Office Equipment

Troy DeHart, and Mitch Ripley, County Commissioners, and Kathleen Hash, County Coordinator, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$8,928 to purchase a Sharp Digital Color Copier for the Commissioner's office.

Mrs. Hash explained the current copier is six (6) years old and is showing wear and tear for the amount of copies that is made in the office each week.

Discussion was held on if leasing a copier would be in the best interest of the county.

After further discussion, Mr. Price moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$8,928. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

a. 254.44000.000.254 – Office Equipment	\$ 8,928.00
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Telephone System Equipment & Computer Hardware & Software

Rob Norris, IT Director, requested an additional appropriation for telephone system equipment (\$11,076) and computer hardware/software (\$29,740) in the amount of \$40,816. The funds are needed for partial replacement of flood damaged telephones and computers for the Prosecutor's Office and CASA.

Mr. Price noted the Prosecutor was in last month for an appropriation of \$25,000 from his discretionary fund to use at his discretion. He suggested that these types of expenditures should come from his discretionary funds.

Mr. Norris explained that when the Prosecutor's office moves to the building on US 31 there would be additional funds requested for computers and setup equipment. At this time he really needs at least \$2,040 for the computer hardware and software.

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

b. 254.44002.000.254 – Telephone System Equipment	\$ 11,076.00
c. 254.44003.000.254 – Computer Hardware & Software	\$ 2,040.00

CORONER – (107)

David Lutz, Coroner, appeared to request additional appropriations for office supplies, pathology/toxicology, and ambulance. He noted he estimates to have 25-30 cases more than usual. Body bags and other medical supplies is what he purchases from the office supplies line item. The cases that are flown or ambulated into Marion County have not been invoiced for 2008 yet. This year has had some unique cases such as several work place accidents and a case to unearth human remains, all requiring extensive examinations and lab testing.

Mrs. Knowles moved to approve the following requests as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that unanimously.

a. 100.21500.000.107 – Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
b. 100.30500.000.107 – Pathology & Toxicology	\$ 30,000.00
c. 100.30700.000.107 – Ambulance	\$ 5,000.00

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Governmental Consulting Services – Overview and Circuit Breaker Impact Proposal

Melissa Ambre, Executive Director of Governmental Consulting Services, appeared to give an overview of the services that they can provide in reference to the Circuit Breaker impact. She reviewed the following:

Top Five Issues:

- Circuit Breaker
- Assessments
- 2009 Budgets
- LOITs
- Planning for the future

House Enrolled Act 1001-2008

- Signed into law March 2008
- Property tax reform
- Changes for schools and local government
- Same law also amended and/or repealed legislation passed during the 2007 session of the Indiana General Assembly

What can the county do?

- Nothing
- Rely on LSA estimates
- Update circuit breaker estimates
- Meet with local officials and school corporations and expand the line of communication

What is the timetable?

- Sign contract-first step
- Provide most recent assessor and auditor data
- Develop assumptions related to HEA 1001-2008
- Complete project within 4-6 weeks of signed contract
- Hold meeting with local and school officials to provide updated information

How does this help?

- Open and/or expand the lines of communication with and between all local units of government
- Understand where the greatest impacts are
- Know how to respond
- Evaluate options

Project Cost:

- The estimated fee for Part-A Circuit Breaker Analysis is between \$18,000 and \$24,400, which include mileage and other expense
- The estimated fee for Part-B-General meeting with all taxing units to discuss circuit breaker impact and touch on other recent legislation is \$1,550, which includes mileage and other expenses. Part B is contingent on acceptance of Part A
- The maximum amount to be paid by the County Unit for both services under this proposal is \$25,950
- Additional items that are outside the scope of this proposal will be charged at the rate of \$180.00 per hour. Additional trips that are outside the scope of the project will be charged at the rate of \$90.00 per hour

She indicated they are currently doing some circuit breaker analysis for other counties, one county is absorbing the cost, and another county is sharing the costs with some of the units because they have a vested interest in the analysis.

The Council thanked Ms. Ambre for the presentation.

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

Ron West submitted a disclosure statement for his business, R.H. West Management, for the aerification and spray applications to Whispering Pines Golf Course at the Johnson County Park.

Support for Proposal for Additional Judicial Resources in Johnson County

The Council approved the letter to be mailed to Senator Richard Bray endorsing the creation of a new court with a motion by Mr. Canary. Mr. Price seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Long Term Community Recovery Meeting (flood)

Mrs. Knowles updated the Council of the meeting on August 8th.

Top issues discussed:

- Home buyout plan in White River (Old Smith Valley, Friendly Village, and Bluff Acres)
- 25% FEMA does not cover – county’s portion would be at least \$500,000
- Oren Wright Building
- City of Franklin also has 60 to 70 homes
- Federal and State level agencies can help the process move faster and help financially as we develop the projects. They also suggested contacting Congressmen to ask for the cost share change from the current 75% / 25% to 90% / 10%

Mr. McCarty suggested a letter be drafted and signed by the Council, Commissioners, and Elected Officials addressing the issue of the reducing the 25% match to 10%.

Mrs. Boyce commented the Governor requests the reduction to the President and that was done on July 16th.

Mr. McCarty stated he spoke with Mike Reuter, County Financial Advisor, in reference to the change of the Council reviewing all of the units’ budgets. Mr. Reuter explained he would discuss this at the budget hearings on Tuesday, August 19th.

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