

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 9, 2009

The meeting was called to order by President, Charlie Canary.

I. ROLL CALL

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

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

III. INVOCATION

IV. APPROVAL OF 3/09/09 AGENDA

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

V. APPROVAL OF 2/09/09 MINUTES

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

VI. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

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

FAMILY & CHILDREN FUND

Report of the final amount requested to pay outstanding invoices through 12/31/08 for the Bond

Penny Pitcock, Family & Children's Director, and Kim Blanchet, Bond Counsel from Barnes & Thornburg, appeared to discuss the amount needed to pay the outstanding invoices through 12/31/08.

Ms. Pitcock explained they currently have approximately \$450,000 in outstanding debt. They currently have \$261,000 in cash and would need an additional \$220,000 to pay the invoices. She noted the additional funds being requested is for any invoices that could arrive after today.

Ms. Blanchet explained the Family & Children's Fund was taken over by the State of Indiana on 1/01/09, however they will not assume any debt incurred prior to that date. The law does allow for the county to incur debt to pay for any outstanding invoices with a tax levy. If the Council chose to approve a bond the tax levy would be for 2009 payable in 2010 with a one-year pay back. She stated the financial advisor would calculate the tax rate estimates. The total bond would be more than the \$220,000 after contingencies and interest is added. She also noted that a resolution would need to be approved before the bond could be issued.

Some discussion was held on the difference between issuance of bonds, borrowing from other county funds, and paying the debt from an existing fund.

Mark Loyd, Circuit Court Judge, appeared to relate that Ms. Pitcock discussed the amount of indebtedness she anticipated; however, he encouraged her not to include too much of a cushion for the bond.

Jan Richhart, County Auditor, noted that prior to disbursement the Council must appropriate the cash currently in the Family & Children's Fund.

Mrs. Knowles moved to proceed with the issuance of bonds to pay the Family & Children debt incurred prior to 12/31/08. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

COUNTY ASSESSOR

Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)-Rate of Compensation

Mark Alexander, County Assessor, appeared to request approval of \$100.00 per day for the freehold members (two individuals) and \$350.00 per day for Certified Level II (one individual) compensation. He explained in the past the freeholders were paid \$50.00 per day and the Level II \$350.00 per day. Donna Zelner, former Pleasant Township Assessor, was appointed by the Council to serve on the PTABOA Board. He noted that she would not receive any additional compensation because she is currently receiving a salary. He is the secretary for the Board and is a non-voting member.

Mr. West moved to approve \$50.00 per day for the freeholders and \$350.00 per day for the Certified Level II. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

SHERIFF – (105)

TITLE 4-D JUVENILE COURT – (137)

JAIL – (124)

COUNTY EXTRADITION – (211)

Doug Cox, Sheriff's Chief Deputy, appeared to request approval for additional appropriations for their participations in the DUI, Big City & County, Fatality Crash Reduction Effort, and ACE 65 Grants. He also requested additional money for County Extradition and moving funds from Juvenile Court into the Jail's budget.

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

100.19900.000.105 – Overtime	\$ 4,482.38
Reduction: 100.11713.000.137 – Supplement Security	(\$ 5,187.00)
100.11713.000.124 – Supplement Security	\$ 5,187.00
211.20000.000.211 – Claims	\$ 10,000.00

CIRCUIT COURT – (131)

Circuit Court Judge, Mark Loyd, appeared to request a salary ordinance amendment for the Court Administrator/Law Clerk along with an additional appropriation. He explained at the budget hearings for 2009 they erroneously omitted requesting a three percent salary increase for this position, which all the other employees received.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as presented and to make it retroactive back to 1/10/09. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. West voted nay.

100.11712.000.131 – Court Admin/Law Clerk \$61,033 to \$62,864 \$ 1,831.00

CASA FEE & DONATION FUND – (361)

Judge Loyd withdrew the following requests from the Agenda:

361.31000.000.361 – Professional Services (new)	\$ 10,000.00
361.21500.000.361 – Office Supplies	\$ 4,000.00
361.44000.000.361 – Office Equipment (new)	\$ 2,000.00
361.35002.000.361 – Advertising (new)	\$ 10,000.00
361.36200.000.361 – Communication (new)	\$ 5,000.00

ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION – (389)

Judge Loyd requested an additional appropriation for Office Equipment and Equipment Maintenance. The money is generated through court fees to provide parenting coordination, mediation, and arbitration for indigent individuals.

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

389.44000.000.389 – Office Equipment (new)	\$ 3,500.00
389.36000.000.389 – Equipment Maintenance (new)	\$ 860.00

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY – (108)

Brad Cooper, Prosecuting Attorney, and Michelle Murray, Office Manager, appeared to request an additional appropriation in the amount of \$ 7,992 to pay unused sick time for a Deputy Prosecutor that is now paid by the State beginning 1/01/09.

Mr. West commented that he feels sick time should be for illness only and not be for time off or compensation.

Mr. Cooper noted in 1999 when he became a State employee he was paid for all his unused sick time.

The new employee handbook was changed effective 2/01/09 and employees will no longer be paid for unused sick time, however this occurred prior to that date. The prior

employee handbook allowed a maximum accrual of 225 hours for an employee and they were paid for that if they separated employment.

Discussion was held if the county would be liable for the current employees that would not be paid if they left after 2/01/09.

The following is a summary of what employees are compensated when they leave employment:

Prior Employee Handbook

- Any accrued sick time
- Any unused vacation time
- Any accrued compensatory time

New Employee Handbook

- Any unused vacation time
- Any accrued compensatory time
- Any unused holiday time (only for the 24/7 facilities who get to “float” their holidays)

All employees get 15 hours personal each year and if they are not used the hours are lost.

Mr. West suggested to the Commissioners perhaps doing away with the sick days and increasing vacation time for employees to use if they are sick.

Mr. Walker moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. Hollenbeck seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mr. McCarty voted nay. McCarty noted he voted “no” because of the prior policy.

100.11373.000.108 – Deputy Prosecutor \$ 7,992.00

SPAYED/NEUTERED ANIMAL FUND – (416)

ANIMAL SHELTER BUILDING DONATION FUND – (264)

Emily Williamson, Animal Control Warden, and Dawn Phelps, Administrative Assistant, appeared to request additional appropriations for supplies and equipment.

Ms. Phelps explained they would like to purchase cages/furniture (\$30,000) for the new facility and landscaping (\$15,000).

Ms. Williamson noted she has someone that is going to donate the barn and construction for large animals.

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

416.21500.000.416 – Office Supplies	\$ 2,500.00
264.21600.000.264 – Operating Supplies	\$ 15,000.00
264.41601.000.264 – Other Equipment	\$ 30,000.00

NACCHO – (415)

BIOTER/PREPARE GRANT – (915)

BIOTER/PREPARE 04/05 – (919)

BASE GRANT-HEALTH – (466)

CRI GRANT – HEALTH – (467)

Claudia Bigelow, Office Manager, appeared to request additional appropriations for several grants for the department. She explained two of the grants are new and the others are just re-appropriations.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the requests as submitted. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

415.31000.000.415 – Professional Services	\$ 9,163.02
915.42000.000.915 – Operating Equipment	\$ 1,647.35
915.36102.000.915 – Contractual Services	\$ 1,647.34
919.42000.000.919 – Operating Equipment	\$ 753.43
466.21500.000.466 – Office Supplies	\$ 2,000.00
466.21600.000.466 – Operating Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
466.36102.000.466 – Contractual Services	\$ 5,000.00
467.21500.000.467 – Office Supplies	\$ 3,000.00
467.21600.000.467 – Operating Supplies	\$ 10,000.00
467.36102.000.467 – Contractual Services	\$ 23,000.00
467.42000.000.467 – Operating Equipment	\$ 6,000.00

VETERANS – (120)

Charles Russell, Interim Veterans Director, appeared to request a transfer of funds from Copier Lease/Maintenance Agreement into Other Equipment to purchase a printer/copier/fax. The equipment was lost during the June 2008 floods.

Mr. McCarty moved to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Knowles seconded the motion which unanimously carried.

From: 100.34001.000.120 – Copier Lease & Maintenance Agreement	(\$ 6,000.00)
To: 100.41601.000.120 – Other Equipment/Furniture	\$ 6,000.00

VETERANS – (120)

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS – (122)

John Price and Troy DeHart, County Commissioners, appeared to request the following salary ordinance amendments.

Reduction: 100.11204.000.120 – Secretary \$27,061 to \$25,016 (\$ 2,045.00)
100.11709.000.122 – Executive Office Assistant \$25,016 to \$27,061 \$ 2,045.00

Mr. Price explained due to job responsibilities in the two offices the Commissioners feel the salary of the Veterans Secretary should be \$25,016 and the Board of Commissioner’s Executive Office Assistant should be \$27,061. The request would not result in any additional money just the shifting of funds. The former Commissioner’s Executive Office Assistant is now the Veteran’s Secretary. When she was transferred her salary remained the same for 2009 of which is a three percent increase from 2008.

Mr. West commented on the changes of staff the Board of Commissioners have recently had approved such as a full-time County Attorney along with a full-time County Coordinator.

Mr. Walker remarked the new employee for the Board of Commissioners would be receiving a \$2,045 salary increase in just three weeks when other county employees only received a three percent raise for 2009.

Mr. Price explained the new employee is on a ninety-day probationary period before the salary would increase. He and Mr. DeHart summarized some of the job responsibilities of the Executive Office Assistant with the Council.

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

Reduction: 100.11204.000.120 – Secretary \$27,061 to \$25,016 (\$ 2,045.00)
100.11709.000.122 – Executive Office Assistant \$25,016 to \$27,061 \$ 2,045.00

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Council Liaison List

Mr. Canary noted two departments were erroneously omitted. Planning & Zoning, of which he will be assigned to, and Weights & Measures. Mr. McCarty will be the liaison for Weights & Measures.

Update from Highway Director in reference to the Stimulus Money

Highway Director, Gary Vandegriff, appeared and reported he attended a meeting earlier in the day with the Indianapolis MPO. There seems to be additional rules coming out in writing and the big wish list is rapidly being reduced. He is optimistic the county would receive money for road re-surfacing and maybe one bridge. The driving factor is the timeline of having it obligated within 120 days and with nothing designed, no right away acquired, and no environmental work completed will make it very difficult. He did receive some guidelines last week and is having three to four staff members work on the requirements to try to obtain some of the money.

Mr. Canary asked about a County Bridge on 725 West that was damaged during the June Floods and if it was scheduled for repairs.

Mr. Vandegriff explained the Bridge was temporarily repaired before winter and it is scheduled to be fully repaired.

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