

Council Meeting

October 21, 2008 – 5:03 pm

The meeting was called to order by President Spaetti. Councilmen Spaetti, Ebert, Kroeger, Winsett, Kress, Cochenour, Bunner, and Attorney Wetherill were present.

Sheriffs' Retirement Plan

Elaine A. Beaty from McCready & Keene, Inc. discussed several amendments to the Sheriff's Retirement Plan. Wetherill, Winsett, and Kroeger all stated that they reviewed the amendments and they would not affect the benefits received and recommended the amendments for approval. Kroeger made a motion to approve all of the amendments. Winsett seconded. All in favor.

Sheriff's Compensation

Wetherill presented the agreed upon compensation contract for the Sheriff. The council voted during budget hearings to sign the Sheriff to a contract salary for \$90,000 with a yearly renewal. The council signed and it will be taken before the commissioners for their approval.

Minutes

9/16/2008 minutes; Winsett made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Animal Control

Curtis Conley, Joy Zook, and David Gogel, all representing the Animal Control Board, asked what the council expects from the Animal Control Board. Kroeger stated that \$25,000 was budgeted for 2008 animal control plus there was \$18,300.53 in donations. With this \$43,300.53, plus another \$25,000 in 2009, the board should be able to get a good start on a building if they can get volunteer labor to help. Conley asked what the board will then use for operating expenses. Kroeger said it will take some time to build a building, when that is done there may be money left over for operating expenses, and if the board needs more they can always come back and talk to the council about more money. Further discussion was had.

EMS

Jane Stout announced to the council that the Spencer County Ambulance Service was named EMT Intermediate Provider of the Year for the State of Indiana. The award was presented by the Indiana Department of Homeland Security – EMS Division. Stout thanked the council for their support of the ambulance service and presented them with the plaque to hang in the commissioners' room. The council congratulated EMS on the great work that they do.

Budget Approval

Kroeger made a motion to approve the proposed 2009 budget. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Additional Appropriations

Discussion was had on the requirement to have a representative present at the council meeting when a department requests an additional or a transfer. Shelton asked if it was necessary for a representative to be present if they had a transfer only and not an additional. After a brief discussion the council agreed that a representative should be present for all requests. Shelton was asked to remind all offices of the requirement. It was added that if a representative cannot attend a meeting they could contact the Auditor if the president of the council could not be reached, and that the office will be at risk of having their request denied if they do not attend. Cochenour made a motion to add the new wording to the forms. Kroeger seconded. All in favor.

County General

Sheriff/Office Supplies – Lindsey requested \$1,000 for Office Supplies. Kress made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Jail/Utilities – Lindsey requested \$20,000 for utilities for the jail, based on an estimate from the Auditor's office. Cochenour made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

** Kroeger stated that the council needs to send a letter to Ameresco requesting a report on the guaranteed energy savings.

Coroner/Autopsy & Lab Fees – Coroner Schulte requested \$6,000 to pay for autopsies and lab fees. Kress made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Courthouse/Utilities – Shelton requested \$6,000 for courthouse utilities through the end of the year. Cochenour made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

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COIT

Public Safety Building Design – The commissioners requested \$3,565 to pay Universal Design for revisions done on the public safety building design. Discussion was had on requesting that all design work be stopped until a decision is made on the building. Bunner suggested that the commissioners get a second proposal for a public safety building that is not hardened so a comparison can be done. Kress made a motion to send a letter to the commissioners with a recommendation to stop design changes and for a comparison design to be done. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Rainy Day

Consulting/Umbaugh – Kroeger discussed the proposal submitted by Umbaugh to consult with the county on the circuit breaker. Kroeger stated that at this time it might be better to have Umbaugh come in and give a presentation to all of the taxing units in the county about the circuit breaker and the impact it has on the county as a whole. No motion was made on the advertised \$25,000 request.

Pre-trial Diversion

Shelton explained that Prosecutor Dartt called before the meeting to say he would be unable to attend.

Utilities – The prosecutor's office requested \$1,500 for utilities. Ebert made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Office Cleaning – The prosecutor's office requested \$300 for office cleaning. Discussion was had on when and how the cleaning should be done. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. The motion passed 4 to 3, with Cochenour, Winsett and Bunner opposing.

Highway

Utilities – Spaetti stated that Superintendent Painter told him before the meeting he was unable to attend. Painter requested \$1,000 for utilities. Cochenour made a motion to approve. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Transfers

Jail - Lindsey requested a transfer from Dispatcher Overtime to Overtime in the amount of \$3,178.45. Kress made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Veterans Office – VSO Morrison requested a transfer of \$150 from Telephone and \$75 from VA School to Furniture for a new office chair. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Highway – Painter requested a transfer from Equipment Operators to Unemployment Benefits in the amount of \$2,120. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Reassessment – Assessor Arnold requested a transfer from Extra Help to PERF in the amount of \$120. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

LEDC Appointment

Shelton explained that the joint appointment by the commissioners and the council to the LEDC board was Barry Schafer and he stepped down. The council has appointed John Wesner. Ebert made a motion to appoint John Wesner to the LEDC board. Kress seconded. All in favor.

Tax Rate

Shelton stated that the county tax rates for COIT and CEDIT need to be approved. Currently the COIT tax rate is .003 and the CEDIT tax rate is .005. Bunner made a motion keep the tax rates the same. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

LTRSD

Matt Steinkamp emailed prior to the meeting that he would not be able to attend. Ed Ingram stated that he attended the Environmental Infrastructure Working Group and discussed the availability of grants for the sewer project. He said it is unlikely they can get any grants. He said he found out Richland could opt out of the district. He also is looking into a septic tank ordinance which is used in Allen County, Indiana, in which the health department regularly checks septic tanks.

Budget Review

Kroeger discussed the budget review of the taxing units in the county and the comparison with the prior year. Letters will be sent to the taxing units and to the DLGF with the non-binding recommendations of the council.

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Cochenour made a motion to adjourn. Ebert seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

County Council,

President

Attest:

Cindy Shelton, Auditor
