

**COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING  
AUGUST 21, 2012**

**Present: Steve Winsett, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Dave Kress, Matt Knepper, Jack Kroeger, Charlie Waninger, Attorney John Wetherill, Auditor Jane Lynam**

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaetti at 5:30 P.M.

**Minutes**

Minutes from the May 15, 2012 meeting were read and approved. A motion was made by Waninger to approve the minutes, Kress seconded the motion, motion passed.

Minutes from the June 19, 2012 meeting were read and approved. A motion was made by Kroeger to approve the minutes, Bunner seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Additional-County General**

**Building Inspector \$2,000.**

The Building Inspector asked for an additional \$2,000 for travel. Kress made a motion to approve the \$2,000. Winsett seconded the motion, motion approved.

**Cum Bridge-\$24,000.**

Tara Lloyd explained that she had made a mistake earlier and should have asked for the total of \$48,000 because Spencer County is the contractor. It will still only cost the county \$24,000 for their share because Perry County will reimburse us their half. Waninger made a motion to approve the \$24,000. Bunner seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Phase II County Bridge Inspection-\$61,000.**

Lloyd explained that this was the figure given to the county by the consultant; this is federally mandated, we don't have a choice. Any bridge in our inventory 20 foot long or longer has to be inspected. We have replaced two bridges so far this year and expect to replace one more this fall. Kress made a motion to approve the \$61,000., Winsett seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Highway-Repair of Trucks**

Painter explained that in repair of trucks they are down to \$7,000, and he wanted to ask before the money was completely depleted. He explained that they have several pieces that need to be replaced and he is working with the Commissioners toward this goal. At the present they are just trying to keep the equipment on the road. A motion was made by Kress to approve the \$30,000. Motion was seconded by Knepper, motion passed.

**Transfers**

Soil and Water is asking to decrease rent \$3,700 and increase Crop Cost Share \$3,000, and office Machines \$700. Spaetti explained that NRCS had decided to not charge rent for the year 2012. They are asking to use part of their rent money for a lap top computer and cover crop cost share. Waninger made a motion to approve the \$3,700 transfer, Kress seconded the motion, motion passed.

**Department Heads-Longevity Pay**

Tara Lloyd spoke to the Council explaining the Schedule A and Schedule B, our main objective in bringing this up was to get it implemented. We were just trying to get something together so we could have a starting point; our proposal includes all full time employees.

Kroeger said he felt that Longevity was a good plan, but we do have that through the sheriff's office with their pension plan and other employees through PERF. His main concern is where the money is going to come from. We have to look at what we have coming in and compare it to what these budgets will cost us and see how much is left. Payroll and health care are left out of the computations. We try to squeeze out an increase for our employees yearly. Example: if we have \$150,000 that we felt we could allocate to pay raises, my thought was that we could take whatever is left that we would be allocating for pay raises and carve out something for longevity pay. How would you like for us to do it, if we give longevity, everyone else would only get a small increase.

Lloyd said if we could get it started in 2013 that would be fantastic, but if not, we just don't want it to be dropped. Kroeger said he felt that the 457 Plan from the state would be the best thing to do; put any longevity pay into the 457 plan for the employee who would be receiving longevity. Kroeger had a Longevity Proposal C to give the Council some more options; there would be special rules as to when your time starts. Depending on the economy, this would only be a one year plan. Funding is the biggest problem for the Council.

Ron Heady felt that employees won't stick around for \$125.00 in longevity pay. They have a very high turnover in dispatch and they were looking at some incentive to keep them. Once they get them trained they go to Warrick County because the difference from Warrick to Spencer County is 5,000 to 6,000

dollars. Bunner said that's a tough job for us to come up with money for longevity, we will never be able to compete with Warrick County. Spaetti asked if it would be possible to give everyone something, give the longevity and people who didn't qualify for longevity would still get a small raise. He explained that there were many things to work through but everyone is interested in getting this implemented.

#### ***Legal Report-Resolution 2012-09***

##### ***\$30,000 for Teleconferencing***

Mickey Toler asked for \$30,000 for a teleconferencing system for the Judge's Office and the Sheriff's Office. This would be a savings to the county once it is fully implemented because prisoners could go before the Judge by camera instead of having someone to transport them. John Wetherill said he had spoken to the Judge and he asked for this to be tabled, he wanted to go to Perry County and look at the system they had first. Winsett made a motion to table the request for the \$30,000 for the teleconferencing. Bunner seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### ***Lincoln Amphitheater-\$30,000***

Dan Wilkinson and Father Jeremy were present and explained that this is their 25<sup>th</sup> year and everyone who came this year really enjoyed it. We are in the process of revitalizing the amphitheater and what we do there, this year we presented a new play about Lincoln's life in Spencer County and it was very successful. Our original proposal was for upgrading the lighting equipment, which we do currently have on site. State gives some money, but not enough to keep a 1500 seat amphitheater going. Some funding is in place for 2013, but we will need to do a lot of fund raising. Father Jeremy said the year had been an exceptional year and we got a lot of people in the seats. Waninger asked if the \$30,000 was what they originally asked for and Wilkinson said no they had asked for \$60,000 but the Redevelopment Commission had recommended the \$30,000. Father Jeremy expressed that he felt that keeping the amphitheater going was an honor for Will Koch and Ralph Kennedy, somewhat of a legacy for them. Winsett asked if they were self sufficient and if not how can this \$30,000 help. Wilkinson explained that the State funding was originally \$80,000, and each year it gets less. They are just asking for a one time infusion of \$30,000, they have raised \$100,000 through donations and fund raisers. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$30,000, Bunner seconded the motion, motion passed.

##### ***Lincolnland Economic Development-\$10,000***

Tom Utter explained that they were requesting \$1,500 for a new laptop computer, \$3,500 for a phone system, and \$5,000 to upgrade the web site. Spaetti explained that the building is donated to LEDC so any office machines or equipment would belong to the LEDC. Bunner asked if there was any alternate funding available instead of using this money. Utter said there was no other funding available. Bunner then asked if they could live with half that amount. Utter said they could live with whatever the Council decided to give. Knepper asked how much it would cost to get the web site updated; Utter responded that it would be approximately \$2,000. Winsett made a motion to approve \$5,000 for the phone system. Bunner seconded the motion, motion approved.

Kroeger asked if this would have to go back before the other boards. Wetherill said not in his opinion. Ed Ingram asked Utter if they used Skype, wasn't sure if they were using this technology. Utter responded that they did use Skype when it was appropriate.

##### ***Spencer County Youth and Community Center-\$120,000***

Tim Lloyd was present and said that the 4-H Association, YCC and Farm Bureau Board did not vote at the special meeting as to what to do with the Vendor City Building because the 4-H Association Board is in transition. Other ground is still available with no problems. Currently have private donations around the \$115,000 mark. Lloyd asked if they thought this was a vote that will get done this year, and if so what type of information the Council would need. At the present time it would take half a million dollars to do upgrades on the present building, then there would be additional cost to bring it up to code; the Extension Office cannot locate there with current square footage. Kroeger said he felt that the county could possibly come up with \$25,000 a year to help finance the building. Spaetti said everyone wants to help, but we need more information. Lloyd said we aren't asking for anything tonight, we are just trying to keep you updated on what is going on. Maybe a larger amount could come from AK Steel to help make a down payment. Spaetti said what he would like to see would be for them to go to different banks and find out what the interest rates are and plug in your numbers and see what your payments would be.

Bunner then questioned whether the high speed internet that the Extension Office currently has would be considered as infrastructure improvement and qualify for COIT funding if they move out to the other building. Winsett asked Wetherill if the building itself would qualify for COIT funding. Wetherill replied that this would be a legitimate use for COIT. Kroeger said we definitely need to have transparency because we haven't heard anything since we had our joint meeting. He felt that COIT funding could be an option for the yearly contribution. Spaetti said the bottom line is that everyone is interested in helping; he asked if Lloyd or someone from the different boards could come to the next meeting and keep the Council updated.

Kress made a motion to table the \$120,000, Knepper seconded the motion, motion passed.

Bunner made a motion to adjourn, Winsett seconded the motion, motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

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President

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Attest:

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