

Council Meeting
December 18, 2007 – 5:26 pm

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

Minutes

11/20/2007 minutes and 11/20/2007 Joint Meeting minutes - Ebert made a motion to approve. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Mileage Rate

Prior to the meeting Bunner estimated the use rate using a formula which took into consideration fuel, tires, maintenance, and depreciation. The per mile use rate estimate came to thirty-seven and one-half cents (\$0.375). Wetherill drafted an Ordinance Establishing the Rate of Reimbursement for Mileage Incurred in Furtherance of Authorized County Engagements. Kroeger made a motion to pass the ordinance with the mileage rate being \$0.375 starting January 1, 2008. Bunner seconded. All in favor.

Visitors Bureau

Melissa Miller, Executive Director of the Spencer County Visitors Bureau, presented the annual budget of the Visitors Bureau for council approval. Miller briefly explained several things which the bureau did in 2007 and the many positive articles which have been written about Spencer County. Miller also explained the events to come in 2009 with the Bicentennial of Abraham Lincoln's Birthday and the new billboard designs. The bureau has moved into a new office which is more visible to visitors.

Kress made a motion to approve the budget. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Kroeger thanked Miller for all of her work.

Transfers

Jail – Sheriff Lindsey asked for a transfer from Dispatcher Overtime and Senior Jailer to Jailer Salary in the total amount of \$27,620. The amount was questioned. The amount was given by the payroll deputy. Shelton was unsure why the amount was so high at the end of the year and she was to report back as to the reason. Kroeger made a motion to approve a transfer not to exceed \$27,620. Cochenour seconded. All in favor. (Shelton later found out that the \$27,620 was the correct amount. The payroll deputy waits until the end of the year to balance out the jailer and dispatcher salary position due to the high amount of turnover and shifting between pay levels.) Lindsey also requested a transfer from Dispatcher Overtime to Jailer Overtime in the amount of \$2,500. Bunner made a motion to approve. Cochenour seconded. All in favor.

Coroner – Coroner Schulte requested a transfer of \$85.60 from Disposal of Sanitary Clothing to Clerical Assistant. Kroeger made a motion to approve. Kress seconded. All in favor.

LOIT

Spaetti explained that the DLGF is requiring county councils to send a letter stating whether or not they are adopting a LOIT tax for the county. Shelton stated that until the letter is sent the county will not receive the break down for COIT funding to be disbursed to the taxing districts. Shelton prepared a letter stating that the council will not currently adopt a LOIT tax. Bunner made a motion to sign the letter. Ebert seconded. All in favor.

Santa Claus Water

Mike Johannes, Town Board Member for Santa Claus, Steve Leiberling, Member Board of Directors for Santa La Hill Water, Terry Tischendorf, Member Board of Directors for Santa La Hill Water, Lenn Stein, Member Board of Directors for Santa La Hill Water, and Commissioner David Gogel came before the council to announce that the Santa Claus Town Council voted in favor of the merger into a single water system. Stein stated that the Santa La Hill Board will approve the merger, but it will need to be taken to the membership. Kroeger asked what this means for the law suit. Stein stated that everything goes away. Kroeger stated that since there is enough money for the water system currently, he suggested that the council withhold the funding until all of the papers are signed and the litigation is dropped. Winsett made a motion to withhold funding for the Santa Claus Water System until all agreements are signed and litigation is resolved. Cochenour seconded. All in favor. The group stated that they will be back to amend the MOU to read a "Water Utility Board" instead of a "Regional Water

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Board”, due to state regulations. Stein also verified that the water system would then receive two distributions in 2008.

Johannes further stated that the problems have been resolved with the state regarding artifacts found. An agreement with REC has also been reached, and the SRF funding is being finalized.

Appointments 2008

LTRSD Appointment – Spaetti explained that an appointment to the LTRSD Board was needed since McMican resigned. Spaetti suggested that the council hear from anyone interested. Feige stated that an appointment needs to be made now because the LTRSD officers are elected in January. Kroeger suggested a special meeting on January second or third to give the council time to hear from all who would like the position. The discussion was had on Winsett being a temporary appointment to the board. Wetherill stated that if Winsett was appointed he would not be able to vote on anything regarding the district while sitting on the council and he would not be able to vote on the LTRSD board on anything regarding litigation. Ed Ingram reminded the council that McMican’s appointment will be up in May, so the appointment made now will end in May.

Feige addressed the council and explained what he would do if appointed. He stated that he would review the engineering data and financial data. He stated that he would make sure that COIT funds are used only to lower monthly payments. Kroeger asked what happens to the banks and the loans which need to be repaid. Feige stated that Spencer County Bank already has their money and the Freedom Bank loan has been extended and is not due until May of 2008. Feige stated he will look at what the engineering costs will be over a 40 year period. He will develop estimates for alternative designs and hold meetings with the public to present the funding. He will then ask the community how to proceed. He does not wish to become an officer. He sees the position as one to provide financial information. Spaetti asked Feige to email or mail information to the auditor so the appointment can be considered.

Deanna Gordon addressed the council in support of appointing Feige to the board due to his experience. She questioned if it was wise to put an elected official on the board, due to the nature of politics he would already have some people against him.

Kroeger asked Feige if he could represent the council fairly since he has been against the project. Kroeger stated there is concern with moving to a different system with the money that has been spent and then being asked for more money. Feige stated that Wayne Bond has developed a plan to use the current engineering.

Judy Litherland, representing the Spencer County Chamber of Commerce, offered to fund a mediated discussion to promote a better understanding. Winsett asked LTRSD board member Beth Packer, if the sewer board would agree to the mediation. Packer stated she felt they would. Kroeger stated that the mediation needs to occur with the sewer district; the council should not be included in the mediation.

Spaetti asked Packer if she knew who the new mayor of Rockport was going to appoint to the sewer board. Packer stated she has not spoken to the newly elected mayor about it. Packer offered to be the council appointment if she is not reappointed by Rockport. Packer also said that the board has received a letter from Rural Development stating that the increase in costs of the project are not surprising and that they will evaluate the project for more money to be awarded. Bond stated the letter said RD would review and evaluate to see if they will award more money. Feige stated that he does not think RD has enough money to pay the rate down to \$65 per month.

Kroeger stated that he thinks the council needs to hear from all those interested in being the council appointment.

LTRSD board member Wayne Bond stated complaints about the current LTRSD Board and attorney.

LTRSD board member Steve Clark stated that a full board needs to be in place by the first meeting in January because officers will be elected. Spaetti stated that is the intention of the council.

Packer stated that the reason she came to the meeting was to let the council know that 18 more easements were signed and recorded since the last meeting.

Wetherill stated that the new mayor of Rockport needs to understand why Rockport has an appointment. Packer explained that they built their new sewer plant with funding from Rural Development and with money borrowed from SRF. Rockport paid for the plant on their own and did not need LTRSD to hook into the plant to pay it off. After she was elected mayor, Rockport went to LTRSD and offered to have them use of the plant because they had the capacity available. It will not affect Rockport sewer rates. She said it was about being a good neighbor and not having two sewer plants right next to each other. It also helped get Rural Development to work with LTRSD.

Deanna Gordon asked the council to have the appointment regularly report back to the council. Winsett asked for LTRSD to be on the agenda every month until something is resolved. Spaetti agreed.

Kroeger asked Bunner to contact the new mayor about the LTRSD appointment and how important it is.

A special meeting was set for January 2nd at 7:30 am to make an appointment to the LTRSD board. Cochenour made a motion to request written or emailed requests to be the appointment. Kress seconded. All in favor. Both of the papers were asked to publish a request from the council for all that would like to be appointed to the board to send a letter or email to the auditor by December 27th.

	<u>Motion</u>	<u>Seconded</u>	<u>Vote</u>
President – Bill Spaetti	Ebert	Kress	All
Vice President – James Ebert	Kress	Cochenour	All
Attorney – John Wetherill	Ebert	Bunner	All
Finance Chairman – Jack Kroeger	Bunner	Cochenour	All – Kroeger abstain
EMA Advisory Board – Steve Winsett	Kress	Ebert	All
ABC Board – Anthony Bender	Ebert	Kress	All
Indiana 15 – James Ebert	Kroeger	Kress	All
LEDC – Blake Bunner	Ebert	Cochenour	All
LEDC Joint/Commissioners–Barry Schafer	Kroeger	Ebert	All
4-H Youth & Community – Dave Kress	Ebert	Bunner	All
Solid Waste – Bill Spaetti	Bunner	Winsett	All
Advisory Plan – Bob Cochenour	Kroeger	Bunner	All
PTABOA – James ‘Pete’ Rapp & Ron Magnus	Kroeger	Cochenour	All
Meeting Date & Time–3 rd Tues @5:00pm	Kroeger	Kress	All

Cochenour made a motion to adjourn. Winsett seconded. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 pm.

County Council,

_____	_____
President	
_____	_____
_____	_____
Attest:	
_____	_____
Cindy Shelton, Auditor	