

REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
May 20 2014

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioners' Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: H. Dan Stalbaum, Gerrit H. DeVries, Rein O. Bontreger, Stephen R. Jordan, Ronald Sipkema, John Price and Andrew Andree. Also present was the Jasper County Auditor, Kimberly K. Grow and Deputy Auditor, Donya Jordan. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and Mr. Jordan led those present to recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made the motion to adopt the minutes as presented. Mr. Price seconded this motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COUNTY GENERAL/CIRCUIT COURT/PERSONAL SERVICES/CASA DIRECTOR & ASSISTANT DIRECTOR; SUPPLIES/CASA OFFICE SUPPLIES; OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES/ CASA CONTINUING EDUCATION/CASA RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION; CAPITAL OUTLAYS/CASA EQUIPMENT: This was an additional appropriation request that has been tabled every month since the January meeting. Mr. Jordan, at the suggestion of Auditor Grow made a motion to approve \$24,178.00 for the CASA Director's salary line, \$8,000.00 for the Assistant CASA Director's salary line as an additional appropriation and the request for \$1,000.00 in CASA office supplies, \$5,000.00 in CASA continuing education, \$2,500.00 in CASA Recruitment and Retention and \$2,500.00 in Capital Outlays-CASA Equipment be transferred from the CASA program line that is already in the Jasper County Circuit Court Budget. Mr. Price seconded the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-05A** in the amount of \$32,178.00. Motion carried unanimously. Judge Potter is to submit a letter to the auditor requesting the transfers for this budget.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION / COUNTY GENERAL /CIRCUIT COURT/PERSONAL SERVICES/BAILIFF, COURT ADMINISTRATOR AND COURT REPORTERS: This additional appropriation request is to clear up a bookkeeping error made at budget time last year. Councilman Jordan made a motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-05B** in the amount of \$535.00 (Bailiff-\$130.00, Court Administrator-\$137.00, Court Reporters- \$134.00 each). Mr. Stalbaum seconded and this motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/DRUG FREE COMMUNITY/OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES/PREVENTION AND EDUCATION: Auditor Grow received a letter from Indiana Criminal Justice Institute approving a request from the Jasper County Local Coordinating Council in the amount of \$1,900.00 for prevention and education. Councilman Price made a motion with Mr. DeVries seconding to approve this request. Motion carried unanimously to approve **Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-05C**.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/COUNTY GENERAL/TREASURER/OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES/SERVICE AGREEMENT: Treasurer Anderson requested an additional appropriation of \$3,000.00 to have the tax information on the website updated weekly instead of three times a year. At this time, the website is updated when the taxes are first processed, when the ten percent penalty is applied to the delinquent taxes thirty days after the spring tax due date and then again thirty days after the fall tax due date. She feels the site needs to be updated weekly to hopefully prevent incorrect tax payments. After a lengthy discussion, Councilman Sipkema made a motion to eliminate the tax information from the website. Mr. Stalbaum seconded the motion. The vote was 4-2 with Sipkema, Stalbaum, DeVries and Andree voting to approve this motion. Jordan and Price voted to disapprove. **Appropriation Ordinance No. 2014-05D** was denied.

TRANSFERS:

CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT/WEIGHTS AND MEASURES SUPPLIES TO WEIGHT AND MEASURES EQUIPMENT: Auditor Grow requested \$1,000.00 be transferred from Weights and Measures Supplies (Supplies) to Weight and Measures Equipment (Capital Outlays). Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve this transfer. Mr. Price seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS:

PUBLIC HEARING/ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/JASPER COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY/LIBRARY IMPROVEMENT RESERVE FUND/OTHER SERVICES AND CHARGES: The Jasper County Library requested an additional appropriation in the amount of \$120,000.00. Jasper County Public Library Director Patty Stringfellow was present for this request. She explained to the council that there was damage to the Rensselaer Library when the pipes located in the

ceiling froze and broke during the extreme cold weather the area had in January. The library was closed for five weeks for repairs which was covered by insurance. The approximate cost of the repairs on the building and the replacement of the ruined contents was \$254,000.00. The board hired an architect to determine the cause of the problem and it was discovered many of the water, heating and cooling lines are located on the cold side of the insulation in the ceiling. In order to correct this issue it was recommended to insulate the pipes from the top all the way down and to install insulated decking to the roofing project that is already in progress. This would cost an estimated \$116,375.00 to do this and the money in this fund has been set aside for situations like this. Councilman Price made the motion to approve **Additional Appropriation Ordinance No.2014-05E** with Mr. Andree seconding this motion. This motion was approved unanimously by the council.

OTHER BUSINESS:

NEW RENSSELAER FIRE STATION: Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Chief Kenny Haun was present to discuss the issues regarding the current Rensselaer Fire Station. The station was built on top of debris from the old armory. The floor is sinking and the situation has deteriorated to the point of having to move some of the equipment to other locations. Also, the current building is not ADA compliant, energy efficient and lacks adequate training space. The Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department has purchase five acres on the west edge on Rensselaer and is currently in the design stage of planning for a new station. The estimated cost for this project will be three and one half million dollars and they have applied for an OCRA Grant and a USDA Grant. The Rensselaer Volunteer Fire Department is requesting financial support from the county. The council will take this request under consideration.

JASPER COUNTY JAIL INSPECTION UPDATE: Jasper County Sheriff Terry Risner updated the council on a recent inspection of the jail. Included in the inspection was a staffing analysis. Currently there are 18 correctional officers which include the jail commander. The Indiana Department of Corrections recommends that there be an additional seven floor officers, two transport officers and one part time person. Sheriff Risner stated there have been changes in the law beginning July 1st regarding felonies which will increase the population at the county jails and community correction departments. The Indiana Administration Code says the liability rest on the county if it is under staffed.

AIR SHOW: Sheriff Risner updated the council on what they have planned for the air show which is scheduled for July 11, 12 and 13. There have been three meetings already. He is not allowing any vacations scheduled for these days, deputies will work days off, there will be twelve hour shifts and he has increased the radio staff. There will probably be a ninety percent increase in traffic flow entering and exiting Interstate 65. Indiana Department of Transportation will place construction barrels at intervals along the emergency lane of I-65 to hopefully limit traffic from stopping. There will be increased patrol in this area. The Indiana State Police has assigned the event coordinating staff for traffic control. Jasper County Sheriff's Department will be responsible for accidents and law enforcement issues.

CASH FARM LEASE: The lease is between the Jasper County Board of Commissioners and John E. Korniak for 181.84 acres in section 23, township 29 and range 7 at the price of \$276.26 per acre. Mr. Price made a motion to approve the lease and Mr. Stalbaum seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

COUNCIL CONFERENCE: Auditor Grow reminded the council of the state called meeting for the county council scheduled for June 21, 2014 in Indianapolis. The deadline for registration is June 2nd.

PILOT PROGRAM FOR NONBINDING REVIEWS: Councilman Jordan reminded the council about the pilot program for nonbinding reviews. June 3rd is the deadline for counties to sign up. The council decided they aren't interested.

PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no public comment.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Mr. Siphema made a motion to adjourn the meeting with Mr. DeVries seconding the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

Kimberly K. Grow, Auditor of Jasper County