

## **REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL**

**July 12, 2016**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. in the Commissioner's Room, Suite 202, of the Jasper County Courthouse located at 115 West Washington Street, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Gerrit H. DeVries, John T. Price, Gary Fritts, Stephen Jordan, Paul Norwine, and Andrew Andree. Also present was Kimberly K. Grow, Jasper County Auditor, and Donna J. Horner, Deputy Auditor. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Gary Fritts.

MINUTES: Mr. DeVries made the motion to approve the Minutes of the Regular Meeting held on June 21, 2016. Mr. Fritts seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS / LOIT SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: Jack Haberlin HB1001 report will be in by July 29, 2016. If we get 1,000,000, we have to do an additional appropriation of the money we already received Senate Bill 67. If we do appropriation tonight, we are going to put it in two different spots, ask for \$2,000,000, in two different categories, one is if we do things in house and the other is if we use outside contractors. There is \$150,000,000 available. \$75,000,000 will go to counties with a population of 50,000 or less. \$75,000,000 will go to counties with a population of 50,000 or more. A question was asked regarding reimbursement if the work is done in house and we can show the cost. Mr. Haberlin replied that we can do anything in house from January 1 as long as we pay for that project with 67 money. Payment to vendors for recent work will be held off until October when we know what projects we get. The 67 money is money that can be used for a match. Mr. Norwine wanted to make clear so people are not upset with the county that, because of holding off on the money, some projects might take place once school has already started, for them to understand the reason it was held off.

Mr. Haberlin stated that the rating is complete and they have all the commissioner's special requests. He will have more information for them at the July 19, 2016 meeting. A question was addressed to Mr. Haberlin asking if there will be some actual paving as opposed to all chip and seal, to which he replied "Yeah." Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve the \$2,000,000 LOIT SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION FUND to be used for highway road maintenance, paving, etc. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

JUDGE AHLER: Judge Ahler was present to inform the council that he has three employees that are doing the job of four and it has been that way since he has been here. Recently, his court reporter left with only 2 days notice to take another position. They are drowning in Superior Court trying to keep up with their work. He states that Judge Potter has agreed to let one of his court reporters work part-time for him, but in order for her to get her work done in circuit, he would need to pay her overtime. He believes he has approximately \$5,000 left from when he was given some temp money while an employee was having some health issues. He wanted to inform council that he will be requesting to go back to 4 employees, meaning he will need to hire 2 people. He is not asking council to do anything at this point, he is simply making them aware of what his plans/requests will be. The employee that just left also took with her 30 years of experience, not only with court reporting, but legal, accounting and organizational skills as well. Discussion was had regarding how soon he could fill the position(s), what kind of training/experience court reporters have, etc. It was confirmed that he does not currently have a court reporter. He certainly wants to hire one court reporter and would like the other person to have legal background experience.

LOIT PUBLIC SAFETY COUNTY SHARE FUND / SHERIFF: Mr. Risner was not present. \$25,000 for overtime. Mr. Andree made the motion to approve the request. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

TRANSFER COUNTY GENERAL FUND / WORKER'S COMP INSURANCE: A request has been made to transfer \$6,712.00 from County General Fund Commissioner's Other Services and Charges / Mowing to Worker's Compensation Insurance. Mr. Fritts made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. DeVries seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

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TRANSFER VETERANS TRAVEL / OFFICE SUPPLIES: A request has been made by Pat Donnelly to transfer \$400.00 from Veteran's Service Travel to Office Supplies. Mr. Jordan made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONER'S SOLID WASTE / CARE OF INMATES: A request was made to transfer \$125,331 from County General Solid Waste Recycling to Care of Inmates. Mr. Norwine made the motion to approve the transfer as requested. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

LOIT / BUDGET PROCESS AND LOIT CHANGES: Statement was made that the public hearing on LOIT has been changed due to statutory deadlines and changes and the voting will take place August 16, 2016.

Mr. DeVries put together a power point to highlight a few items, much of which was covered at the state-called county council meeting, and was presented by Association of Indiana Counties, that was attended by Mr. Jordan, Mr. Andree and Mr. DeVries. In summary Mr. DeVries stated that there are a lot of details and it is complex and he would not feel comfortable making any changes without having further information.

The material is available online under the Association of Indiana Counties. Go on "Dealing with Education" and then go to "Documents".

PART-TIME: Mr. Bontreger asked if any councilmen had any other business they'd like to cover. Mr. Norwine stated that he had a question about part time positions. Are they allowed to have a certain amount of overtime or is it unlimited? Auditor Grow stated that the commissioners have asked all of the department heads to keep part time 28 hours or less. She believes the maximum hours per year is 1,560. Mr. Norwine asked if there are any areas of the county where there is some amount of overtime in those part time positions. Auditor Grow replied that most of the department heads are pretty good at keeping it under.

HALF-WAY HOUSE: Mr. Fritts stated that Sheriff Risner has been addressing in the newspaper the issues with drug use in the county and it's not going away, it's only getting worse. Mr. Fritts stated that Sheriff Risner has proposed some different ideas, one being a halfway house and Mr. Fritts was wondering if anyone else has read any of the articles. He would like to see the council support him through that. Mr. Fritts wanted to recognize that Sheriff Risner is trying to come up with ideas and that it may be something in the future that the council will need to address.

There being no further business, Mr. Fritts made the motion to adjourn. Mr. Andree seconded and the motion carried unanimously.