

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE JASPER COUNTY COUNCIL
JULY 13, 2021**

The Jasper County Council met this date at 7:00 P.M. C.S.T. at 910 S Sparling, Rensselaer, Indiana, with the following members present: Rein Bontreger, Stephen Jordan, Paul Norwine, Brett Risner, Gary Fritts, Jeff DeYoung and Brian Moore. Also present was Auditor Donya G. Jordan and Deputy Auditor Tina Porter. Mr. Bontreger called the meeting to order and those present and on Zoom stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Jordan.

MINUTES: Mr. Risner made a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular June 15, 2021 meeting, as presented. Mr. Norwine seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

SHERIFF WILLIAMSON / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: Sheriff Williamson was present to inform the Council of additional appropriation requests for August. He said that all of these requests stem from COVID relief money. He further stated that the Sheriff's Department spent over \$200,000.00 from their budget that they would like to be reimbursed for based on Resolution 2021-01.

The first request is for \$19,325.17 in the Computer Supplies line. He said that Mr. King has this earmarked for computers and things he needs to purchase. The second request is for \$6,056.00 in the Institutional Supplies line. The third request is for \$31,989.00 in the Garage and Motor Line. He would like this money reimbursed so he can buy an additional car. He will be asking for three cars in his budget but will use this reimbursement to buy a fourth car. The fourth request is for \$18,214.82 for the Commissary Account. He said that the Commissary line is funded by selling items to the inmates. He said that all of the expenditures out of these lines were approved by the committee to be reimbursed with CARES ACT money.

Sheriff Williamson gave the Council a printout showing the breakdown of what it costs to replace a deputy. He recently hired five deputies. When a deputy leaves, sick time and vacation time must be paid out. They've expended approximately \$16,000.00 on uniforms for the five new deputies. He said that the ballistic vests expire every five years. The equipment such as belts and holsters don't fit other officers so the department has to purchase new, not to mention they get worn out after so long. He said that they have mandatory overtime and have figured it through September. Mr. Moore asked if the County owns the uniforms and Sheriff Williamson replied that the County purchases two uniforms for the Officer and then after one year the County gives the Officer a \$500.00 annual clothing allowance. He said that they are making small changes to save money such as going to a nylon belt instead of a basket weave, etc. In response to Mr. Moore's question, Sheriff Williamson stated that the department keeps the uniforms when an Officer leaves but if they are not in too good of shape then they cut them up. There was a brief discussion about the work history of the new hires and their starting pay with the department. Sheriff Williamson told the Council how many officers are on each shift. He said that the officers are working a lot of overtime and that there aren't enough officers to handle all the calls so other officers will hear the calls and come out and help. Mr. DeYoung asked how many part-time deputies he has and Sheriff Williamson replied that he would like to have twelve shifts per month at \$25 per hour, which would equate to approximately \$3,600.00 per year. He said that there are approximately ten officers from Newton, Pulaski, Remington, DeMotte and Wheatfield that currently help out if needed. If Wheatfield or Remington are without a marshal, the county deputies answer the calls.

Mr. Norwine made a motion to approve an additional request in the amount of \$14,764 for LIT Public Safety Straight Time Training. Mr. Jordan seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

ANDY BOERSMA / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: Mr. Boersma stated that he is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$12,000.00. He stated that he's already spent \$3,000.00 of the \$12,000.00 that he is hoping the Council approves. He further stated that the State allows counties that have morgue space to bill the originating county. He recently got a \$3,000 bill from three months ago from three calls that came in to Tippecanoe County. He's unsure how many more bills he will be receiving. They are at sixty-eight calls for the year and normally average seventy for the year. If things continue as they have been, he said he will more than likely need to ask for more additional. He said he is going to pull all the files back to 2020 to see if he can bill Tippecanoe County or Newton County. Mr. Jordan made a motion to approve the \$12,000.00 additional request in County General Coroner Autopsy. Mr. Risner seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

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ANDY BOERSMA / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION CONT'D: The money received from the bills he sends out will be receipted in to County General. Mr. Jordan stated that it would be nice for the Council to know how much comes in.

DEBRA NAGEL / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: Mrs. Nagel stated that a few years ago, the Assistant Sanitarian position was changed from full-time to part-time. Since then, they've had a really hard time keeping that position filled. She said some of the job duties consist of inspecting food trucks and accompanying Ms. Taylor on complaint calls. In June, the Commissioners agreed to make the Assistant Sanitarian a full-time position with the idea that when the Director of Vital Records retired, that position would turn in to a part-time position. She requested an additional \$5,880.00 for salary to pay a full-time Assistant Sanitarian for the remainder of the year, \$835.00 for PERF, \$365.00 for Social Security and \$83.00 for Medicare. The Vital Records Director retired so they are now interviewing to fill that position. Mr. DeYoung made a motion to approve the additional requests. Mr. Fritts seconded and the motion carried unanimously. Mrs. Nagel stated that, for the past five summers, Ms. Taylor has essentially done two jobs and they really appreciate her for that.

Mrs. Nagel gave the Council a COVID update. The county as a whole is 41.1% vaccinated. They are now giving COVID shots at the Health Department on Tuesdays. Registration is done online or by calling 211. They gave approximately sixteen shots last week and twenty today. She said it seems that they are vaccinating a lot of kids. They are also giving them COVID vaccinations on Wednesdays when they get their other shots. The State will be offering vaccinations at the Fairgrounds for three days. The Health Department is working with the dairies to try to get the Latino community vaccinated. She explained that the vaccination count is calculated based on zip code, whether the individual is vaccinated in Jasper County or elsewhere. She said that, in the beginning, the Health Department was vaccinating people from all over the state simply because they could make an appointment with Jasper County sooner than they could elsewhere. The County is still at the lower end of the percentage compared to other counties in the state. The CDC went with the Health Department to talk to the schools, the Town of DeMotte, some churches, the Commissioners and Community Services to try to find out why more people weren't being vaccinated. Mrs. Nagel stated that she does not know how they base the percentage because ages 0-11 are not eligible for a vaccine yet. Sixty-three percent of the samples that are being checked for variants come up positive. The most common variant is the British 117, but the Delta variant is climbing. A lot of the positive cases are in children ages seven to twenty. Last time she calculated, sixty-three percent of the positive Delta cases were in individuals under the age of thirty. She said that Michigan had a high number of Delta cases but it is declining. She further stated that it's important to get everyone vaccinated.

RECORDER / ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION: Mr. Risner made a motion to approve an additional appropriation for the Recorder in the amount of \$3,000.00 for office supplies. Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

LIT LEVY FREEZE: There was a brief discussion about the Lit Levy Freeze. This will be placed on the agenda for August.

There being no further business and no public comment, Mr. Fritts made a motion to adjourn. Mr. DeYoung seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Rein O. Bontreger, President

ATTEST:

Donya G. Jordan, Auditor of Jasper County

