

**MINUTES  
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 17, 2020  
8:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting:  
Dudley Crucea, Tom Booe, Dale Clawson, Bill Glover, and Jim Hershberger.  
Jim McKee on zoom. Joe Whittington was not present.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Bill Glover to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2019 meeting as presented. Vote: 6-0

**The Council reviewed the Following Monthly Reports:**

July Monthly Financial Comparison Report  
Treasurer’s July Monthly Report

July Monthly Report of Collections - as submitted:  
Ambulance, Clerk, Health Dept., Recorder, Prosecutor, Sheriff

**Review & Acknowledge Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation and Monthly Comparison Report of Funds**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim Hershberger to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for July Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 6-0

**PETITION - VAN BUREN TWP TRUSTEE –** Sandra Ohlds (Bonnie Morton was also present)  
There is no particular format or structure for the unit’s petition; a letter would suffice. The petition should include the unit’s proposed budgets, levies, and rates so that there is no question as to what was approved if the county council grants the petition.

• **The Department very strongly recommends that the county fiscal body public hearing AND county fiscal body determination occur on or before November 1, 2020!**

The county fiscal body should issue its determination in the form of an ordinance or resolution. Again, this should occur on or before November 1, 2020.

• The county fiscal body “may grant or deny” the unit’s petition for an increase in its budgets; statute does *not* authorize the county fiscal body to modify (reduce) the unit’s proposal.

Notice of the public hearing is governed by the Open Door Law (48-hour notice); to the extent the unit and county fiscal body can coordinate and allow for enough time, the Department strongly recommends that notice of the hearing be published in the correct newspaper(s) at least ten days before the hearing.

• Upon receipt of the county fiscal body’s determination, the city, town, or township must upload a copy of the unit’s petition and a copy of the county fiscal body’s determination to Gateway within 48 hours of November 1, 2020.

• In this situation, the unit will not have a Form 4 to upload. The unit must still upload all the other budget documentation (e.g., Form 3).

• In the event a city, town, or township subject to IC 36-1-23 fails to comply with that statute, there will be no penalty to the county unit. The city, town, or township’s penalty will be certification of the lesser of the unit’s prior year budgets, rates, and levies or the unit’s proposed budgets, rates, and levies.

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the Van Buren Township budget for 2021. Vote: 6-0

**Jail/Sheriff Dept.– IT Contract Agreement**  
**Contract Agreement or hourly rate**

Brad has spent a lot of time with the opening of the new Jail getting things in order. He recently turned in a bill for 188 hours at a rate of \$75 hourly for work done at the new jail. He is proposing a contract with a flat rate each month of \$4,150. This would include work at the Courthouse, both EMS stations, 911, Jail and Health Department. The current contract only includes the Courthouse in the amount of \$2,000 a month. There wouldn’t be a limit of hours and this would be cheaper than \$75 an hour. The proposal needs to go to the Commissioners before a decision can be made.

**IT – Brad Keller****Server – Auditor/Assessor/Treasurer**

A new Server is needed for the Auditor, Assess, & Treasurer's Offices. A new server quote in the amount of \$10,079.99 was given to the Auditor. The current servers are going to be moved upstairs to the IT Room since they need to be under lock and key and another precaution for cyber security attacks.

**Budget Hearings for 2021**

The following departments came to discuss their budgets and explain their reasoning for the increase or decrease in the 2021 Budget year requests. Adam Tyler (Purdue Ext), Rusty Peevler (County Hwy), Garth Kagels (EMS), Bob Cates (Vet Service), Stephanie Campbell (Circuit Court), Terry Holt (Sheriff), Daniel Askren (Prosecutor), Kathleen Osborne (911), Nikki Allen (Recorder), Kelly Thornburgh & Dr. Sharma on zoom – (Health), Elaine Pastore (Co Drug Free Community), Josh Whittington (Coroner), Sandy Whitaker (Assessor), Colleen Chambers (Treasurer & Solid Waste), Joe Whitaker (EMA), Paula Copenhaver (Clerk) and Brenda Hardy (Auditor & Commissioners). Soil & Water was discussed without representation.

**Purdue Extension - Adam Tyler**

His budget consisted of salary increases in the amount of 3% for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> deputy and a raise for the Special Project and part time employees as well. Everything else remained about the same.

**County Highway - Rusty Peevler**

The cum bridge fund is a little higher than last year due to the cost of the materials being higher. They have also had the availability to do more and get more done than in the past.

TNT and Campbell's have been repairing bridges faster and enabling them to move on to other projects in a timelier manner.

The projected income for MVH for 2021 is going to be \$700,000 less than last year. They are asking for 4 people to be put on-call 4-5 hours a week. They would be paid \$18.06 an hour. The Council is not in favor of it.

**Ambulance - Garth Kagels**

He proposed a 3% raise for his employees and a .25 raise per hour for part time. He would like to move the Assistant Director to administration and make him salary. In 2001, they had 14 employees. He has 2 guys out on FMLA and another resigned. They are having a hard time keeping people and they are shorthanded.

He would like to possibly remount the Horton V10 Gas. That will cost roughly \$160,000-\$165,000 to do that. He would really like to have a 4<sup>th</sup> full time ambulance in service. He noted that 5 out of 7 days he's trying to get a 4<sup>th</sup> truck staffed.

**Veteran Service Officer - Bob Cates**

He came again asking for a workspace that was more conducive to the sensitive information that he deals with. The office that he works in is not ADA compliant and needs to be more accessible to the veterans needing help.

**Circuit Court/Probation/CASA - Judge Stephanie Campbell**

There has been a significant drop in small claims this year due to COVID. 2/3rds of the Counties in the State supplement the Judges income in the amount of \$5,000. The courthouse security needs to be brought up to a more significant wage. She is requesting that the county contribute to his wages.

She requested to use the Commissioner Room to be used for Jury Trials if necessary, to be able to social distance.

**Sheriff - Terry Holt**

The main areas of interest for the 2021 Budget is the \$140,000 increase to the budget, salary increase and 26-year retirement. Right now, there are 44-46 inmates. Montgomery County and Vermillion Co will be sending some of their inmates over. The Jail just hired their last person. They are going to need a computer and scanner in the evidence room at the new jail. A separate receipt account in county general will be set up to keep track of the money coming in for out of county inmates.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Dale Clawson to leave the Sheriff Retirement as it is and look at the retirement in June of 2021 after seeing how much revenue has been brought in at the New Jail. Vote: 6-0

**Auditor / Commissioner – Brenda Hardy**

Salary increase of 3% for 4 deputies was requested. Cuts were made in budget for seminars & travel due to zoom or virtual meetings and SBOA only having one Auditor’s conference a year now.

Commissioners budgets were increased in the Travel & Training/Education.

Discussion on having IT as a salary position with benefits or continue to contract it out. Tom asked what all the contractual services payments were for (approx. \$130,000). Don wanted to know what we’ve paid Brad Keller so far this year. Keller PC gets \$24,000 annually for contractual services. The other amounts are for software vendors (Auditor, Assessor, Recorder, etc.); copier lease payments ( EMA, Extension, Ambulance, Auditor, & Treasurer).

**E-911 - Kathleen Osborne**

911 Maintenance is 1/3<sup>rd</sup> billed to Warren County. She is asking for an 8% salary increase for her employees. They haven’t gotten a significant raise since 2016. She had a spreadsheet showing the comparison of wages in other counties compared to ours in size. She is short 2 people and has a hard time keeping people.

**Co Drug Free Community - Elaine Pastore**

Requested money for the administration in the amount of \$2,000. This was not advertised as to it has never been done before. She will need to talk to the judge and will need a letter stating a transfer is needed or do additional appropriation request.

**Health Dept. - Dr. Sharma (on zoom) & Kelly Thornburgh (in person)**

For the 2021 Budget, they are asking for a 3% salary increase. They are also seeking reimbursement from the Cares Act for expenses occurred during the Pandemic. The Environmentalist I & II should make the same amount. They are paid out of 2 different funds. Go Fund Me can not stay where it is. It needs to have a check written out of the account and receipted into a fund in the auditor’s office.

**Clerk - Paula Copenhaver**

She is requesting a salary increase of 3% for the 2021 budget. She also requested a hot spot to be used at home, conferences, etc. to still access the office securely.

**Assessor - Sandy Whitaker**

The extra clerical can be cut out of her budget. The lady resigned and they are not refilling the position. A new Data Collector is starting this week. As far as contractual services, it is for the Reassessment.

**Treasurer & Solid Waste - Colleen Chambers**

She requested salary increases and the solid waste is doing well. It is totally funding their budget and not touching any investments.

**Joe Whitaker & Tina Holmes - EMA**

Their budget increased by \$62,200 to put up a storage building to house equipment for the County.

Billing for the Covid Cares Act having to do with Warren County's portion needs to be reviewed and sent to Warren County first for reimbursement to pay Fountain County their 1/3 of the bill. Fountain County will submit 2/3 to be reimbursed from the Cares Act Grant.

**Park Board - Nancy Wagner / Zach Thomas**

They increased the repairs by \$100. The tractor they are using to mow is from the 1960's and is not in working condition. They need a new or like new one. They would like a 60-72in deck that's zero turn. The Council asked them to get some quotes on some tractors.

**Additional Appropriation****RESOLUTION 2020-3****E-911 STATEWIDE**

1222-0000-33600 Repairs & Maint. \$ 3,000

This is for a 5-year Motorola Software Upgrade Agreement/Maintenance Contract which includes 3 upgrades that will keep equipment supported through 2033.

A motion was made by Dale Clawson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-4****COUNTY GENERAL - Sheriff**

1000-0005-10100 Sheriff \$ 1,247

This is to amend the Salary for the Sheriff's new rate increase for July 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020.

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Bill Glover to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-5****COUNTY GENERAL - Commissioner**

1000-0068-33850 Out of County Jail Cost \$ 35,000

A motion was made by Bill Glover and seconded by Jim Hershberger to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-6****COUNTY GENERAL - Commissioner**

1000-0068-33860 Juvenile Housing \$ 10,000

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Dale Clawson to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-7****COUNTY GENERAL - Commissioner**

1000-0068-12000 Group Health Ins \$900,000

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-8****COUNTY GENERAL - Ambulance**

1000-0301-33500 Telephone \$ 3,500

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Dale Clawson to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-9****COUNTY GENERAL - Jail**

1000-0380-33302 Utilities \$ 18,800

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Bill Glover to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-10****CEDIT Commissioner**

1112-0068-33500 Telephone \$ 10,000

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Dale Clawson to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-11****PUBLIC SAFETY - Jail**

1170-0380-22000 Office Supplies \$ 1,800

A motion was made by Bill Glover and seconded by Jim Hershberger to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 6-0

**RESOLUTION 2020-12****PUBLIC SAFETY - Jail**

1170-0380-33302 Medical Services \$ 34,000

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Tom Booe to DENY the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 6-0

\*They will use the funds that are budgeted in County General-Jail budget line item.

**RESOLUTION 2020-13****PUBLIC SAFETY - Jail**

1170-0380-14000 Overtime \$ 1,500

**Transfer – Public Safety – Jail**\$1,500 From 1170-0380-10209 Part Time Cook  
To 1170-0380-14000 Overtime

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim Hershberger to DENY the total additional appropriation request and APPROVE to transfer from Part Time Cook to Overtime.

Vote: 6-0

**Transfer – County Farm – Sheriff**\$6,252.50 From 4924-0005-44445 Automobile  
To 4924-0005-44101 Equipment

To cover cost of outfitting 2 Dodge Ram Trucks with lights, etc.

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Bill Glover to approve the \$6,252.50 transfer.

Vote: 6-0

**Transfer – COUNTY GENERAL - Sheriff**\$ 300.00 From 1000-0005-33650 Equipment Repair  
To 1000-0005-33400 Printing and Advertising

To cover the PT Cook Ad and for another Ad if needed for the remainder of 2020.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Bill Glover to approve the \$300.00 transfer.

Vote: 6-0

**Declaration of Fiscal Body to adopt Covington – Veedersburg Public Library's Annual Budget for Non-Binding Review**

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Tom Booe to adopt the Annual Budget for Non-Binding Review when the conditions exist that require such binding review.

Vote: 6-0

**LIBRARY BOARD**

A motion was made by Dale Clawson and seconded by Bill Glover to appoint Randy Hollis on the Covington-Veedersburg Library Board of Fountain County for the remainder of Kim Alexander's term of 08-17-2020 to 12-31-2020.

Vote: 6-0

**AIC 2020 Virtual Conference – Sept 21-24, 2020**

A flat fee in the amount of \$300 for Fountain County was paid for elected officials to view the Virtual Conference this year.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 14, 2020  
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Dale Clawson and seconded by Bill Glover to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 6-0

Brenda Hardy  
ATTEST

Dudley Cruca  
Dudley Cruca

James Hershberger  
James Hershberger

Tom Booe  
Tom Booe

\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Whittington

Jim McKee  
Jim McKee

Dale Clawson  
Dale Clawson

Bill Glover  
Bill Glover