

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
APRIL 3, 2023
9:00 A.M.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Dale White, Kelly Carlson, Denise Crowder, Jim McKee and Jeff Fishero

PUBLIC COMMENT – Carol Freese/Henry Schmidt

Carol stated they have been working since September 2019 to raise money to repair the bridge. They have \$117,000.00 in private donations and money raised. They would like the County to put in an additional \$210,000.00 (may be less depending on private donations). Dudley advised them to go to the Commissioner's first once they have the amount needed.

WEGA – Rod Bannon

Rod wanted to discuss the proposal from February. He has talked with Covington and Veedersburg. Brad Crain did not want to tackle this because this is an election year. Rod is asking for \$250,000.00 from each township. He stated they may be able to use CREDIT money. Each township that contributes would get a seat on the board and there would be one representative from each school. Rod stated he is getting bids on construction in 2-3 weeks. He would like a motion in support of WEGA.

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Denise Crowder to support WEGA contingent on funding and more information.

Vote 7-0

ENTERPRISE – Co Hwy Leases

Alex states Fountain County has been partners with Enterprise for 2 years. He said Fountain County currently has 15 vehicles covered, 13 Highway, 1 Coroner, and 1 Solid Waste. He said Fountain County has Open End leases with Enterprise. He also said Jason Lewis, Highway Superintendent, stated he is very happy with Enterprise. He would like to meet at least 3 times a year. The Council would like him to come back before budget time so that they can have an idea of what to budget for next year. Alex agreed to coming back in July for Fleet Analysis meeting.

GEENEX – Solar presentation – Wayne Delong, Emily Williams, & Jennifer Hartley

Wayne updated the County on the Solar Project. He stated that this project is beneficial to the County. Currently looking at Richland, Davis, Logan and Shawnee Townships. He stated that they are working with landowners and neighboring parcels. Jim McKee stated he didn't feel like there was good communication with home owners and parcel owners. He would like to have a map at the May meeting. The solar panels must be 200 feet from the property lines of parcels with homes and 30 feet from non-residential parcels. Roger Azar stated this is black and white. Wayne stated that they have been communicating with Attica, and Rod Bannon stated there has been an open dialogue. The projected timeline states they will be doing field studies in the next 6 weeks.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the minutes of the Joint Meeting with Commissioners and Council on March 6, 2023 meeting as presented.

Vote: 7-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk and Sheriff for the month of March. Vote: 7-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for February 2023.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jim McKee to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for February, 2023. Vote: 7-0

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

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for March 2023 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 7-0

Resolution 2023-7

Resolution Approving Intergovernmental Cooperation Agreement with Warren County for Emergency Communications.

Andrew Hall, Commissioner, wanted to address the Council to explain. He stated the Director used to control the employees. This will now be the board. The executive committee with now have 2 Fountain County Commissioners and 1 Warren County Commissioner. This will be a one-year policy. New equipment will be discussed. A flat fee for Warren County will be in place.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Dale White to approve the above resolution. Vote: 7-0

AMBULANCE – Jeff Hutchinson

Jeff presented bids to council for EMS parking lot. Hesler Paving was \$13,315.00. They would like to start as soon as possible. We will need to advertise for an additional.

SHERIFF RETIREMENT – Additional

The 2022 Sheriff Retirement was paid in 2023 creating a shortfall in the 2023 budget in the amount of \$99,142.

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to advertise for an additional for the Sheriff Retirement and for the paving of the ambulance parking lot. Vote: 7-0

HEALTH – Jenny Eads

Jenny stated that \$1,000.00 was all that was budgeted for Health Department for County Attorney. They will need an additional. Also, Shelly Starkey, Health Department nurse, is working on programs for the school. Jenny is continuing to work on Grants.

Five Crossings Park – Dale White, Kim Eaton, & Stan Lambert

Dale stated he has been waiting on the Council for almost 2 years for a decision. Paperwork for the project needs to be uploaded to the state by 06/30/2023. Commissioners have already voted. \$450,000.00 over the next 2 years. If a commitment is not made by 06/30/23, additional funds could be in jeopardy. Stan Lambert stated this project could bring jobs and economic development. They would like to connect to the Circle Trail and eventually get to Montgomery County, if possible. Tom would like to have Stan go with him to a Veedersburg meeting to discuss linking up with Veedersburg trail. Stan very excitedly accepted. Kelly Carlson wondered if this could also be linked to Attica. Stan stated that they would like to link to Attica and Williamsport. He stated they would need part of money by end of

year. They received \$75,000.00 due to being in the Wetlands. The council was curious who would maintain the trail. The City of Covington currently maintains the trail, but they would like an agreement from City, Community Foundation and County.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Jim McKee to provide funding to Five Crossings Park. Vote 7-0

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jeff Fishero to close the meeting. Vote: 7-0

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE
May 8, 2023
AT 9:00 A.M.**

Cassie Chambers
ATTEST

Dudley Crier
John W. Bean
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Corder
James D. Leffer
Jeff Fishero