

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
May 8, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Cade’s Covered Bridge – Carol Freese & Henry Schmitt

Carol gave background information on the Historical Society and how it came about. They do Courthouse tours of the murals; display township & county artifacts at the Courthouse and have an essay contest for all schools. The Cade’s bridge is the oldest covered bridge. At one time there were approximately 600 and now only 90 some remain. It is one of the most endangered landmarks in the State. Our county will be celebrating their 200th birthday in 2026 and she would like to see the bridge restored by that time.

Henry presented a brochure and handout of the restoration project. They are asking a commitment from the County in the approximate amount of \$180,000 and would like it in writing. (\$130,000 from Cum Bridge and \$50,000 from ARPA funds). The permits will not be ready until September and work will probably not start until December, weather permitting. Once restoration is completed it will be guaranteed for safe pedestrian traffic.

Jim McKee made a motion and was seconded by Tom Booe to commit \$180,000 for the restoration of the Cade’s Covered Bridge.

Vote: 7-0

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Kelly Carlson to commit approximately \$130,000 from Cum Bridge and the remaining funds from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund.

Vote: 7-0

MINUTES

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the minutes of the April 10, 2023 meeting as presented. **Vote: 7-0**

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Health Dept and Recorder for the month of March. **Vote: 7-0**

Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for March 2023.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for March, 2023. **Vote: 7-0**

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

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for April 2023 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. **Vote: 7-0**

Surtax/Wheel Tax – Discussion was heard in regards to changes in the amount collected for surtax/wheel tax , if any. An Ordinance must be adopted by September 1, 2023 to be effective January 1, 2024. The Auditor will furnish information to the Council on the amount collected for 2021-2023. A decision will be made at a future meeting but must be done by July 11, 2023.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

AMBULANCE – Garth Kagels

He is asking for an additional in the amount of \$17,415 for paving and repairing the pole lights in the parking lot. There may be a rebate from Tipmont REMC on the installation of LED lights. He did not have a report on the new ambulance other than the chassis for the remount has been ordered. It will cost approximately \$900,000 for the 3 new ambulances. There was discussion about the bird problem in the bay area and regulating the temperature. Mike Conley from Architura had suggested purchasing 3 large fans to keep the birds out and installing AC units for temperature control. He and Andrew Hall will be working on getting estimates.

HEALTH – Jenny Eads

Jenny went through each additional request with the Council. There were questions in regards to the attorney fees. She stated that the amount needs to be increased due to the number of properties involved regarding environmental or junk ordinance violations. They currently have \$1,000 in their budget for attorney fees. The PHEP Grant fund is in the negative and a result of the split with Warren County. They will receive \$25,000 after July 1, 2023 as per Jenny.

SHERIFF – Terry Holt

Sheriff Holt has 78 inmates, 38 of which we are housing for other counties or the state.

Roger Azar and Sheriff Holt updated the Council on the grinder situation at the jail. Roger went over the process. The location most suitable for the grinder was not acceptable as it is in the front lawn of the jail. The other location will require a lift station or additional lines. The project will cost roughly \$500,000. Roger is still in the design phase and has not started the bidding process.

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

Jason updated the Council on the paving which will start on June 1 with Graham Creek Road. USI will start the bidding process for Bridge #54 (Scottsdale Road).

Jason is asking for an additional in the amount of \$135,000 for small structure repairs. He received \$67,000 from the County Auction and \$68,000 from a duplicate payment made on the purchase of the new broom. He also informed the Council that he had an employee step down due to illness. He will be looking to fill that vacancy along with another one that left. He will be getting into contact with White County to look at their new highway garage.

E-911 – Dana Stonebraker

Dana introduced herself as the new interim director. The former director resigned effective April 30, 2023. She is at full staff. She will be needing an additional appropriation for Overtime.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – ROD BANNON

Rod Bannon had presented a proposal for economic development. He is asking for \$250,000 per year for 3 years. The funds will be used for salaries, insurance, office space, copier, internet and reimbursements. He went over the benefits to the county if they choose to proceed. He will send a copy of the budget with a breakdown to the Council members.

Senator Braun – Representative

He went over some of the items that was addressed while in session. Jim McKee asked if he could find information on the amount of the incentives for the solar companies and the amount of money being expended on the projects.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

The Auditor had put together a list of additional appropriations that are needed. There was discussion in regards to some of the additional being requested. She will prepare the Notice of Hearing and the Council will vote on them at their June meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE

June 12, 2023

AT 9:00 A.M.

Dudley reminded the Council that there is a State Board of Accounts called conference on June 23rd and 24th at Carmel.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to close the meeting.

Vote: 7-0

Courteney Chambers
ATTEST

Dudley Civer
Scott D. Rose
Dale H. White
Kelly L Carlson
James D. McKee
Jim L. Lewis