

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
September 17, 2024
6:00 p.m.

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

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth went over the overtime with the Council. He has been in contact with Addie at Irwin, Waggoner & Schelle. Different scenarios were discussed in trying to reduce the amount being spent. Garth hopes to have all positions filled this week. It was suggested that the employee handbook be updated and change the vacation time from days earned to paid time off. The council asked that Garth put together a mock payroll using each scenario and bring it back to them at the next council meeting.

Jeff Fishero asked where we were at on the ALS 360 plan. Garth thinks the 7-year plan is a good one. The Commissioners will have to approve a plan and the Council will have to see if they can fund it.

E-911 – Dana Stonebraker

Dana handed out information regarding her request for an additional appropriation for part time and overtime to finish out 2024. She has a part time person that is close to completing the training and will be ready to go on her own soon. She hopes to use more part time employees to reduce the overtime pay.

Public Comment

Carol Owens – She asked if the towns and cities pay into the E-911. She also asked if the ambulance overtime is based on one week or two.

Clint Kilby – He had concerns about the WEGA contract extension. It was stated that if the building would sell, the county gets a percentage of the money spent back. Rod Bannon explained that they have been approved for a Landmark grant but the funds have yet to be expended. They are approximately 9 months behind schedule on the building. They cannot touch the exterior of the building until all of the funds are received for the total project. More discussion was heard on the WEGA building and the funding provided by the City of Attica.

Kim Kalweit – She has concerns about the site selection on the Purdue website. Rod explained the process. He said the Veedersburg project is on the site. Kim said there is always a "Catch 22". Things are not as clear and transparent as they should be.

More discussion was heard about needs and projects within the county.

Dale White – You have to put out money to get money. You have to be ready when applying for a grant. Rod has only been on the job 12 months. We need to work together and talk out our disagreements.

Budget Hearings – Continuation & Discussion

Due to time constraints the Council set another budget meeting for September 30, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.

Colleen will contact our consultant at Barnes & Thornburg to see what we can use the ARP funds on since we are not pursuing an annex.

Discussion was heard on the Ranger Power permit, DESRI Crossroads Solar and the additional parcels of land. Colleen will contact Roger Azar to see if he can attend the September 30 council meeting.

The Council reviewed the budgets of the Health Department. There were concerns over the amount being spent on advertising. The new HFI funding was also discussed.

The E-911 budget was then reviewed and there were questions on the number of operators in the budget.

The Council compared the county salaries with salaries of other counties our size.

They also reviewed the budgets for LIT Special Purpose; Co Drug Free Community; Covered Bridge Maintenance; Cumulative Capital Development; Landfill; Parks & Recreation; Courthouse; County Farm and ARP.

There was discussion in doing a budget reduction for the ARP fund and the MVH fund for the 2024 budget. The Auditor will work with the highway department and prepare the necessary paperwork.

Dudley Cruea recessed the budget hearing until Monday, September 30 at 6:00 p.m.

**THE NEXT REGULAR MEETING WILL BE A
TUESDAY, October 15, 2024
AT 6:00 P.M.**

ATTEST:

Corvus Chambers

Dudley Cruea
Tom W. Bose
Earl A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Crowder
James McKea
Jeff Lushko