

**MINUTES**  
**FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**January 9, 2023**  
**9:00 A.M.**

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

**BOARD APPOINTMENTS**

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to appoint Dudley Cruca as President of the Fountain County Council for 2023.

Vote: 6-0-1  
(Dudley Cruca abstained)

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to appoint Kelly Carlson as Vice-President of the Fountain County Council for 2023.

Vote: 7-0

Dudley Cruca introduced the three new board members (Denise Crowder, Jeff Fishero and Dale White). Each member of Council then told a little about themselves.

**Preliminary Economic Revitalization Area Resolution**

Discussion was heard in regards to the Preliminary Economic Revitalization Area Resolution. Jeff Fishero voiced concerns about the language in the third paragraph. This issue was addressed by Roger Azar and Nikki Shultz (Attorney for Ranger Power). Some Council had concerns about other solar projects coming into the County and how the money was going to be spent. Dale White would like a comprehensive plan in place. He said this would assure Council that they are making the right decisions.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve Resolution 2023-1 (Preliminary Economic Revitalization Area Resolution) contingent upon the change of language in paragraph #3 of the Resolution.

Vote: 5-2  
(Against Jim McKee and Denise Crowder)

Jim McKee left the meeting due to family member was scheduled for surgery.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting as presented. Vote: 3-0

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

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for December, 2022 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds.

Vote: 6-0

**Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for November 2022.**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for November, 2022. Vote: 6-0

**REPORT OF COLLECTIONS**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Report of Collections received from the Ambulance (Oct & Nov), Health Dept (Nov), Recorder (Nov) & Sheriff (Nov) as submitted.

Vote: 6-0

**ABC APPOINTMENT**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson to appoint Bill Williams to the Alcohol & Beverage Commission for 2023. Tom Booe seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0

**SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero to appoint Tom Booe to the Fountain County Solid Waste Management Board for 2023. Denise Crowder seconded the motion.

Vote: 6-0

**EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to appoint Jeff Fishero to the Emergency Management Advisory Council for 2023.

Vote: 6-0

**JRAC ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Council President (Dudley Cruea) appointed Kelly Carlson to represent the Fountain County Council on the JRAC Advisory Committee.

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Dale White to appoint the following to the Insurance Committee for 2023.

Brenda Hardy  
Commissioner

**Denise Crowder**  
Council Member

Colleen Chambers

Kim Johnson

Vote: 6-0

**APPOINTMENTS**

**TRUSTEES OF FOUNTAIN COUNTY FOR EMPLOYEE BENEFIT TRUST**

The Commissioners appointed Brenda Hardy as a trustee for the employee benefit trust. The council will appoint a member along with the auditor and the payroll clerk. A motion was made by Jeff Fishero to appoint Dale White as trustee. The motion was seconded by Denise Crowder.

Vote: 6-0

**Planning Commission (Council Member)**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to appoint Jim McKee to the Planning Commission.

Vote: 6-0

**Board of Zoning Appeals**

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Dale White to appoint Rodney Norman to the Board of Zoning Appeals.

Vote: 6-0

**ENCUMBRANCES (2022 Budget to 2023)**

**Sheriff – Co General**

\$10,863.52	Medical Services	1000-0380-33302
\$2,800.00	Utilities	1000-0380-33550
\$494.05	Service Contract	1000-0380-33130

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jeff Fishero to encumber the above request in the amount of \$14,157.57. Vote: 6-0

323

**Circuit Court – Co General**

\$2,583.60

Capital Outlay

1000-232-44901

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to encumber \$2,583.60 for Capital Outlay.

Vote: 6-0

**DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

**Ambulance – Garth Kagels**

He updated the Council on the NSure program. They submitted 30 accounts. NSure found insurance for 19 of them. Garth feels like it will pay for itself.

He has been informed that they will be rolling out the chassis for new ambulances soon, so it is possible we may get an ambulance this year. He does not have a timeline on the remount.

The runs for 2022 were up. There were 3,014 runs for 2022 and 2,950 for 2021. He will have a more detailed report at the next meeting. Due to the increase in runs, he believes it is time to talk about staffing a 4<sup>th</sup> ambulance. Dale White, along with other members would like to do a "deep dive" at the ambulance at Garth's convenience to learn more about his department.

**Highway - Jason Lewis**

Jason is working with USI on a plan for the paving and graveling of the roads. It is based on a rating system. He also said they will be applying for a Community Crossings grant to pave River Road from Tippecanoe County into Attica. He will bring quotes for a new salt barn to the next council meeting.

**Sheriff – Terry Holt**

He currently has 66 inmates and 32 of them are out of county. He has a meeting next week with the Town of Veedersburg in regards to the septic/sewer system. A grinder is needed. It is supposed to be a 2-step system and ours is not. The prisoners consistently try to plug up the plumbing. If we do not get it fixed Veedersburg will start giving us citations.

**Treasurer – Susan Coffing**

She will be sending out courtesy letters soon.

**Coroner – Josh Whittington**

He had 39 scenes with a total of 41. There were 9 autopsies performed and 2 out of county. The number one killer is still heart disease for our county. Covington High School has turned down the "Every 15 Minute" program again this year. It is too late to go to another school. He informed the Council that an indigent Fountain County resident had passed and will be cremated. It is possible that the county may have to bear the expense.

**Landfill – Greg Robison**

Greg and Roger gave an update on the landfill. The wells have been properly capped and there is a decline in the chloride. Also, the road has been repaired and graded.

**Commissioners**

The Commissioners have signed the BOT agreement. They have the plans for the annex and will be sending them to the Council. A letter was given to the Council in regards to the salary of one of the health department employees for their review and consideration.

Brenda Hardy went over the childcare portion of the Read-Grant with the Council. They are requesting a match \$23,950 per year for 3 years. This

would give Fountain County approximately 40 more seats for child care. We are only meeting about 18% of the need. The Commissioners have signed a letter of commitment and are asking the Council to fund it.

Also with the Read-Grant, the County was given 1.5 million dollars for housing projects. They have split this between Attica and Covington as they both have shovel ready projects.

The Commissioners are requesting a comprehensive plan for the County. They have talked with Beam, Longest and Neff (Patti Longenecker). She will be coming to a council meeting.

The pipes burst at the Maple Corner Annex in the basement. They have since been repaired. They would like to move forward as soon as possible on the renovations and are hoping to get the request for proposals out soon.

**Council**

Dudley handed out to the Council a budget worksheet for 2023 along with the Certified Budget Order. He also gave each a copy of the Valley Oaks Health Board Report for 2022.

He had a letter from the Warren County Council in regards to the E-911 Center. They do not wish to dissolve the partnership. They are negotiating with Benton County in case the issues cannot be resolved between Warren and Fountain County. They would like for a joint meeting of the Fountain and Warren County Council.

**A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Tom Booe to discourage the Fountain County Commissioners from splitting off E-911 from Warren County and leave the E-911 agreement the way it is at the present time.**  
**Vote: 5-0-1**  
(Dale White Abstained)

Dudley is proposing to move the Budget hearings from August to September for 2023.

Kelly Carlson will talk with Kyle Mandeville about representing the Council for 2023.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE FEBRUARY 13, 2023  
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by \_\_\_\_\_ and seconded by \_\_\_\_\_ to adjourn the meeting.  
Vote: \_\_\_\_\_

Cosette Chambers  
ATTEST

Dudley Cues  
Tom W. Booe  
Dale A. White  
Kelly L. Carlson  
Denise Cawley  
James S. Baker  
Jeff Fishero