

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
September 30, 2024
6:00 p.m.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Kelly Carlson, Denise Crowder, Jim McKee and Jeff Fishero. Dale White entered the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

Dudley Cruea reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m.

CROSS ROADS SOLAR

Crossroads was unable to attend the meeting. They did contact Taylor Powell. Ranger is pushing Roger to approve the construction permit. They did agree to not ask Roger for the construction permit until after the October meeting. They would like to set up a phone call with Taylor, one council member, Roger Azar and Colin Snow of Ranger Power. The Council thinks the meeting needs to be open to the public. Dudley stated that the maps that was given to the Council by the town of Veedersburg and the map that DESRI presented do not match. Taylor suggested that the Council give Ranger Power an idea of their concerns so that they can address them at the Council Meeting on October 15th. The Council did not like the fact that the name of the solar companies keeps changing. Ranger is the developing arm and DESRI will be the owner of the Crossroads Solar Project

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve waiting until October 15th meeting to vote on Crossroads

Vote: 7-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason had sent out an email in regards to applying for HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Project Grant for \$250,000 which is a County Match of \$25,000 for 2 years. This is for pavement markings and signs. This would be for year 2025 and 2026.

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Dale White to approve the county match for the grant for both years.

Vote 7-0

Jim McKee said that there was insufficient signage by INDOT at the junction of 341 and CR 750. The traffic had nowhere to turn around. He said INDOT needs to fix the road. Jim stated he did call the Governor's office. He stated the County Highway did step up. Jason does have some concerns about the bridge on CR 430.

Ambulance- Garth Kagels

Garth had sent out a packet to the Council regarding different overtime scenarios. They will address it more at the October 15 meeting. He asked if they had any questions. There are 4 separate scenarios. Garth will be emailing numbers of runs, lift assists, etc. to the Council. He is currently fully staffed, but is working on more part time employees. He stated that the unforeseen overtime is the hardest to fill. He would like to see the rate for part time employees be raised to help entice people to apply. He would like to increase Aladtec to \$5,100 due to hiring more people. If they go with the ALS 360, line items 33600 and 33601 would not be needed. We do however, need to add the cost of the ALS 360 program.

Health Department – Jenny Eads

Jenny felt like there was some confusion on the budget at the last meeting. The line items for grant funds 1168 and 1206 were rolled into the budget for Fund 1161 for 2024. A budget for 1161 was submitted in the amount of \$48,000 for 2025. Because of time constraints, it was not for the HFI amount of \$338,000. The state had not approved the HFI budget for 2025 when it was published. Colleen had provided a spreadsheet to show the comparison of each budget. There are still balances in fund 1168 and 1206. These dollars cannot be transferred to 1161. They can be used but must go through the carryover process (additional appropriation). The Council will have to approve the HFI Budget per Jenny. The State approves and then the Council will have final say. Capital Outlay is allowed but not required. If they want to move money from Capital Outlay they will have to go to the State and then Council. Jenny said she would ask the Council's thoughts before going to the State though. The Health Department is using the HFI to improve programs. Fountain County is currently #1 in Cancer cases and #2 in Cancer fatalities. Jenny would like to work with the Council on the HFI budget. She would also like to get information to the public. Flyers in the tax statements were suggested, but she felt like that is not an effective way to update the public. More discussion was heard on the funding.

Coroner – Joshua Whittington

Josh stated that he has a good working relationship with the Health Department. He informed the Council that the Health Department was able to supply each fire department in Fountain County with Narcan. The remaining Narcan was given to the EMS department.

Landfill – Greg Robinson

Greg stated everything is going well. He is trying to keep the State happy.

TRANSFER**EMA**

From:	1000-0361-10409	\$6,357.60
To:	1000-0361-10402	

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the above transfer. Vote: 7-0

Public Comment

Carol Owens asked why the additional for EMA. Colleen stated that was due to the increase in salary in February.

WEGA -Rod Bannon

Rod Bannon stated that once the Commissioners are elected, they can cancel the contract. It will then be sent to the Council. Rod believes that \$23,950 has already been committed. Rod discussed the READI grant. The Council stated they have not received an updated report on the Childcare. He said the READI information goes through the Economic Development. Rod was asked what kind of funds were available for Childcare. He stated he will get more information. The WEGA contract was dated June 16, 2023. The contract stated they had to give a 1-year notice.

Taylor Powell left meeting at 6:54 pm

Budget Hearings – Continuation & Discussion

The Council went through each page in the Budget binder. Salaries were not discussed. They will be discussed at the October 15th meeting. The Council thanked Colleen for making the spreadsheet with the information regarding the 2023 budget, 2024 budget and increases in 2024.

Jeff Fishero suggested keeping Dudley Cruea on as a Consultant to the Council. The Council did agree. They would like Dudley to think about it. Joshua Whittington stated that it is so easy to call Dudley and ask questions. He agrees that Dudley would be a great asset. They would like to put \$25,000 in Consulting fees for the council advisor.

Dudley Cruea then recessed the meeting until Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at 9:00 a.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A
TUESDAY, October 15, 2024
AT 9:00 AM**

ATTEST:

Colleen Chambers

Dudley Cruea
Tom M. Doyle
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Devin Cruea
James Fisher
Jeff Fisher