FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL April 9, 2024 MINUTES 9:00 a.m. The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Kelly Carlson, Tom Booe, James McKee and Jeff Fishero, Dudley Cruea and Denise Crowder. Dale White was late to the meeting arriving at 10:10 am.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the 4-0 Vote: minutes of the March 11, 2024 meeting as presented. Jeff Fishero: γ J McKee γ T Booe γ K Carlson Y

Public Comment

Roger Holmes- 200 South Covington IN Roger stated that he had just found out about the Solar Panels going in around his area. Dudley followed up with stating that he too had just found out due to Amber Roarks' resignation from the Plan Commission as Admin of Records. Roger wanted to know more about the Solar Farm. Kelly Carlson said she just found out and Jim McKee said he found out 1 week ago. No permits have been seen by the Council. Amber stated no permits have been filed. Roger stated that the map shows it is from Hardy Road almost to Layton Station Road. Roger stated he does not agree.

Clint Kilby- Graham Creek Road

He said all the fields drain through him and will cause him drainage problems

that she believes the companies pay for the improvements. Clint does not want to leave this for his children. He would like to know the decommissioning process. He wanted to know the name of the solar company. This one is called Hexagon. Do we have ordinances? It is very unclear. He has done research. He wants to know how many Megawatts are they bringing in? Where is it going? He stated the research he has done show height, fencing and draining issues. Also, who pays the taxes and what happens with solar panels when done? Kelly Carlson stated

and Thornsburg, if there solar farms. He said no at that time, but Kelly believes there is one in Noble County now. Kelly also stated she is under contract but they will not be utilizing their property. She will step out during the abatement vote. She wants to be were any counties in Indiana with a cap on the number of acres in a County for Kelly Carlson had previously asked Rick Hall, with Barnes truthful and transparent.

Tina Holmes stated that the Council can stop the abatement. Denise Crowder said she appreciates the concern, but if they want the caps and larger setbacks it will have to go to the Commissioners. Tina stated that too many people in local government are involved in the Solar project. She said people are very disappointed. She also stated it is greed and solar is a scam. Rick Beck stated that he knows for a fact that solar panels are being put in at 400 W 100S on approximately 250 acres. It butts up against his father in law's property. That is just one parcel.

County. Denise Crowder responded that there is nothing to stop it. She said also that she appreciates their concerns but if we want caps and larger setbacks the Commissioners have to approve it. It is not up to the Council. Amber Roarks asked if we are looking at Solar Panels in every Township of the Commissioners have to approve it.

substations. Mr. Kilby stated he is very disappointed and shocked by this and our Clint Kilby asked about the Grid and where it would tie in? He wants to know how it gets from Solar Panels to Grid. Brad Crain that they would have to build commissioners.

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in easily. Tom Booe stated he would like to know more about the CO2 project also. He wants to know if they can put a cap on solar. Jeff Fishero stated that the plan farms and the citizens have no say. commission had to request this. Jim McKee stated he feels as though the county will be covered by solar Tina Holmes said that they are letting them come He said he stated this in previous years also.

Tina Holmes said more people would like to come to the meetings, but they are during the day when people work. She stated she would like to see the 6 p.m. meetings come back. would move with her family. She stated they are running people out of the county. Amber Roarks stated she has already discussed where she

Brad Crain stated that people who are leasing the land are taking the biggest risks. If the election goes as, it should in November the subsidies may not exist anymore. If we depend on wind and solar our electric bills could double. There will never be enough electricity for electric cars.

stated she wants to see the County keep the CO2 out of here. Kelly Carlson said she had been approached and there is a 70/30 rule. If 70% of people in your area are okay with it, then it will be done either by contract or eminent domain. Kelly has researched this. Tammy Hinote- She thanked the Council for serving and appreciates them. She

until Commissioners want to change it. Amber stated that the Commissioners have stated they do not want to change this and it is being dragged out. Amber stated meets the County's ordinance. It's the legal counsel for Fountain County and the Solar Company. This is how the ordinance was written and cannot be changed commissioners negotiating. Roger Azar is the engineer that is making sure it Dudley Cruea wanted to address the Solar issue. He wants people to know all permits will go to the planning commission. Jim McKee stated that all permits to Roger Azar and he has to approve if it meets the standards. Amber Roarks nobody is making a decision. stated that the Area Plan Commission is not kept up to date. It is your oɓ

Carol Owens wanted to know about the Plan Commission Board. Jim McKee stated there are 5 citizen members, 3 of 1 party and 2 of the other party. There is a Council member and a commissioner.

look for an Amazon, a Hub or something going in close. stated they look for a corrupt or incompetent local government. He said they also Clint Kilby stated he had talked to someone who is also involved in solar and they

could have already been paid for. She said Maple Corner is a money pit. not others. She stated she has gotten quotes on towers and radios and those Roger Holmes wanted to know about money. He stated that the new jail cost too much. Tina Holmes wanted to know why we throw money at some projects and

Angie Burke- Attica Indiana

Angie Burke stated that the Dolphin Solar project has transparency issues. She stated that there needs to be a check and balance procedure. She said we have paved the road in gold for Solar Companies. She was curious how much we pay correct title, but would like to help spread information Public Relations person. Kelly Carlson said maybe Public Relations is not the Roger Azar. Angie stated that the Commissioners have talked about hiring a

for Geenex and wants to be open. states that they have advertised for has notified adjoining land owners. lartley had sat down with home out information and had public nent.	e Crowder to (Feb & Mar), Clerk, March. Vote: 7-0	liation & Monthly ishero to acknowledge with the Monthly Fund Vote: 7-0	-ebruary 2024 Carlson to acknowledge Vote: 7-0		rently 2 Courthouse Judge has one and one Icreased by \$10,429.00.			\$6,792.96 \$2,024.60 <u>\$5,287.96</u> \$14,105.52	\$10,788.34	\$11,306.26 \$8,396.06 \$7,729.54 \$7,328.46 \$5,981.08 \$5,981.08 \$5,922.46 \$4,229.78 \$6,346.14
Tim Kemple He wants things to be transparent. He works for Geenex and wants to be open. He said he takes pride in his community. He states that they have advertised fo meetings. Amber Roarks stated they nobody has notified adjoining land owners. Tim stated that Wayne Delong and Jennifer Hartley had sat down with home owners. Wayne Delong stated they did mail out information and had public meetings, which was also sent for advertisement.	Report of Collections – as submitted A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance (Feb & Mar), Health Department (Feb & Mar), Recorder and Sheriff for March.	Review and Acknowledge Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation & Monthly Comparison Report A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Jeff Fishero to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for March 2024 along with the Monthly Fund Comparison Report.	Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for February 2024 A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for February, 2024.	ATION a.m.	Public Comment: Carol Owens asked why there are currently 2 Courthouse Security Officers. Denise Crowder responded stating the Judge has one and one for the rest of the Courthouse. Pension will need to be increased by \$10,429.00	a.m.		Matron Deputy Matron Jail Commander/Deputy 5	Courthouse Safety Officer	Sheriff Chief Deputy Deputy Sgt/Detective SRO/Deputy 2 Deputy 4 Deputy 6 Deputy 7 Deputy 8 Deputy 9 Deputy 10
Tim Kemple He wants things to be transparent. He works for He said he takes pride in his community. He stat meetings. Amber Roarks stated they nobody has Tim stated that Wayne Delong and Jennifer Hartle owners. Wayne Delong stated they did mail out in meetings, which was also sent for advertisement.	Report of Collections – as submitted A motion was made by Tom Booe and se acknowledge the Report of Collections fo Health Department (Feb & Mar), Recorde	Review and Acknowledge Comparison Report A motion was made by Jim the Treasurer's Bank Recon Comparison Report.	Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Re A motion was made by Dale White and second the Clerk's Monthly Report for February, 2024.	ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION Hearing Opened at 10:19 a.m.	Public Comment: Carol Owen Security Officers. Denise Crowo for the rest of the Courthouse.	Hearing Closed at 10:36 a.m.	Resolution 2024-4	Co General-Jail 1000-0380-10102 1000-0380-10107 1000-0380-10506	Co General Circuit Court 1000-0232-10801	LIT- Public Safety 1170-0005-10100 1170-0005-10201 1170-0005-10302 1170-0005-10404 1170-0005-10401 1170-0005-10601 1170-0005-10800 1170-0005-10800 1170-0005-10901 1170-0005-10903 1170-0005-10903

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1170-0005-10152	Sheriff's Incentive Pay	<u>\$4,000.00</u> \$78,452.14
A motion was made by Dale White and additional in the amount of \$103,346.00.	-	seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the Vote: 7-0
Resolution 2024-5 2024 Comm Corr – Prob (9110-0000-10505 9110-0000-1000	Grant 3 rd Probation Officer Social Security	\$5,786.00 <u>\$ 446.00</u> \$6,232.00
A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jin additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,232.00.	A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the above additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,232.00. Vote: 7-0	ee to approve the above Vote: 7-0
Resolution 2024-6		
Co General Ambulance 1000-0301-44446 1000-0301-14000	Ambulance Overtime	\$365,000 \$250,000
Commissioner 1000-0068-33490 1000-0068-33250	Liability Insurance Consulting Fees (BLN)	\$100,000 \$46,000
Radio Dispatch 1000-0303-44101	Equipment	\$22,488
		\$783,488
County Farm 4924-0301-44446	Ambulance	\$265,000
Cumulative Capital Development	opment	
1000-0068-33625	Childcare – READI Grant	\$ 23,950
A motion was made by Tom f additional appropriation in th	A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the above additional appropriation in the amount of \$1,072,438.00. Vote: 7-0	ero to approve the above Vote: 7-0
Transfers Statewide E-911 From: 1222-0000-33550 To: 1222-0000-38600)-33550 Utilities)-38600 Repair & Maintenance	ance \$7,000
A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and set the above transfer in the amount of \$7,000.	A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the above transfer in the amount of \$7,000. Vote: 7-0	se Crowder to approve Vote: 7-0
Co General – Prosecuting Attorney From: 1000-0009-33300 To: 1000-0009-33000	Attorney)-33300 Travel/Mileage)-33000 Postage	\$168.56
A motion was made by Dale White and the above transfers.		seconded by Denise Crowder to approve Vote: 7-0
Resolution 2024-7 – Appr A motion was made by Tom	Resolution 2024-7 – Approving Sheriff's Compensation Agreement A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve	n Agreement ero to approve

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Resolution 2024-7 a Resolution Approving the Sheriff's Compensation Agreement. Vote: 7-0

Sheriff Salary Contract

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the Vote: 7-0 2024 Fountain County Sheriff Salary Contract beginning March 8, 2024

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to pay the fee statement in the amount of \$12,211 out of the Council fund (1000-0061). Sheriff Retirement – Fee Statement (\$12,211) Auditor requesting to pay the statement from the fund of Council's choosing.

Vote: 7-0

AMEND SALARY ORDINANCE 2023-10

Vote: 7-0 A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Kelly Carlson to amend the Salary Ordinance 2023-10 (changes made in red) as presented. Vote: 7-0

Strategic Services LLC Ritter

Auditor seeking permission to pay invoice from Ritter Strategic Services out of the ARP Fund (8950) in the amount of \$1,575.00.

Vote: 7-0 A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Dale White to pay the invoice from the ARP Fund.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Area Plan Commission- Amber Roarks

She is requesting to Amber stated that she budgeted \$20,000 for consulting fees. She is requesting to transfer \$5,000 from Attorney fees to Consulting fees. She is also requesting an additional for \$15,000.00 for consulting fees. The county is paying the consulting fees for the solar project and then getting reimbursed. In the future, she would Vote: 7-0 put into the ordinance as such. A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded like to see the solar company pay the legal expenses as incurred and should be by Kelly Carlson to approve the transfer.

Wayne Delong- Geenex

preliminary resolution for the creation of an ERA. Tom Booe asked about the good neighbor policy. Wayne Delong stated once a permit is issued it will state what the setback will be. He stated land that usually goes into solar is leased not bought. Geenex oldest solar farm is in North Carolina and is approximately 8 years old. Jim McKee stated that he does not want any invasive plants planted under the Wayne stated they are here to answer any questions, particularly on the solar plants or anywhere else.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Purdue Extension- Adam Tyler

He stated that he currently has 2 open positions that he would like to consolidate into 1 full time position and 1 part time position. He would like the full-time into 1 full time position and 1 part time position. He would like the full-time position to be raised to \$38,000.00. He will move \$659 from Deputy 2 to Deputy 1. A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Denise Crowder to Vote 7-0 approve.

Ambulance- Garth Kagels

Garth stated that the trucks should be ready in May. He said they are currently 12-18 months out for new vehicles. Kelly Carlson and Tom Booe attended a meeting with Stryker Asset Management, regarding a 2-year lease program for supplies. He would like the company representative to come in a do a presentation

seconded by Tom Booe to move forward with the class. individuals who are interested in a class taking them from basic to advance. He will propose this in the 2025 Budget. A motion was made by Jim McKee and to the Council. Garth said he feels that Overtime has slowed down. He has 5 Vote 7-0

County Highway – Jason Lewis

delivered by January to class for hands on training for Oil Distribution. Jason has decided to go with Stoops Freightliner for the new dump truck. It will be delivered by January 1, 2025 and cost \$254,000.00. He is sending a couple guys He is sending a couple guys

May 3, 2025. Secretary position will not be increased at this time. A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Dale White to approve the Jason proposed a salary increase for Highway department. May 3, 2025. Secretary position will not be increased at th salary increase This will take effect on Vote 7-0

Sheriff- Andrew Krout

Department of Corrections, and 2 Parole Andrew stated they have 71 total inmates; 61 male inmates; 14 Sullivan, 11

Discussion was heard on the Employees comp time and time records. It was decided that Taylor will draft a letter for council to the department heads/office holders to address the problems.

Council – Jeff Fishero updated the Council on the "kick-off" meeting for the renovation of the Annex. This team will be meeting weekly. Kelly Carlson would renovations. renovation of the Annex. This team will be meeting weekly. Kelly Carlson would like to have a joint meeting between the Commissioners and Council to discuss the

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, May 13, 2024 AT 9:00 A.M.

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

ATTEST romain

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