

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
October 10, 2023
8:30 a.m.

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2023 meeting as presented. Vote: 6-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, Recorder and Sheriff for the month of September. Vote: 7-0

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

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for September 2023 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 7-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

AMBULANCE – Garth Kagels

He doesn't think that the automotive strike effected the building/delivery on the chassis. He has had to spend money on the aging fleet for repairs and maintenance. He is dealing with sickness within his department at the present time. The collections were up for September and will continue to work on them.

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

Jason said Milestone will begin paving on October 19 or 20 on CR 1400. This is part of the CCMG for 2023. His department has been working on mowing and brush removal. Campbell Excavating will be working on a small structure on CR 650. That road will be closed for approximately one week.

E 911 – Dana Stonebraker

Dana reported that she is at full staff. She has 3 still in training and they should all be done by November 20th. She has talked with Barry Ritter of Ritter Strategic in regards to CAD system from Caliber. He has concerns over some of the interfacing. She will be contacting the company today. Her department is also experiencing some illness with employees.

Commissioners – Brenda Hardy

Brenda stated that they had met with Architura last week. They did get a preliminary figure for the renovations of the Annex, Courthouse and a new highway building with a salt barn.

WABASH RIVER TRAIL PROJECT – Roger Azar

Roger stated that the design is complete for the trail project. It will run from the rail road bridge north by the river and come out at 2nd Street. They are now ready to start the permitting process. Permits will need to be obtained from the DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers. It could cost

approximately \$80,000 per acre if the wetlands are disturbed. He has had communication with them and is trying to save money on the project. They have received approval from INDOT. The trail is flat but does not quite meet the ADA requirements. Roger also stated that an abandon home could possibly be purchased and demolished in the future to make a trailhead and parking. The finished trail will be 6.2 miles. It will be 5 feet wide and have gravel in the wetlands, with the remainder will being asphalt.

BAKER TILLEY – Jason Semler

Jason addressed some concerns about the financing of the upcoming projects along with keeping up with the budget. He suggested that the County get a Comprehensive Financial Plan. It will look back 3 years, find the trends and look at the future. It will help the County build revenues to apply to the projects, whether it is additional revenue sources or bonds. We should start the process soon. It will take 60-90 days to complete. The costs of the financial plan should not exceed \$45,000 since the County is looking into the fees being charged. The plan should be updated every 2 years.

There were questions asked in regards to the LIT Special Purpose funds. We are accumulating a large sum. It would take legislation to be able decrease the rate to use in another area. There were concerns that we do not want to jeopardize the bond payments on the jail. Jason stated that the County can also adopt an EMS or PSAP LIT.

Jason will draft a plan. He will need feedback from the Commissioners and Council. He would like to work in a small group at first to collect the information and complete the draft. The final draft will be presented to both the Commissioners and Council for approval.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jim McKee to move forward with the Comprehensive Financial Plan contingent upon approval of the Commissioners.

Vote: 7-0

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Hearing opened at 9:37 a.m.

Public Comment: Carol Owens asked why so much for the ambulance. Garth stated that with the price increase in gas, utilities, and medical supplies has depleted his budget. He has also had to put some money into some of the ambulances due mostly to age. There was also a question about the liability insurance. Colleen stated due to the hail damage claims, accidents and new vehicles along with the increase in insurance costs the budget for 2023 was short. Sheriff Holt sent a ledger to Council in support to his request for repairs and maintenance.

Hearing Closed at 9:41 a.m.

Resolution 2023-33

County General - Ambulance		
1000-0301-22501	Gas & Oil	\$25,000
1000-0301-16000	Vacation & Sick	\$35,000
1000-0301-33550	Utilities	\$5,000
1000-0301-22410	Medical Supplies	\$20,000
1000-0301-33650	Equipment Repair	\$20,000

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the above additional in the amount of \$105,000. Vote: 7-0

Resolution 2023-34

County General

Commissioners

1000-0068-12000	Group Health	\$150,000
1000-0068-33490	Liability Insurance	\$ 70,000

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the above additional in the amount of \$220,000. Vote: 7-0

Resolution 2023-35

Cumulative Capital Development

Jail

1138-0380-33600	Repairs & Maintenance	\$ 5,000
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A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Dale White to deny the above additional in the amount of \$5,000. The Council would like to use the funds in the LIT – Special Purpose for the maintenance of the jail.

Vote: 7-0

Resolution 2023-36

MVH

1176-0533-22501	Gas & Oil	\$ 50,000
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A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the above additional in the amount of \$50,000. Vote: 7-0

BUDGET ADOPTION – 9:00 a.m.

Ordinance 2023-7 Ordinance for Appropriations & Tax Rates

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Dale White to adopt the 2024 Budget as presented for the following funds:

County General, MVH, MVH Restricted, Cumulative Bridge, Local Roads & Streets, Covered Bridge Maintenance, Health, Local Health Maintenance, Local Health Dept Trust, PHEP Grant, Cumulative Capital Development, Cumulative Reassessment, Plat Book, LIT Public Safety, Accident Report, County Misdemeanant, Sheriff’s Pension Trust, County Alcohol & Drug, CAPTA/CASA Grant, Probation Administration Fee Fund, Jury Fees, Chemical Test Fees, Community Corrections Probation Grant, Pre-Trial Diversion, Title IV-D Incentive, Infraction Deferral, County Drug Free Community, LEPC, Recorder’s Perpetuation, CEDIT (Commissioners), Riverboat Revenue, County Farm, Statewide E-911, Non-Reverting E-911 Dispatch, LIT Special Purpose and ARPA Fund. Vote: 7-0

The total Tax Rate of .6265 for 2024, which is broken down as follows:

County General	.4062
Cumulative Reassessment	.0603
Cumulative Capital Development	.0333
Cumulative Bridge	.10
Cumulative Voting	.0167
Health	.01
Total	.6265

**Ordinance 2023-9 Fountain County Solid Waste Management District
Ordinance for Appropriations & Tax Rates**

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the 2024 Budget for the Fountain County Solid Waste Management District. The tax rate will be .0247 for 2024. Vote: 7-0

Gateway Submission of Budget for 2024

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the submission of the 2024 Budget to the DLGF through Gateway. Vote: 7-0

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

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Tom Booe to close the meeting. Vote: 7-0

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ATTEST

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Tom W. Booe
Dale A. White
Jeff Fisher
Denise Currier
James M. Miller