

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
November 13, 2023
9:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2023 meeting as presented.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk and Sheriff for the month of October. J

Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **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 Dale White to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for October 2023 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for September, 2023.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for September, 2023.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS

Hearing opened at 11:06 a.m.

Public Comment: None

Hearing Closed at 11:07 a.m.

Resolution 2023-38

Health

1159-0000-22000	Office Supplies	\$750
1159-0000-33000	Postage	\$250
1159-0000-22501	Gas & Oil	\$1,000

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the above additional for the Health Department in the amount of \$2,000.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

TRANSFERS

CEDIT – County Commissioners

From:	1112-0068-33000	Postage	\$3,500
To:	1112-0068-33400	Printing & Advertising	\$1,500
	1112-0068-33132	Paws & Claws	\$2,000

From:	1112-0068-33000	Postage	\$2,000
To:	1112-0068-33100	Computer Maintenance	\$1,000
To:	1112-0068-33400	Printing & Advertising	\$1,000

County General – Jail

From:	1000-0380-33500	Telephone	
To:	1000-0380-22060	Janitorial	\$2,000

From:	1000-0380-22090	Laundry	
To:	1000-0380-22020	Towels, Linens, Clothing	\$214.20

County General – Sheriff

From:	1000-0005-33000	Postage	
To:	1000-0005-22070	Law Enforcement Supplies	\$563.99

County General – Radio Dispatch

From:	1000-0303-33300	Postage	
To:	1000-0303-33105	IDACS	\$1,232

From:	1000-0303-33300	Travel/Mileage	
To:	1000-0303-22520	Uniforms	\$48.00

From:	1000-0303-22000	Office Supplies	
To:	1000-0303-20520	Uniform/Other	\$1,000

County General – Circuit Court

From:	1000-0232-10500	2 nd Probation Officer	
To:	1000-0232-13000	Extra Clerical	\$3,000

Statewide E-911

From:	1222-0000-33300	Postage	
To:	1222-0000-44101	Equipment	\$500.00

Local Road & Street

From:	1169-0000-22420	Bituminous	
To:	1169-0000-33130	Contractual Services	\$20,000

CCD – Courthouse

From:	1138-0172-33550	Utilities	
To:	1138-0172-34310	Snow Removal	\$650.00

County General – Circuit Court (Public Defender)

From:	1000-0232-33260	CASA/Director/Atty	
To:	1000-0232-33270	Pauper Counsel	\$17,545.53

The Judge had previously asked for an additional appropriation but has withdrawn the request as there is sufficient funds in her budget.

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Dale White to approve the above transfers.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
 T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

TRANSFERS - Continued

County General – Commissioners

From: 1000-0068-10117 Longevity Pay
 To: 1000-0068-33490 Liability Insurance \$10,000

LIT - Public Safety

From: 1000-0005-10901 Deputy 8
 To: 1000-0005-14000 Overtime \$765.00

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the above transfers.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
 T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

AUDITOR – REQUEST TO TRANSFER

Auditor is requesting permission to make transfers from now until the end of the year so we will not end up with funds in the red on December 31, 2023. It will allow the Auditor to better monitor the accounts.

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Dale White to approve the Auditor's request to make transfers until the end of the year as needed.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
 T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

CARRYOVER – Health Dept**Approved by the State on October 10, 2023**Local Health Department Trust Account

\$3,900 Social Security

Local Health Maintenance Fund

\$10,711 PHEP Grant Coordinator/Environmental 1

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the carryover request.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
 T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

WHIN – Letter of Intent

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Denise Crowder to sign/approve the letter of intent for the \$60,000 financial commitment to WHIN (\$20,000 for each year 2022-2024). This money has been appropriated in the 2024 budget.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
 T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**AMBULANCE – Garth Kagels**

Garth has talked with representative from the Big Ass Fan company on site. They made a few changes one being they added LED lights to the fans. The quote is now \$20,030.18.

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Jeff Fishero to pay for the fans out of the Council's Equipment line item.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
 T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

Garth has been looking into ESO Patient Care software that has a billing module. It would streamline the billing process. They would have to have a clearing house for this software. There is a company that is a clearing house that he will be looking into. It could potentially replace the Nsure program that they are currently using. The approximate cost is \$10,995 with a one-time training fee of \$5,975 for five days of training.

He must file a Medicare data collection report by May 31, 2024. He is looking into consultants to help with this process. He has talked with Lisa Rooney from Rooney and Company. Her fee would be between \$2,000 and \$7,000 depending on the amount of work that is required. The staff is currently tracking most of what is required for the report.

Garth updated the Council on the new ambulances and the new chassis. It looks like they will not be available until mid to late January with delivery in February. It will take approximately 6 months for them to be completed.

They currently have two paramedic spots open. He is advertising for new employees. He also has one paramedic that is on FMLA. Garth stated that we are competitive on EMS pay.

There was an in-depth discussion on the way that the overtime rate is figured for the EMS. The salary is divided by the number of hours in the work week; divided by 2; multiplied by the hours over 40. This has been an issue in the past. A modified pay rate was implemented. Some feel like this is an unfair way to pay. It was decided to have Addie from Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele come to talk with the Council, Commissioners and EMS employees. Garth will arrange a meeting time and date.

Garth also has been using volunteer fire fighters at no charge to drive the ambulance when needed due to the shortage of employees. They have been doing this for free. He felt it was unfair because many times they are away for 2 to 4 hours depending on the situation and destination. He would like to pay them \$15.00 per hour.

AMENDMENT OF SALARY ORDINANCE 2022-8 (2023 Salaries)

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to amend the 2023 Salary Ordinance to pay the non-certified 1st Responders (Volunteer Fire Fighters) \$15 per hour for driving the ambulance.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

E 911 – Dana Stonebraker

Dana handed out a new quote to the Council from Caliber Public Safety. The new quote is for \$201,869.00 with an expiration date. The annual fee is \$62,085.45. She will be contacting Warren County in regards to paying for the increase in support as we are currently paying \$5,000 annually. It was stated that the Commissioners are behind the Caliber System 100%. It has not officially been voted on to date.

Paula Copenhaver – Representative of Todd Rokita, Attorney General’s Office

Paula went over the some of the functions of the Attorney General’s office and what they do for the State citizens. They return over \$1 million dollars a week to citizens. They have over 400 staff members. There are several divisions of the AG’s office. Some being unclaimed property, consumer protection and Rokita Review (recall of products).

HIGHWAY – Jason Lewis

The paving on CR 1400 is complete. They also have the shoulder work done and the striping will be done this week. This was a part of the CCMG grant for 2023. They are preparing the trucks for winter.

Jason has looked into Vialytics. It is a Germany based company backed by Volkswagen. It is AI generated. It can run reports on the roads, do inspections and will coincide with Pacer ratings. He will be getting a price from them. He hopes to save the county some money as we have spent over \$30,000 to USI for Asset Management. Jason has also looked into applying for a HSIP grant. It is a 90/10 split. It can go toward road striping and signage. If approved it could be two years out.

HEALTH – Jenny Eads

Jenny has been working with St Franciscan Health on preventative maintenance. They would like to offer cancer and heart screening for free to Fountain County citizens. It would be a pilot program and would be offered after January 1, 2024. It is an allowable expense out of the COVID 19 VIPR grant (9782). They plan on promoting it by word of mouth, social media and post in public places. It was also suggested to use the electronic reader boards on major roads in Fountain County.

Roger Azar

Dolphin Solar – He has reviewed the application for permit from Dolphin Solar. They have met all of the qualifications. He does have some concerns in regards to the meadow grasslands under the solar panels. They have had community involvement. However, if the citizens are concerned, they need to petition the Commissioners to change the ordinance, if they don't agree with it. As of now, it is a permitted use. The Attica variance passed. The next plan commission meeting is November 16th at 6:00 p.m. Jim McKee does not want red cedar trees planted around the panels or other people's property as they are very invasive.

Genex hired a consultant and they stated that the road required no action based on the data. However, Roger was not comfortable with the wording. Jason also did not agree with this determination. Roger has asked Kent to look at the language. If roads are not put back as they were or better, there is no mention of a bond to cover these expenses. He will run a video before and after the construction.

Dolphin Solar is only the builder. They will be selling the project to a buyer for the electricity. There is also nothing in application in regards to the date of termination. The expected life of the panels are 40 years. There is also no financial plan with the County. Jim McKee has concerns about eminent domain.

Wabash River Project

Roger stated that the proposed trail is now 8 feet wide. There was some information missing for the DNR. Once this is corrected it will be sent to the DNR.

Jail Sewer Project

Roger stated that there was only one bid for the Jail Sewer Project. It was for \$1.7 million dollars. A substantial amount over the previous projection. Roger will be recommending that the Commissioner reject the bid and start the process again to re-bid. He said a lot of the expenses did not add up.

Salary Ordinance – Discussion

There was discussion in regards to the pay for the EMA Director, E-911 Director and some members of the EMS. There will be a meeting with Addie from Waggoner, Irwin and Scheele to discuss some of these issues. Also, there was questions as to the exempt/non-exempt status of the EMA Director.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Denise Crowder to change the title of the EMA Assistant Director to Administrative Assistant. The pay for 2024 will be \$17.00 per hour on a part time basis.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE
MONDAY, DECEMBER 11, 2023
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Tom Booe to close the meeting.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y
T Booe Y D Cruea Y **Vote 7-0**

Careen Chambers
ATTEST

Dudley Cruea
Tom M. Booe
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Crowder
James D. Miller
Jeff Lusk