

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
December 11, 2023
9:00 a.m.

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

MINUTES

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2023 meeting as presented. Vote: 7-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk and Sheriff for the month of November along with the report of collections for the Health Dept and Recorder for October 2023. 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 Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for November, 2023 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 7-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for October, 2023.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Dale White to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for October, 2023. Vote: 7-0

Vialytics – Slater Rush

Mr. Rush of Vialytics gave a presentation of their intelligent road platform. It is an I-phone mounted to the windshield. It will take pictures every 10 feet. The highway department could do multiple assessments throughout the year versus every other year as we currently do. It would eliminate long term costs. It can detect issues early before they become major problems. It can also detect street signs that are faded or missing; maintain culverts; score image data; classify roads, maintain inventory, task management and can be used to prepare preventative maintenance plans. The program is a 3-year contract at \$17,500. It would include all modules with 2 I-phones hosted on the Amazon web. Fountain County would be the first county in Indiana to use this program. They have the software in several municipalities. It was suggested to have legal look into the foreign aspect of the company as they are a Germany based company.

AMBULANCE – Pay

Dudley handed out information that was received from the AIC. Fountain County had the lowest budget out of 14 surrounding counties our size. Addie from Waggoner, Irwin and Schele met with EMS employees, members of council, auditor, HR deputy and council attorney to discuss how we could pay the EMS employees and different work schedules. As of now, they are on a modified pay schedule. There is no incentive to work overtime or pick up extra hours when needed as they make less than their base wage. We are losing employees to other services as they pay time and half. Garth proposed to go to paying time and a half but dropping the 5% increase for 2024. It was also the consensus of the employees to go with the time and a half pay.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to pay time and a half to the paramedics, EMT A's and EMT B's. Pay will be as follows:

Paramedics (6) @ \$31 per hour (already existing medics)
 Paramedics (4) @ \$29 to \$31 per hour based on experience as per discretion of the director
 EMT A (1) \$26 per hour
 EMT B (9) \$22 per hour (already existing EMT B's)
 EMT B (2) \$21 to \$22 per hour based on experience as per discretion of the director

Vote: 7-0

The Commissioners will need to update the handbook to reflect the changes made.

SALARY ORDINANCE 2022-8 for 2023 Salaries

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve and sign Salary Ordinance 2022-8 as amended at the November 13, 2023 meeting.

Vote: 7-0

Congressman Jim Baird – Diane Hubbard

Dianne Hubbard asked the Council if there was anything that Congressman Baird's office could do to help with in legislation. She also gave a brief update.

E-911 – Dana Stonebraker

Dana asked if her part time rate could be changed to \$19 per hour. She will have 3 part time people in place and should cut down on the overtime appropriation.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the part time rate for E-911 Dispatch to \$19 per hour.

Vote: 7-0

CALIBER SYSTEM

Dana stated the Commissioners voted on the Caliber contract at their November 20th meeting in favor of the contract. It is for \$201,869, which includes the first-year maintenance. Maintenance after that will be \$62,085.45. It was suggested that other entities using the system be charged for the use. Dana has reached out to them. The county attorney should also be included in the decision to charge the entities. A special meeting should then be set up between Fountain and Warren County to renegotiate the contract for E-911.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to pay \$85,000 out of the Council budget for the Caliber contract with the balance to be paid out of the 2024 budget.

Vote: 7-0

Dana also asked that her salary be increased. She said she is responsible for dispatching to 24 entities with a total population of approximately 26,000. She makes sure the contracts and certifications are up to date and overseeing personnel. Her department also dispatches for medical. She has worked an average of 150-200 hours per pay period. She would like for the Council to re-look at her salary for 2024. It was suggested that the E-911 board meet and make a recommendation to the Commissioners. Jeff Fishero stated that he was uncomfortable talking about salaries in front of the employee. Council's attorney will look into an executive session.

EMA – Tina Holmes

Tina informed the council that she has been busy closing out the grants for the year. Some entities have received money from the State in regards to the hail storm. The county has yet to receive their money. Tina also asked that the Council re-look at her salary. She would like an increase of 20% for her 2024 salary. The State does reimburse the county for a portion of her salary. The Council will discuss at a later time possibly in an executive session.

SALARY ORDINANCE 2023-10

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the Salary Ordinance for 2024. Vote: 7-0

Agreement with Envoy

Brenda Hardy stated she will be meeting with Envoy along with Tim, Roger and Jeff Fishero. Envoy is working with Ameresco, Architura and RQAW. Kent and Dan Taylor are working on the legal aspects. The contract with Envoy is for \$1.6 million. Dudley is concerned about where the money is coming from and would like to wait until they hear the report from Jason Semler of Baker Tilly, our financial consultant. Jeff Fishero highly recommended Envoy as he worked with them when he was on the Southeast Fountain School Board. The Commissioners would like to sign the contract so that they may move forward with the annex and county highway garage but they need council's support. It was also stated that the public hearing on the BOT process would be in February. The Courthouse roof was also discussed and is a structural problem. Council would like to see it fixed or replaced soon. Brenda stated that maybe they can renegotiate the roof so that it can be done as soon as possible. They can discuss this tomorrow at the meeting with Envoy.

Justin Nicol of Envoy stated that the contract is not to exceed \$1.6 million. The charges are up to \$549,130 for the Highway garage; \$406,015 on the annex and \$547,538 for the Courthouse with travel and mileage coming in at \$150,000. The payments will not be all at once. They will be staggered as phases/steps are completed. Dale White is in favor of the agreement.

Denise Crowder would like better communication between Council and Commissioners.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Dale White to use Envoy as our construction manager with the stipulation that we know where the money for the projects is coming from once the financial report is received from Jason Semler (Baker Tilly). Council would like to be charged for only things approved and voted on by the Council.

Vote: 7-0

Compensation Time

A report was given to the Council at their request of employees with comp time and the dollar amount. There is enough money in the budget to pay it out at this time. The council recommends that no comp time be allowed beginning January 1 unless there is a detailed reason on their time card for the hours earned. Some departments are already doing this. It was also stressed that the office holder/department head should monitor it to cut down on abuse.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to pay out the comp time. The Auditor will contact each employee to ask if they wish to be paid out. **Vote: 7-0**

ARP Funds- Invoices

The Auditor handed out a report on the accounting of the ARP fund. The money was approved for each of the 3 projects. There were invoices turned in for the Annex in the total amount of \$34,020.

585

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve those invoices plus 4 additional invoices to Taft Law Firm (\$6,124.50); Ricketts Electric (\$2,800) and Architura (\$4,000).
Vote: 7-0

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE
MONDAY, January 8, 2024
AT 9:00 A.M.**

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

Celene Chambers
ATTEST

Dwight Ayer
Tom W. Bone
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Crowder
James Decker
Jeff L. Lott