

380

**MINUTES
JOINT MEETING
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 13, 2023
9:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Commissioners were present at the meeting: Brenda Hardy, Andrew Hall and Tim Shumaker.

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.

Brenda Hardy called the Commissioners meeting to order. Dudley Cruea called the Council meeting to order.

PRESENTATION – WEGA

Rod Bannon had sent an email to the Council and Commissioner in January regarding a possible contract for Professional Community and Economic Development Services between Fountain County, Indiana and Wabash Economic Growth Alliance Inc. The contract is for WEGA to furnish Fountain County with the necessary services with respect to community and economic development of the area served by the county, such as business and industrial recruiting, plant expansions, retain jobs, attract new job opportunities, expand tax base and infrastructure development. This is to be funded by the participating incorporated cities and towns located in Fountain County and Fountain County.

Rod Bannon introduced Courtney Zaugg of Plaka. She gave a presentation on Economic Development and how it has an effect on the Community. Our county population is dwindling. We need to appeal to the younger generation.

Miriam Robeson, attorney for WEGA, also spoke via Zoom. Attica is giving a portion of their CEDIT money to WEGA. Kelly Carlson asked if they have spoken to any of the other units in the County. Rod Bannon has spoken to some but not all. A new board would be formed to provide each paying unit representation. They would combine together some of the smaller units.

The budget for this service is \$250,000. Rod will provide a copy of the budget to the Commissioners and Council. Rod gave a breakdown of how the WEGA business incubator is being funded.

Dudley Cruea stated that our CEDIT money is already earmarked for 2023. Brenda Hardy wishes that the mayors of Covington and Attica were more active and attend the meetings of the Greater Lafayette Economic Development. She also feels it would be beneficial if someone from the council would also attend the meetings. Our county needs representation at these meetings so that we have input as to what our needs are and concerns.

The Council was not ready to vote on the contract as they would like to first see their budget. They also asked about the inflation escalation portion of the contract.

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT (Salaries; Senate Bill 4; Health Dept Atty)
Senate Bill 4**

Brenda had emailed the Council information on Senate Bill 4. The State will increase funding to the Local Health Departments in an effort to improve the

State's overall public health services and health outcomes. For those counties that opt-in for public health funding will receive \$100M in year one and \$200M in year two.

The Commissioners must vote to opt-in to a five-year funding cycle, agree to provide the core public health services and continue a maintenance effort in local funding of at least 20% match to the State contribution.

The State will increase funding to the Counties for new programs and services. If we opt-in our per capita could potentially increase from 18.27 to 33.81.

They should know by budget time what the numbers will be and how it will be funded after the 5 years.

Health Department Attorney

The Commissioners would like for the Health Department to have their own attorney. Our county attorney is very busy and the Health Department requires legal advice and representation more frequently.

Salaries

The Commissioners along with Jenny Eads is asking for an increase in her salary in the amount of \$16,515. Commissioners are also asking for an increase of \$5,000 for Erich Haley. These requests are due to additional duties given to the employees.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the increase. It will be split between the Local Health Maintenance fund (1168) in the amount of \$10,000 and the Local Health Department Trust (1206) in the amount of \$11,515. Vote: 7-0

Jenny Eads will start the paperwork for the carryover and send to the State.

READI Grant Housing

Brenda Hardy will send the information to the Council again via email.

Child Care

The local match for the child care has not yet been appropriated. The Council would first like a presentation from Dusty of the Attica School System and Ryan Sowers of Covington Schools. Brenda Hardy will get into contact with them.

Comprehensive Plan

The Commissioners have talked with Patti Longenecker of Beam Longest and Neff in regards to a comprehensive plan. The estimated cost is between \$40,000 and \$50,000. They will look at everything in the county for immediate and long-term projects. It is not a quick process. It is estimated to take 2-5 years to complete.

E-911 Discussion

Warren County has had discussions with Barry Ritter. The Commissioners had prepared a letter to send to Warren County to split the dispatch center. They have not sent it. Their offer is still on the floor. Fountain County would be in control of the employees. Tim Shumaker stated that the unelected board will not get sued it will be the elected officials.

Sheriff Terry Holt said the board works well together. He stated that the board recommends employees for hiring and firing to the Commissioners. The Board does not hire/fire employees. Sheriff Holt feels like it should be a 50/50 split with Warren County.

It was also discussed for Warren County and Fountain County to have their own channel like the Fire Departments and EMS.

The current contract says the hiring and firing of employees is the responsibility of the board.

Warren County does not want to change the make up of the board or their ability to hire and fire employees. Rusty Hart believes it is about control. Fountain County says it is liability issues.

Warren County is suggesting a sub-board that would consist of two Commissioners from Fountain County; one Commissioner from Warren County and the Sheriff from each county.

Andrew Hall stated that he is okay with a 50/50 split and a sub-board.

A motion was made by Andrew Hall and seconded by Tim Shumaker to close the Commissioner's portion of the meeting. Vote: 3-0

Cougar Chambers
ATTEST

Brenda Hardy
Andrew Hall
Tim Shumaker

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 13, 2023**

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2023 meeting as presented. 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 Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for January, 2023 and the Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 7-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, Health Department, Recorder and Sheriff for the month of December.

Vote: 7-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for December 2022.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for December, 2022. Vote: 7-0

COMMISSARY REPORT – December 2022

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Jeff Fishero to acknowledge the Commissary Report for July 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022. There is a balance of \$89,141.78 as of December 31, 2022.

Vote: 7-0

ENCUMBRANCES (2022 Budget to 2023)

Sheriff – Co General

\$3,829.46 Utilities 1000-0380-33550

There are utility invoices that exceed this amount dated 12/2022. They wish to encumber to avoid an additional later in the year.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to encumber the above request in the amount of \$3,829.46. Vote: 7-0

LIT – Public Safety (Sheriff)

Sheriff is requesting to encumber \$11,565.52 from line item 1170-0005-22030 multiple invoices for gas, tires and lube.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Kelly Carlson to encumber \$11,565.52. Vote: 7-0

Co General – Commissioners

Commissioners are requesting to encumber \$121,364.00 to cover the close out cost of the CCMG 2202-1. We had this money appropriated in the Commissioners budget in 2022. We need to pay back the grant portion that was unused. All money was expended from the grant fund.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to encumber the above request in the amount of \$121,364.00. Vote: 7-0

TRANSFER

Co General – Circuit Court

From:	1000-0232-44901	Capital Outlay	
To:	1000-0232-13000	Extra-Clerical	\$2,583.60

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the transfer in the amount of \$2,583.60 Vote: 7-0

MVH- Maintenance & Repair

From:	1176-0531-22300	Salt	
To:	1176-0531-22320	Gravel	\$866.80

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the transfer and send it on to Council. Vote: 7-0

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth updated the Council on the number of runs for the last 5 years. They have increased every year. The collections were down for 2022. Some of the reason is that two members of his staff were out sick at the end of the year. He stated that NSure was working well for them. They should be

receiving a Medicaid reimbursement for 2020 in the amount of \$6,045.00. He has not heard anything recently on the new ambulances. He is down two EMT's due to FMLA and has a paramedic position to fill. His vacation and sick appropriations are taking a hit but hopes that he can transfer from the paramedic line item since that position is not filled.

He got two quotes on new flooring for the EMS building. He received one from Roemer Home Furnishings in the amount of \$15,500 and one from Patton Furniture and Carpet in the amount of \$12,914.

The council will decide at the March 6th meeting as to what line item to pay this amount from.

Highway – Jason Lewis

A new salt barn was discussed along with a new highway garage building. When the time comes, they will more than likely be built where the stockpiles are at on US Highway 41. Jason estimates that he loses 40% of the salt each year by not having a salt barn to protect it from weather conditions.

Jail

There was discussion about the purchase of a grinder and a building to house the grinder at the jail.

Landfill – Greg Robison

Greg updated the Council on the landfill. They have obtained an estimate from Bell's Excavating in the amount of \$65,000 to remove trees, concrete, metal and dirt from an area. Part of the area may be sold to IMPA and will ask for some reimbursement for the clearing on the portion they will be purchasing. The concrete will be busted up into smaller usable pieces. A tub grinder will be obtained at a later date, if needed. They will obtain containers from Walden's Enterprise for the plastic and tires on the property. They will use the excess dirt to contour the area. The metal in the cement will also be recycled.

Greg also informed the Council that the levels were down when they tested the wells in all but one. They will wait on further testing to decide what should be done.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MARCH 06, 2023

COMMISSIONERS MEET AT 9:00 A.M.

HEARING AT 10:00 A.M.

COUNCIL WILL MEET IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HEARING

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to adjourn the meeting.

Vote: 7-0

Cassie Chambers
ATTEST

Dwight Green
Tom W. Booe
Dale H. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Currier
James Fisher