

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
March 11, 2024
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 joined the meeting on Zoom. Dale White and Denise Crowder were absent.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2024 meeting as presented. Vote: 4-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Clerk, Recorder and Sheriff for February 2024. Vote: 4-0

Review and Acknowledge Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation & Monthly Comparison Report

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Jim McKee to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for February 2024 along with the Monthly Fund Comparison Report. Vote: 4-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk’s Monthly Report for January 2024

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to acknowledge the Clerk’s Monthly Report for January, 2024. Vote: 4-0

Additional Appropriation

Hearing Opened at 9:03 a.m.

Public Comment:

Carol Owens asked what the additional was for. Colleen Chambers responded. It is for a new lease on a truck with a dump bed at the recycle center.

Hearing Closed at 9:04 a.m.

Resolution 2024-2

FCSWMD -

8210-0000-00430	Machine & Equipment	\$38,207.96
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A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the above additional in the amount of \$38,207.96.

Jeff Fishero: Y J McKee Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y K Carlson Y

Vote: 5-0

TRANSFERS

Health Department

From:	1159-0000-33603	Housekeeping	
To:	1159-0000-33490	Liability Insurance	\$210.00

The Health Dept is requesting this transfer due to the increase in their liability insurance for 2024.

County General - Ambulance

From:	1000-0301-16000	Vacation & Sick
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To: 1000-0301-14000 Overtime \$30,000

MVH

From: 1176-0531-22300 Salt

To: 1176-0531-33964 Lease – Enterprise \$4,629.44

Paid lease for entire year and was short this amount in the appropriation

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the above transfer in the total amount of \$34,839.44.

Jeff Fishero: Y J McKee Y T Booe Y D Cruea Y K Carlson Y Vote: 5-0

Sheriff Retirement

As per McCready & Keene we are underfunded in the Sheriff Retirement in the amount of \$28,590 for 2024. They have also sent us a Fee Statement invoice in the amount of \$12,211.00.

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Jeff Fishero to pay the amount of \$28,590 from the Council’s budget. They would like to wait on the payment of the \$12,211 until the Sheriff can get more information on the fee statement from McCready & Keene. Colleen did inform the Council that it could not be paid from the Sheriff Pension trust due to a low fund balance.

Jeff Fishero: Y J McKee Y T Booe Y D Cruea Y K Carlson Y Vote: 5-0

READI Grant – Childcare

Right Steps is working to award child care providers \$1,000 per seat. Fountain County has plans for a total of 22 seats with 2 different agencies. They (Greater Lafayette Commerce) are requesting our committed 1-year match (\$23,950) to help support the child care start up initiative. The money was appropriated last year but was not requested. Therefore, there is nothing in the 2024 budget.

It was the consensus of the council to advertise for an additional appropriation to be voted on at the April meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Angie Burke asked where we were at on the renovation of the Maple Corner Annex. Brenda Hardy spoke up and stated that the Commissioners would like to sign the contract at the next meeting. Once the contract is signed, they can work on the schematics. Brenda said a portion of the ARPA money has been set aside for the renovation. Angie asked about the scope of work on the project. Brenda said they were not available at this time.

Angie then read an article from the Fountain County Neighbor. It stated that the County had purchased Maple Corner for \$425,000. It would cost approximately \$750,000 for the renovation of the building which would be cheaper than the 2.6 million dollar estimate for a new building.

Dudley Cruea responded saying that the article was correct. It was a cheaper option than building a new facility for 2.1 million. They had set aside a million dollars for the renovation of the Maple Corner Annex. However, the project has come in at 6.9 million.

Brenda stated that there have been additional costs incurred due to the building being a former restaurant and being transformed into a government office building. The costs for construction have double and tripled since COVID.

Tom Booe stated that they have had consultants inspect the buildings. We do not have a scope of work for the projects at this time. The projects will possibly need to be tweaked.

Kelly Carlson reassured Angie Burke that the council will not vote until they know the scope of work to be done on the projects. They will not spend money until they know what it will be spent on.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth handed out information on the overtime hours at the ambulance department. He is estimating that he will need an additional of \$502,128 to cover the costs. He has hired 2 new EMT's and 2 paramedics but still has 2 positions open. It was the consensus of the Council to advertise for an additional in the amount of \$250,000 at this time. Some money may be able to come from another line item toward the latter part of the year. He also asked the Council about career opportunities for employees who want to become an Advanced EMT or Paramedic. It would be approximately \$15,000 to \$20,000 per person. The Advanced EMT class could be taught at the EMS facility. However, the paramedic training would have to be done off-site. The Council would like to see a contract signed between the employee and the county to commit to 2-3 years if they received paid training. The ambulance department is in need of new cots and monitors. There is a company, ALS 360, that provides a service on the replacement of this equipment. Council would like to discuss this when all members of council is present.

The new ambulances should be ready next month. Payment is due upon delivery. An additional is needed one ambulance and the re-mount. The re-mount should be ready in 60-90 days.

E-911 – Dana Stonebraker

The new hardware should be here on March 26th and installed on March 28th. The contract with Equature, which is software that is used to record the calls, will be coming due. There is a one-time fee of \$3,000 with a yearly price of \$6,853.69. It is not in her budget but she feels she can move some money around to pay for it. She will be asking for a transfer.

County Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason stated that they are moving forward on Bridge 202 and Bridge 66. Bridge 66 will need new beams. He also told the Council that the Vialytics software has been working great. He has had other counties asking about it. He believes LTAP will be looking into it also as the sales representative will be meeting with them.

He will be paving CR 730 E around the second week of May and then onto Bonebrake Road. He will start the chip and seal after that. He will probably not be able to do as much chip and seal as first anticipated due to the lack of employees and the availability of aggregate. He is down 3 employees and lost his distributor driver. As of today, the County has not been awarded the CCMG grant. The County match will be \$500,000. He and Travis will be at road school this week.

Coroner – Josh Whittington

He reported that he had 35 scene calls and 3 phone consults for 2023. The number one killer in Fountain County is cardiovascular disease. He encourages all residents to get the \$49 heart scan at the hospital. It could save your life. He also said the trauma and suicides were up in the county for 2023 and drug overdoses were down.

Council – Jeff Fishero

He wanted the ones in attendance to know that they are investing in the employees as we are losing too many to surrounding counties. Dudley reiterated that we need to take care of the employees first.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim McKee to close the meeting.

Vote: 5-0

Sam W. Dore
Kelly L. Carlson
James D. Parker
Jeff Kiebo