

**MINUTES  
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL  
November 12, 2024  
9:00 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 15<sup>th</sup> and the October 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 meetings as presented. Vote: 7-0

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Dale White to approve the minutes of the October 28<sup>th</sup> meeting as presented. Vote: 6-0  
(Jim McKee was absent from this meeting)

**Report of Collections – as submitted**

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Ambulance, Health Department and Sheriff for October, 2024. Vote: 7-0

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

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for October 2024 along with the Monthly Fund Comparison Report. Vote: 7-0

**Wabash River Greenway Project- Five Crossings Park**

Dale White as Director of the Community Foundation requested an appropriation in the amount of \$450,000 for the Greenway project. It is for 9/10 of a mile trail along the Wabash River. The design and feasibility study have been completed. The bids went out in October and range from \$529,000 to \$974,000. The project could start as early as Christmas but would most likely be in January, if the weather holds out. He would like for council to appropriate the money for 2025.

Dudley said it should go to the Commissioners first for their vote and then back to the Council. He asked Colleen to contact DLGF to see what is needed for an additional appropriation request. He asked if we need an accepted bid or invoice.

**WHIN – Johnny Park; Audette Taylor & Jason Stonecipher**

Johnny Park introduced Audette Taylor and Jason Stonecipher. Audette passed out information packets and note cards to the Council members. The information showed what WHIN has done for our region. They are a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. Their purpose is to bring more prosperity to the region and the core strategy is to accelerate the use of Technology by farmers and manufacturing companies in our region. Jason Stonecipher shared as to how his relationship with WHIN has helped with his farming and small business. Mr. Parks is asking the Council to continue the funding for the next three years in the amount of \$30,000 each year. This is an increase of \$10,000 per year. That is 5% of their total investment into the community.

Council told him that he should go to the Commissioners for approval and then the council could vote on the funding.

**READI Grant – Childcare**

**Julie Barry – Project Manager; Lauren McCool – Right Steps**

Fountain County currently has 148 licensed capacity seats that are spread out over four different child facilities (Fountain/Warren County Head Start, Attica Early Learning, Covington Christian School and Southeast Fountain Elementary. The demand for child care is approximately 873, which is a deficit of 725 seats. Right Steps has been entrusted with helping new and existing child care programs. Through the READI grant \$440,000 was designated to fund 40 new childcare seats at \$1,000 each. They have added 8 seats in Covington and a new facility in Attica will have 107 seats. The READI grant runs through March 2026.

Julie Barry is asking that the Fountain County pay their commitment for 2024 and 2025 as they have met the required seats. It is \$23,950 per year.

**Paws & Claws – Jessica Lucas**

Tracy Broderick had emailed the council the numbers from this year and the past two years. Dudley said the biggest question was the 20% increase from 2023 to 2024. The Council said the towns of Fountain County are not included in the county contract. The Council also feels like Covington and Attica residents are getting double taxed as they also have a contract with Paws & Claws. Jessica confirmed the contract only covers the rural areas of Fountain County. Colleen confirmed that we need an additional of \$9,000 to cover the contract until the end of the year.

Kelly Carlson made a motion to pay Paws & Claws the \$9,000 for the remainder of the year. Jim McKee seconded the motion. Vote: 7-0

Dale White left the meeting at 9:57 a.m. due to another commitment.

**TRANSFERS**

**Co General – Election Board**

From:	1000-0062-22000	Election Board	\$465.89
From:	1000-0062-33400	Printing & Advertising	\$364.10
To:	1000-0062-33530	Ballots & Instructions	\$829.99

Transfer needed to pay for GBS invoice #24-39429

**Co General – Auditor**

From:	1000-0002-33800	Training & Education	\$300.25
To:	1000-0002-33300	Travel & Mileage	

Transfer requested to cover expenses incurred due to Annual Auditor's Conference.

**Co General – Purdue Extension**

From:	1000-0028-33600	Maintenance	\$700
To:	1000-0028-33300	Travel	

**Co General – Circuit Court**

From:	1000-0232-33700	Internet	\$500
To:	1000-0232-33401	Expert Witness	

Transfer needed as the reimbursement from the grant has not been received to date.

**Co General – Ambulance**

From:	1000-0301-17001	Back Up Pay	\$4,500
To:	1000-0301-16000	Vacation & Sick	

**Co General – Radio Dispatch,**

From:	1000-0303-22520	Uniforms	\$246.02
From:	1000-0303-33300	Travel Mileage	\$ 45.60
To:	1000-0303-33105	IDACS	

Transfer needed as IDACS increased from \$220 to \$299 each month.

**Local Road & Street**

From:	1169-0000-22420	Bituminous	\$30,000
To:	1169-0000-33130	Contractual Svc	

To cover the invoices from USI concerning the 2024-1 CCMG Construction Assistance.

**Statewide – E-911**

From:	1222-0000-33600	Repairs & Maintenance	\$2,420
To:	1222-0000-1000	Social Security	

Transfer requested to cover the social security obligation to the end of year due to increase in salaries.

From:	1222-0000-33300	Travel Mileage	\$90
To:	1222-0000-33500	Telephone	

Transfer request so that there are ample funds to finish out the year.

**Cumulative Bridge**

From:	1135-0000-22420	Bituminous	\$9,000
To:	1135-0000-33250	Consulting Fees	

Transfer requested to cover upcoming USI invoice for Asset Management Plan.

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the transfers as stated above. Vote: 6-0

**Auditor – Request to Transfer**

Auditor requested permission to make transfers from now until the end of the year so we will not end up with line items in the red on December 31, 2024. This request does not include any 1,000 accounts. It will allow the Auditor to better monitor the accounts.

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the Auditor’s request to make transfers until the end of the year. Vote: 6-0

**ARP Fund**

Dudley gave a brief update on the ARP funds that are remaining. The Committee met prior to the Council meeting. They have confirmation from Dustin Meeks of Barnes & Thornburg that the money could be obligated toward the proposed County Highway garage project. This can be done by having a contract drawn up between the County and the County Highway Garage. Kent Minnette will be drawing up the contract and the Commissioners will vote on it at their meeting on Monday.

**Envoy - Invoice**

The Commissioners tabled it at their last meeting and had an executive session. There were some questions about the Ameresco and Architura invoices. Dudley suggested tabling a decision as the Commissioners are requesting a full accounting. A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Kelly Carlson to table the decision to pay the invoice from Envoy.

Vote: 6-0

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

### **Ambulance – Garth Kagels**

Garth reported that they had ran into a couple of obstacles with Medicare and the software company. We were not getting paid mileage for Medicare claims. They were able to resubmit the claims. He asked permission to apply for an AFG grant. It is a 5% county match. The grant opened today and will close on December 20, 2024. The Council gave him their blessing to apply for the grant. He will be going to the Commissioner also at their next meeting.

### **E-911 – Dana Stonebraker**

She is requesting an additional appropriation for Holiday Pay and Overtime as she mis-figured the amount needed to finish the year.

### **Public Safety**

Brenda was concerned about paying salaries out of the Cumulative Capital Development fund. Dudley stated that the ordinances states "including but not limited to" therefore he believes that we can use this fund to pay salaries for the remainder of the year. The Auditor was directed to advertise it to be paid from the CCD fund.

### **EMA – Tina Holmes**

She has a quote from MacAllister for the repair of the generator in the amount of \$19,581.95. The Council said that the invoice could be paid from the Council budget (1000-0061-44300).

### **WEGA – Addendum**

Discussion was heard in regards to the addendum for the WEGA incubator building. It was not to be pro-rated as per Council. The County was to get back their money that was put into the building if it failed and it was sold.

### **Public Comment**

**Carol Owens** – She would like for the County to get a bid from the Amish to building the new highway garage. Carol also asked if childcare was provided for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shift workers.

### **Envoy**

More discussion was heard on the breakdown of the invoice along with the additional invoice from Ameresco that we received in the amount of \$10,000. The council will be willing to pay the amount due if they receive a copy of the contract; copy of the assessments from Envoy; signed agreement that there will be no more invoices for the three proposed projects.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Kelly Carlson to pay the remaining amount on the Envoy invoice contingent upon the Council's receipt of the above documents.

Vote: 6-0

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A  
December 16, 2024  
AT 1:00 P.M.**

A motion was made by Kelly Carlson and seconded by Denise Crowder to  
close the meeting.

Vote: 6-0

Cecilia Chambers  
ATTEST

Dwight Crisp  
Jan W. Poon  
Dale A. White  
Kelly L. Carlson  
Denise Crowder  
James D. Baker  
Jeff Fisher