

**FRANKLIN COUNTY COUNCIL**

**JANUARY 26, 2016**

**COMMISSIONERS/COUNCIL MEETING ROOM**

**Council Members:** Becky Oglesby – President – Daryl Kramer – Joe Sizemore – Dean McQueen – Keith Hall – Jeff Koch – Aaron Leffingwell

**Chief Deputy Auditor:** Debbie Richardson

**Commissioners:** Tom Linkel – Eric Roberts

**Others Attending:** Mildred Simmermeyer – Mark Simmermeyer – Betty Lecher – Albert Lecher – Angie Ruther – Linda Vaughn – Bill Shirmer – Sharon Halcomb – Mike Kohlsdorf – Jeff Batchler – Andrew Newman – Ted Hensley – Angie Riffle – Monica Yang – Ted Cooley – Grant Edwards – Ray Richardson

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Becky Oglesby and opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean McQueen to accept the minutes from the 12/8/15 and 12/29/15 meetings  
**Motion Carried**

Sharon Halcomb addressed council with the fact that her part-time line in Reassessment was cut at budget time to \$2,000 from the \$3,600 she requested and was approved for last year. She was advised to present council with an additional and they would review at the February meeting.

Becky Oglesby discussed the fact that she believes the part-time hourly rates should be consistent throughout the salary ordinance for all of the departments and suggested the rate of up to per hour be set at \$12.00. Aaron Leffingwell stated he believed this might cause a problem if a department head gave their part-time employees a raise due to the fact it has been such a long time since the full-time employees have had a raise. It was decided that the part-time rates would remain as is on the salary ordinance for now and would be addressed at the budget workshops in August.

The extension, area planning, and transfer station are in need of hiring part-time personnel and are asking for authorization due to the hiring freeze. All three departments have money appropriated in their budgets for part-time help.

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Koch to approve authorization to hire part-time help in the extension, area planning, and transfer station.  
**Motion Carried**

The Auditor is in need of authorization to advertise and hire part-time due to the fact two girls in the office are going on maternity leave this spring. The times of leave should not overlap but of course no guarantees. There is not money appropriated in the budget for part-time help in the Auditors office at this time. Aaron Leffingwell stated he would like to see the Auditors Ineligible Fund be used for this rather than approving an additional for the entire amount necessary. The first leave will start the end of April so the auditor needs to advertise and start looking in order to have someone trained ahead. Aaron stated that the arrangement for funds can be determined at another meeting.

**Motion:** by Aaron Leffingwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daryl Kramer to give the auditor permission to advertise and start looking for part-time help. **Motion Carried**

Angie Ruther addressed the council with regard to Diane Turney resigning. She stated that the board had recommended her for the replacement and also asks if council had received the resignation letter from Diane Turney. Council advised that they had both the resignation letter and the recommendation of the board. Angie ask for permission to hire another nurse for the position she now fills. There was much discussion on the importance of having two nurses. Andrew Newman explained what the second nurse position includes and the importance of it.

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Sizemore to allow the health department to fill the soon to be vacated position of the Supervisor. **Motion Carried**

**Motion:** by Joe Sizemore and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dean McQueen to allow the health department to advertise and hire a nurse for the second position. **Motion Carried**

Becky Oglesby read the encumbrance summary aloud for appropriations which have been requested to be carried from the 2015 budget into the 2016 budget.

**Motion:** by Jeff Koch and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Sizemore to approve the encumbrances from 2015 into 2016. **Motion Carried**

Transfers were read by Becky Oglesby. Keith Hall questioned the transfer for highway fleet insurance to be transferred to gas and oil dated 12/7/15. He wanted to know why this was not completed last year. Tom Linkel said to take this transfer out of the schedule and he will research and bring back next month if necessary.

**Motion:** by Aaron Leffingwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daryl Kramer to approve all transfers except the \$4,000 for Highway and the \$50 for Drug Free which Melinda Brown ask to have removed. **Motion Carried**

Sharon Halcomb requested permission to hire the PTBOA appointees. She stated they will be Bess Edwards and Mary Ann Bridges, from Rush County. She and Mary Ann sit on each other's boards in exchange for being paid.

**Motion:** by Aaron Leffingwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Daryl Kramer to approve the appointment of the PTBOA appointees. **Motion Carried**

Becky Oglesby presented the Southeast Indiana Regional Planning program for financial assistance to the disabled and elderly. She stated that there is \$300,000 available to assist the elderly and disabled with home repair and other miscellaneous needs, however, the county would need to participate by contributing \$21,000. This would be a rather small investment for the large amount of funds available. There was discussion and the consensus was that this should be tabled indefinitely.

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith Hall to table the Southeast Indiana Regional Planning program indefinitely. **Motion Carried** (with all in favor with the exception of Dean McQueen opposing )

Ted Hensley, from the park, addressed the council and ask for authorization to hire the part-time help for summer.

**Motion:** by Aaron Leffingwell and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joe Sizemore to authorize hiring of part-time help in the Park for the summer. **Motion Carried**

Becky Oglesby stated that the 1782 came back from DLGF and was approved as presented. The only correction that needs to be made is an error in the amortization schedule on the bond refinance. This has already been corrected and file with the DLGF through Gateway. There was \$5448 that was capitalized interest held in escrow and paid by the bank that was erroneously listed on the amortization by the lender.

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith Hall to accept the 1782 as presented by DLGF contingent on the bond allowance being corrected. **Motion Carried**

Grant Reeves addressed council with the answers to three questions presented to him by the council. The first question was if there is a requirement for an annual report to be turned in by the highway. He stated that there is an annual report required by IC code 8-17-4.1 county form # 16. He provided a copy of the excel format he located on line and suggested that someone check and verify this is the most current form to use. The second question was if it is okay for county council to pass an ordinance requesting their review of all transfers even in the same budget series. The answer per his conversation with State Board of Accounts there would not be a problem requiring additional restrictions. He prepared an ordinance to implement this procedure. The third question was regarding who has authority over the county handbook. He stated the commissioners have authority over policy and the council governs "compensation" pursuant to IC code 36-1-4-15. The questionable area is in the definition of compensation and for this reason he is unable to give a definitive answer. It is not black and white. He searched for court cases that had dealt with this issue but to no avail was able to find a definite answer. He stated would possible need more time to do some more research on this and this could be very costly to litigate if it came to that.

Aaron Leffingwell ask Tom Linkel if he thought this would have to go to litigation to be resolved, with regard to the insurance issue for commissioners and council. Tom Linkel's response was that he could only speak for himself but as far as he is concerned the answer is yes. Aaron stated that is cost the county approximately \$120,000 every year for the health insurance for the commissioners and the council. Keith Hall stated a lot of this comes back to the commissioners and ask the question of do they want to keep their insurance regardless of the effect on anyone else. Aaron Leffingwell stated that the tax payers are the ones losing because of the Commissioners and Council bickering over the insurance.

Keith Hall suggested that we give the insurance broker an amount that we are budgeting for insurance and have a policy written within that budget. He said Mike Kramer suggested this and stated that no one has ever given him an amount to work within. He said he just creates a policy based on last years policy. This could be another way of helping to control the cost of insurance but could however require higher deductibles and out of pocket expenses to stay within the budget.

Keith Hall ask if the highway has ever filed an annual report. Grant Reeves said not to his knowledge. Tom Linkel and Ted Cooley went into the hall to discuss and upon returning Tom ask if they had filed one and he said no and they did not know about the report.

Becky Oglesby read Ordinance 2016-03 Restricting Transfers within Budgetary Status (prepared by Grant Reeves)

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith Hall to approve Ordinance 2016-03 to include all five listed requirements with the 5<sup>th</sup> requirement being handwritten in per Grants instruction. **Motion Carried**

Keith Hall discussed the 2015 budget as opposed to 2015 expenses to include only the general and cagit funds. He stated that the general was underspent by \$646,200 and a large portion of this was due to a calculation in social security and perf due to a large increase in personnel requested by the sheriff and cut during the budget

workshops. He also stated that according to the 2016 budget vs the 2015 expenses we will be underspent by \$370,000 at the end of 2016 if expenses are not increased during the year. He ask for any questions or input from council or the audience and received on reply.

Monica Yang ask from the audience if there was anything that could be done for a reconsideration of the Southeast Indiana Regional Planning program that was proposed. She said it looks to her like we have a little surplus and couldn't it be used for something good like this program to help the disabled and elderly. She was advised that it has been tabled indefinitely.

Bill Shirmer spoke and stated his displeasure with the handling of the appropriation of the money to pay the Economic Development Consultant that was just hired. It was explained again that additional cannot be completed before a certified budget is received from DLGF. I apologized for any miscommunication or misunderstanding with the auditor's office and stated we did try to do everything possible to accommodate him.

Tom Linkel addressed the council with regard to the Tee Hill bridge repairs that need to be done as soon as possible. Keith Hall asked about the \$54,000 of reimbursements and ask if once they got that and the money was appropriated back to them should that be sufficient to complete Tee Hill and 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Tom Linkel agreed. Daryl Kramer suggested that we transfer \$70,000 from the line of appropriation for 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in the #1135 Cum Bridge fund to a new line for Tee Hill Bridge repairs. When we have an approved budget the 6<sup>th</sup> Street bridge line can be reimbursed by an additional. Tom Linkel agreed that this would work.

**Motion:** by Daryl Kramer and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Keith Hall to Amend the Transfer of Funds Certificate dated 1/26/16 to include a transfer from 11135-60035-000-0000 6<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge in the amount of \$70,000 to 1135-23063-000-0000 Tee Hill Bridge supplies  
**Motion Carried**

Tom Linkel ask if council would allow the highway to hire a second mechanic. He said he was told when the 1782 came back it would be considered. Aaron Leffingwell stated the position was only created because the highway needed a position for an employee who could not pass the CDL testing. Tom Linkel said it is a necessary position and would like for council to consider filling it. Daryl Kramer ask Tom to complete an additional and county council will discuss at the next meeting.

Tom Linkel advised that the 1978 model loader is shot and in dire need of replacement. He said a used loader could cost as much as \$140,000 to replace it and with the large discounts we have available it might be more advantageous to purchase new. Becky Oglesby ask about using Rex Road money which has approximately \$62,000 in it. Tom Linkel will check into the replacement further and will come back with some possible options.

**Motion:** by Joe Sizemore and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jeff Koch to adjourn  
**Motion Carried**

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Becky Oglesby

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Daryl Kramer

Daryl Kramer

Keith Hall

Keith Hall

Aaron Leffingwell

Aaron Leffingwell

Jeff Koch

Jeff Koch

Joe Sizemore

Joe Sizemore

Dean McQueen

Dean McQueen

Stephen Smith  
Auditor

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