

**Hancock County Budget, Efficiency & Revenue Committee
And Regular Council Meeting Minutes
March 1, 2023**

The County Council of Hancock County, Indiana met in the County Commissioner & Council Meeting Room in the Courthouse Annex located at 111 American Legion Place Greenfield, Indiana 46140 on the 1st day of March 2023 at the hour of 8:30 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers Jim Shelby, Keely Butrum, Mary Noe, Jeannine Gray, Robin Lowder, Kent Fisk, and Scott Wooldridge. County Attorney Scott Benkie was not present.

Budget Committee Issues

Councilmembers reviewed the cash balances. Councilmember Shelby recommended increasing the target balance in Fund 1001 from \$7M to \$8M. Councilmembers discussed the low balance in the health claims fund. Auditor Carnes recommended a health insurance committee be established. Councilmember Noe nominated Jeannine Gray to serve on the health insurance board. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Councilmember Noe stated the Salary Committee will be meeting this week and are working on a document to send to department heads. The members are as follows: Mary Noe, Robin Lowder, Debra Carnes, Jane Klemme and Lisa Lofgreen. They will be working a report for the April budget meeting.

Councilmembers discussed a structure for the request of additional appropriations. Financial Advisor Greg Guerrettaz stated they should be essential or critical needs, otherwise it should go onto the next year's budget.

E911 / Vernon Township

Greg Shamblin, Deputy Director of the E911 Center, requested an additional appropriation of \$5,000 in Fund 1235 to cover the cost of fuel for 2 vehicles they received in a trade with the Fortville Police Department. Councilmembers agreed to advertise for next month

Fire Chief Mark Elder requested assistance with the purchase of a Location System for the Vernon Township Fire Department located in Fortville. Councilmembers had discussion. Commission Spalding recommended he return to the RDC for another request.

IT Department

IT Director Bernie Harris requested to appropriate a check he received from NineStar for \$10,000 to cover 2022 and 2023. NineStar has agreed to pay \$5,000 a year to maintain the audio visual equipment. Councilmembers agreed to advertise next month.

Opioid Matching Grant Update

Councilmember Butrum has submitted the opioid matching grant opportunity. Everyone who was asked is supporting this. The total request is \$6M. Councilmembers thanked Keely for all her hard work on this grant.

Sheriff Department

Sheriff Burkhardt discussed the 2023 Actuarial Valuation Report and the recommended contribution for 2024. Councilmembers had discussion and stated they would like Stan Brown to come to the April Council Meeting.

Sheriff Burkhardt discussed the Level 6 Jail Income. Currently the per diem is \$37.50 per inmate. The state used a formula to calculate each county. Currently we are the 4th highest in the state to receive money, but this is set to change in 2024. He will keep us updated as he received information.

Financial Solutions Group

Financial Advisor Greg Guerrettaz discussed Senate Bill 78 involving pre distributions of Local Income Tax, he’s working on an updated sustainability report, and the possibility of unlocking growth by doing an excess levy.

Councilmember Gray left meeting at 10:44 am.

Cumulative Rates

Cumulative Capital Development and Cumulative Bridge rates were discussed for 2023 pay 2024. Commissioners oversee those rates, and they will make a recommendation at the next meeting to keep the cumulative rates the same for next year.

Minutes

Councilmember Noe made a motion to approve the minutes for February 1, 2023. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 5-0.** Councilmember Butrum abstained.

Adjourned 11:01 AM

Councilmember Shelby adjourned the budget meeting.

Approved this day:

Jeannine Gray, President

Robin Lowder

James Shelby

Keely Butrum

Kent Fisk

Scott Wooldridge

Mary Noe

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor