

**Hancock County Budget, Efficiency & Revenue Committee  
And Regular Council Meeting Minutes  
September 6, 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 6th day of September 2023 at the hour of 8:32 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers James Shelby, Keely Butrum, Mary Noe, Jeannine Gray, Robin Lowder, Kent Fisk, Scott Wooldridge, Commissioner Bill Spalding, and County Attorney Scott Benkie were present.

**2023 & 2024 Budget Issues**

Councilmembers reviewed 2023 fund balances.

Councilmembers reviewed the advertised 2024 budget. Councilmembers had discussion.

Greg Guerrettaz with FSG discussed paying off the 2020 LIT BAN (Bond Anticipation Note) early. He will have more information at the October budget meeting.

Auditor Debra Carnes discussed the need to appropriate money to pay for the new chiller at Community Corrections and the cost of renting a temporary chiller. Councilmembers had discussion and agreed to advertise \$200,000 in Fund 1233.

Greg Guerrettaz discussed the LIT Correctional Facility Funds and recommended using them in the future for capital needs at the jail instead of the Cumulative Capital Fund. He is also putting together an updated sustainability report and the final budget numbers.

Councilmembers discussed the NineStar project that will be going to bid this fall.

**Hancock County Food Pantry**

Howard Green and Elizabeth Rusche explained to councilmembers how the food pantry began many years ago, to the recent purchase of a new facility on US 40 that they are currently renovating and plan to occupy by Thanksgiving. Their staff is made up entirely of volunteers who have served over 800 families. The renovation costs are more than expected and fundraising efforts are currently under way. Councilmember had discussion. Councilmember Butrum made a motion to give \$100,000 from the Food & Beverage Fund to help cover costs. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**County Library**

Greg Guerrettaz notified councilmembers that the library is looking in the northern part of the county for a new location. Councilmembers had discussion and would like the Fortville Vernon Township Library have their Financial Advisor be present at a future budget meeting to discuss.

**2023 General Obligation Bond**

Greg Guerrettaz discussed a new general obligation bond for 2023. Scott Benkie, the County Attorney will need to prepare a Resolution of Need for Commissioners to approve. Council-

members had discussion.

**Future Road Projects**

Gary Pool discussed future projects on the north and sound side of the county. Councilmembers had discussion.

**Walker Hughes Insurance**

Brian Brees reviewed detailed insurance premiums and discussed rate changes from 2022 to 2023. Discussion was had on the exposure rating being based on our budget in Gateway. Councilmembers agreed to look in the automobile and total budget amount given to Walker Hughes.

**Minutes**

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the minutes for August 2, 2023 with a change on Page 3. Councilmember Wooldridge seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Coroner**

Coroner’s office presented a letter and check to the county for accidental use of the county van to move a body at the funeral home. The Coroner wanted complete transparency and apologized for the issue.

**Adjourned 11:03 PM**

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

**Approved this day:**

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Jeannine Gray, President

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Mary Noe, Vice President

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James Shelby, Councilmember

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Kent Fisk, Councilmember

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Robin Lowder, Councilmember

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Keely Butrum, Councilmember

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Scott Wooldridge, Councilmember

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor