

## **Hancock County Council Minutes January 11, 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 11th day of January 2023 at the hour of 8:35 AM in accordance with the rules of the Council.

Councilmembers James Shelby, Keely Butrum, Mary Noe, Jeannine Gray, Kent Fisk, Robin Lowder, Scott Wooldridge, Auditor Debra Carnes, Financial Administrator Mary Bowmer and County Attorney Scott Benkie were present.

*President Gray opened the meeting with the “Pledge of Allegiance” followed by a moment of silence.*

### **Hancock County Mutual Aid Association**

Brandon Kleine introduced himself as the new President of the Hancock County Mutual Aid Association. He explained that the Mutual Aid Association is made of all fire departments and police departments within Hancock County.

### **Surveyor**

Chad Coughenour requested an appropriation in the amount of \$19,457 to pay Christopher Burke Engineering. This will be reimbursed by the Multi Hazard Mitigation Grant. Councilmembers agreed to advertise for the next council meeting.

### **Public Defender**

Janice Conley requested appropriation of \$6,400 for the Public Defender’s Title IV-E fund. Councilmembers agreed to advertise for the next council meeting.

### **Budget Meeting Update**

Councilmember Shelby gave an update from the budget meeting stating that Vernon Township had requested financial assistance and they were referred to the Commissioners to request the money from RDC; Deputy Prosecutor issues were discussed; Opioid money was discussed; FSG reported revenue increases for County General Fund; Cash balances were also reviewed.

Councilmember Butrum stated that they will go over findings from the Prosecutor problems and give a recap at the March budget meeting.

### **Minutes**

Councilmember Shelby made a motion to approve the minutes for December 14, 2022. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 5-0.** Councilmember Wooldridge abstained.

### **Council Business**

Councilmembers signed their annual Conflict of Interest and Nepotism Forms.

Councilmembers made a motion to reappoint Hart Summeier to the Fortville Economic Development Board. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

*Councilmember Lowder joined the meeting via Zoom at 8:54 am.*

Councilmember Butrum made a motion to amend the 2023 Salary Ordinance with corrections to Probation, Superior Court 1, and Prosecutor. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Councilmember Butrum made a motion to pay \$135,246 to fund the Solid Waste Management District 2023 budget. Councilmember Fisk seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

#### **Highway**

Gary Pool requested approval to appropriate the following amounts:

- \$1M in Fund 1112 LIT Economic Development for GDI to be reimbursed from RDC
- \$64,796 in Fund 1229 LOIT Special Distribution
- \$480,000 in Fund 8916 Hancock Public Transportation

Councilmembers gave approval to advertise next month.

Gary updated councilmembers on all highway projects in the county.

#### **Probation**

Josh Sipes requested approval to appropriate \$853.84 he received from the Hancock County Community Foundation for a grant to purchase materials. Councilmembers gave approval to advertise next month.

#### **Drug Court**

Judge Sirk and Beth Ingle requested approval to appropriate \$75,000 in Fund 1001 that council approved last year to replace the federal grant. Beth Ingle stated they have 20 new participants now that the federal grant has ended. Councilmembers had discussion and agreed to advertise next month.

#### **Circuit Court**

Judge Sirk requested a salary amendment increase to \$43,000 for his Court Administrator from \$40,000. Councilmembers agreed they would like to wait until the 2024 budget for this change.

#### **Council Discussion**

Councilmember Noe stated she would like to discuss Tourism at their next budget meeting. Councilmember Wooldridge stated he attended their meeting last night and he believes changes are coming.

Councilmember Shelby stated that HEDC is working hard on manufacturing projects in the county and some of the projects are large.

#### **Adjourned 9:41 AM**

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

**Approved this day:**

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James Shelby

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Robin Lowder

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Keely Butrum

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Kent Fisk

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Mary Noe

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Scott Wooldridge

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Jeannine Gray

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor