

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

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

Budget Committee Issues

Councilmembers reviewed the cash balances. Councilmember Noe recommended discussing raises and the salary study starting with the March meeting. Councilmember Butrum stated she has been working on the Prosecutor's Salary Study and the attorneys appear to be underpaid but the administration seems to be adequate. Councilmember Gray suggested Brent Eaton and Shelli Poppino return in March to speak. A suggestion was made to look at minimum fund balances next month.

Unlocking Growth for Operating Expenses

Greg Guerrettaz has been working with Westfield on their property tax levy and they are currently the fastest growing municipality in the state. He presented a copy of IC 6-1.1-18-25 for Municipalities and IC 6-1.1-18-28 for Townships. He thought it might be easier to change a current law than to write a new one. Councilmembers agreed to have more discussion at the next meeting.

Opioid Money Opportunity

Councilmember Butrum presented information about an Opioid Money Matching Opportunity. She stated that we must move quickly since there are only 29 calendar days to request money from the state. She has already spoken to Steve Long, Amanda Everidge, and many others in the community. She is planning to have a meeting on February 6th. Councilmembers had discussion. Councilmember Noe made a motion to appropriate \$481,466.21 in Funds 1237 & 1238 and the remaining \$628,218 in ARPA Fund 8960. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.** Councilmember Butrum made a motion to include Councilmember Shelby, Councilmember Wooldridge and an appointee from the Board of Commissioners to work on the Opioid opportunity. Councilmember Noe seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.** Councilmember Butrum stated that the FSSA (Family & Social Services Administration) form for the State of Indiana Opioid Settlement Match Grant must be signed by the Council President. Councilmember Butrum made a motion to give Councilmember President Gray authority to sign the FSSA document. Councilmember Shelby seconded. **Motion carried 7-0.**

Fortville Economic Development Commission

Hart Summeier with the Fortville EDC gave an update on economic growth in Fortville. He stated that the Stellar Grant has helped make improvements and that INDOT is working with the town to create a two-lane road with pedestrian lanes on SR 67. Fortville has money to spend and he wants more collaborative agreements with the whole county. Councilmembers had discussion.

Commissioners

Commissioner President Spalding received a new bill from RQAW for the water/sewer study and requested that the remaining \$83,472.50 from last year in Fund 1112 be advertised to cover the balance of any more bills that may come in for this study. Councilmembers agreed to advertise.

Additional Appropriation Requests

Councilmembers discussed a request they received from the Green Township Trustee in the amount of \$130,000 for a down payment on a fire truck. She will be coming to the council meeting next week with a formal request. Councilmember Butrum stated that there needed to be structure in place for these requests and approve them at the end of each quarter. Councilmember Shelby suggested this be discussed at the council meeting next week.

Tourism

Councilmember Noe presented information on Tourism including budgets, collections, and a copy of IC 6-9-18-4. They are sitting on over \$1M. She has also reached out to the State Board of Accounts (SBOA) for legal clarification. Councilmembers had discussion and agreed to discuss further at a future meeting.

Planning Department

Kayla Brooks introduced herself as the new Planning Director. She requested to make changes to her staff. She would like to change the Deputy Director to Assistant Planner and lower the pay. She would also like to change the Zoning Assistant to Zoning Compliance Inspector and raise the salary from \$43,831 to \$50,000. Councilmember Noe asked if she could do this within her current budget restraints. Kayla agreed that she would not need any extra money. Councilmembers agreed to approve a salary ordinance amendment.

Councilmember Gray left meeting at 10:49 am.

Mental Health Update

Amanda Everidge with Hancock Regional Hospital gave an update on the status and reviewed the structure in place. A Mobile Response Team Manager was hired in January 2023 and the program is running 7 days a week, 10 hours a day. They are in an office behind the McDonald's in Greenfield. The Jail Navigators are important. They have two full time employees performing social needs assessments. Councilmembers had discussion and agreed they would like semi-annual updates.

Minutes

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to approve the minutes for January 1, 2023.
Councilmember Lowder seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Adjourned 11:29 AM

Councilmember Fisk made a motion to adjourn. Councilmember Butrum seconded. **Motion carried 6-0.**

Approved this day:

Jeannine Gray, President

Robin Lowder

James Shelby

Keely Butrum

Kent Fisk

Scott Wooldridge

Mary Noe

Attest: _____
Debra Carnes, Hancock County Auditor