

Steuben County Council
Minutes of the August 11, 2015 Meeting

The Steuben County Council met in special session at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, August 11, 2015 in the Steuben Community Center Building, 317 S Wayne Street, Suite 2H, Angola, IN 46703. Present this day were President, Richard Shipe, Vice President, Ruth Beer, and Council Members Jim Getz, Daniel Caruso, Wil Howard, Ken Shelton, and Linda Hansen. Also present was the Steuben County Auditor, Kim Koomler and Deputy Auditor Lori Hickey.

President Shipe called the meeting to order.

Mervin Topp, President of MTR Machine, Inc. came before the Council to request approval of his Personal Property Abatement CF-1 Compliance Statement. Topp reported the actual numbers for employees and salaries have exceeded the estimates. Daniel Caruso made the motion to approve the CF-1 Statement and authorize Richard Shipe to sign. Ruth Beer seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Frank Charlton, Building Department and Ronald Smith, Commissioner came before Council with a request for additional funds from the Cumulative Capital Development Fund to purchase (2) 2016 Jeep Patriots to replace two older Ford Explorers year 2000 and 2003 in need of major repairs. Charlton stated that the cost of repairs is estimated to be approximately \$7,000.00 and neither one of the vehicles is worth putting that much money into them. Charlton said he does need 4 wheel drive vehicles and he has been diligent in finding replacements. Charlton presented quotes for comparable models from Chevrolet \$24,000.00, Ford \$27,000.00, and Dodge \$21,717.00. Charlton recommended purchasing (2) of the Dodge/Jeep Patriots. Commissioner Smith is in agreement with the need for two replacement vehicles and advised that the commissioners would likely put the (2) old Explorers up for auction. Jim Getz recommended the council approve the request due to the condition of the Explorers. Linda Hansen made a motion to appropriate \$50,000.00 for the purchase. Jim Getz seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Cumulative Capital Development Fund: \$50,000.00 1138-000-4000.29 Vehicles

Deb Lewis, WIC Director, came before Council today to ask for approval of her Fiscal Year 2016 WIC Grant in the amount of \$199,900.02. The grant period begins October 1, 2015 and ends September 30, 2016. Ruth Beer moved to approve the grant and allow Richard Shipe to sign the application request form. Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Brett Hays, Community Corrections Director, came before Council today to ask for approval to appropriate \$462,220.00. Hays stated that the grant is a (15) fifteen month grant and the funds are being used for domestic violence victims and the Safe Exchange For Families Program run through CAVA. Community Corrections is acting as the pass-through agency. Jim Getz moved to approve the appropriation. Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

TANF Community Corrections Fund: \$462,220.00 to: 9180-000-3000.01 Professional Contracts

Brett Hays, Community Corrections Director, and Pam Feller, Chief Probation Officer presented a grant application for a state funded IDOC Grant. The grant is to be used for Community Corrections/Probation Departments. This year the State of Indiana opened up the Community Corrections grant funds and added \$5 Mil dollars to be used for Probation Officers. LaGrange and Steuben Counties are applying jointly for the funds. The plan for Steuben is to have (2) Community Correction/Probation Officers. These positions would be classified as probation officers sharing the court referral duties on Monday's and Fridays. They would assist with Community Corrections in that area, they would facilitate CBT Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Groups, assist in grant writing, handle PSI overflow and staffing PSI before they are submitted to the court. These two employees would also provide surveillance groups for community corrections and Probation Departments. The addition of these two officers will enable the Probation department to dedicate an existing Probation Officer to specialize their caseload serving those with substance abuse and mental health disorders. Special preference will be given to programs that prioritize those caseloads of the division of those caseloads which will increase the availability of the CBT Groups. In addition, Community Corrections will be asking for eight (8) new personnel with some working in LaGrange and some in Steuben. Linda Hansen asked for clarification on what county health plans these employees will be covered under. Hays explained that the case managers working in LaGrange County will be paid by LaGrange and covered under their insurance policy and likewise for Steuben County. Linda Hansen made the motion to approve the Advisory Council IDOC grant application authorizing Richard Shipe to sign. Ruth Beer seconded. Further discussion: Dan Caruso stated that he would like to know the actual exposure the county insurance will see. Caruso is concerned with not knowing the actual number being placed on the county health insurance plan. Caruso said the Council has said no to other similar requests even though it was grant funded. Linda Hansen stated that

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the uniqueness here is that this is the way the State is going to do business with us from now on. Pam Feller stated that the bottom line now is we are getting the offenders it's just whether we are going to get any money to help us supervise it and this is our only option to receive the funds we need to run the programs being forced on us by the State DOC. With no further discussion, President Richard Shipe called for a vote and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Kayleen Hart, Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District, was present to update County Council on recent developments. Hart announced that the SCSWCD has secured a \$60,000.00 LARE Grant for the Fawn River Watershed. The Conservation District will be holding a Field Day on August 19, 2015 and they will have a few nationally recognized speakers in attendance. Also, September 8th is the 30th Youth Conservation Field Day for the 4th graders and September 22nd is the beginning of the 4th Lake Life Class which is a six (6) week class put on by the Steuben County Lakes Council and the Conservation District. Kayleen Hart advised the council that she will be leaving the Conservation District with her last day being August 24, 2015. Hart said she has accepted a job with the US Farm Service Agency. Kayleen introduced her replacement, Janelle Myers.

Jeremy Musser, Prosecuting Attorney, came before Council to request approval for his ICJI 16.575 VOCA Grant application. Ken Shelton moved to approve the grant and authorized Richard Shipe to sign the application form. Jim Getz seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Commissioner Ronald Smith presented Council with a proposed resolution. Commissioner Smith stated that the Board is interested in purchasing the house located at 314 S Washington Street, Angola, IN. Smith stated that this is the last home remaining on that block that the County doesn't own. Linda Hansen asked where we will get the funds to purchase the property. Auditor Koomler stated that has yet to be determined. Richard Shipe stated that this is merely a nod from Council stating our interest in purchasing. Auditor Koomler explained the process to Council with this being the first step. If passed today, the Commissioners will hire an appraisal done on the property. Once the value is determined, and if the Commissioners are still interested, they will return to Council with their request for funding. Dan Caruso made the motion to approve Resolution Number 08-2015-02.

RESOLUTION NUMBER 08-2015-02

***A RESOLUTION INDICATING AN
INTEREST TO PURCHASE SPECIFIC
REAL PROPERTY***

COMES NOW the Steuben County Council pursuant to Indiana Code §36-1-10.5-5(1) and states that it is interested in making a purchase of the following described real estate in Steuben County, Indiana:

BEING A PART OF LOT NUMBERED TWENTY-TWO (22) IN HENDRY S ADDITION TO THE VILLAGE OF ANGOLA, INDIANA, ACCORDING TO THE RECORDED PLAT THEREOF, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS:

COMMENCING AT AN IRON PIN SET AT THE SOUTHEAST CORNER OF LOT 22; THENCE WEST ALONG THE SOUTH LINE OF LOT 22 TO AN IRON PIN SET ON THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE NORTH ALONG THE WEST LINE OF LOT 22 TO AN IRON PIN FOUND AT THE NORTHWEST CORNER OF SAID LOT; THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 06 SECONDS EAST 131.9 FEET TO AN IRON PIN SET 60 FEET NORTH OF THE POINT OF BEGINNING; THENCE SOUTH ALONG THE EAST LINE OF SAID LOT A DISTANCE OF 60 FEET BACK TO THE TRUE POINT OF BEGINNING.

Commonly known as 314 South Washington Street, Angola, Indiana 46703. Parcel #76-06-26-420-811.000-012.

DATED this 11th day of August, 2015.

STEUBEN COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Shipe, President

Ruth Beer, Vice

Jim Getz

Linda Hansen

Attest: Kim Koomler, County Auditor

Dan Caruso

Wil Howard

Ken Shelton

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Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director, came before Council to request an additional \$25,000.00 from the Statewide 911 Fund for overtime. LeTourneau explained that he is still experiencing a high turnover of staff and he has been using overtime to fill in the gaps. LeTourneau is in the process of hiring and training staff. Linda Hansen asked the Auditor if there have pulled any of the money on the salary line into overtime yet. Auditor Koomler stated she would have to have payroll do a calculation to see how much will be available in the line. Hansen stated that due to the 76 hour schedule of these employees, a portion (4 hours) of their regular work week is considered overtime and is paid from the overtime line item. This is where we can pull the needed funds from and hopefully still have a cushion left for emergencies. Koomler said she will have Melissa Shepherd calculate the remaining payrolls to determine availability and communicate the information back to Council. Koomler will transfer funds instead of having to request additional appropriations. Linda Hansen made the motion that subject to calculation results transfer \$25,000.00 from the Telecommunication Tech line item into the overtime line item.

Statewide 911 Wireless \$25,000.00
From: 1222-000-1000.01 Telecom Tech To: 1222-000-1000.40 Overtime

Jen Sharkey, County Engineer, was present to request an additional \$200,000.00 from the Major Moves fund for road repair. Sharkey updated Council on the extent of County road repair they have accomplished this summer. Sharkey stated that by her calculations the current recovery rate of 40% and by the end of this year once all projects are completed we should be closer to 80% rate. Ruth Beer made a motion to approve the additional \$200,000.00. Linda Hansen seconded. Further Discussion: Dan Caruso said we bought into this program all along and this was expected. Let's continue forward with the plan. Wil Howard asked for clarification on the total amount of funds have been requested and allowed this year. Sharkey said they originally asked for \$900,000.00 and received \$700,000.00. Now they are coming back for the remaining \$200,000.00 to complete the planned roadwork. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Additional Appropriation Major Moves Fund \$200,000.00 1172-000-3000.01 Road Rpr.

Ruth Beer said she wants to have more discussions regarding the wheel tax. Our Highway Department has proven that with the additional funds, they are capable of accomplishing a much higher recovery rate.

Jen Sharkey, County Engineer, requested a transfer of \$800.00 from part time clerk into the office supply line item. Dan Caruso moved to approve the transfer, Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carries with seven (7) ayes.

\$800.00 From: 1176-530-1000.41 Pt Time Clerk
To: 1176-530-2000.10 Office Records & Supplies

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, requested a transfer of \$1,000.00 from Overtime to DOT Physicals. Heller stated that the funds are needed due to turnover. Ken Shelton moved to approve the transfer. Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

\$1,000.00 From: 1176-533-1000.40 Overtime
To: 1176-533-1000.24 DOT

Deb Lewis, WIC Director, submitted the following transfer requests. Ruth Beer moved to approve all transfers, Wil Howard seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

\$25.00 From: 8209-000-2000.31 Breastfeeding Supplies
To: 8209-000-3000.15 Travel
\$555.00 From: 8209-000-2000.20 Medical Supplies
To: 8209-000-3000.12 Travel
\$200.00 From: 8209-000-2000.30 Nutrition Supplies
To: 8209-000-1000.03 Nutritionist
\$555.00 From: 8209-000-2000.20 Medical Supplies
To: 8209-000-1000.03 Nutritionist
\$345.00 From: 8209-000-2000.31 Breastfeeding Supplies
To: 8209-000-1000.03 Nutritionist
\$2,420.00 From: 8209-000-2000.31 Breastfeeding Supplies
To: 8209-000-1000.01 Coordinator

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Auditor Koomler and Treasurer Stoy submitted their monthly report for council approval. Linda Hansen moved to approve the report. Dan Caruso seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Auditor Koomler updated Council on a conference call that was held with Dan Caruso and Wil Howard, Jeff Peters and Nichole Franklin of Peter's Financial Consultants. Koomler stated that the gist of their conversation was with regard to the future budget plan for the county. Koomler said if the council continues budgeting wage increases in the same manner that we did for the 2015 budget for 2016, and 2017 by 2018 we would start using into our reserves. Dan Caruso stated that he felt it was very helpful to have that conversation in order to better understand the Consultants statements. Caruso interpreted the consultant to say that the county would use up most of our reserves. Wil Howard agreed that the meeting was very informative.

Minutes from the July Council meeting were approved with a motion from Dan Caruso. Jim Getz seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Dan Caruso brought information to county council members regarding Local Option Gas Tax. Caruso said he and Wil Howard have been gathering information and speaking with our local representatives Sue Glick and Dennis Zent about the tax. Both State representatives feel that there is enough political motivation to bring forward this idea to the state legislators again for consideration. INDOT sent a formal challenge to the Governor's office requesting formation of a new long-term funding plan. The Governor's officers sent it to the legislators and said give this to your communities to get their input. Therefore, Caruso stated the timing is really good for us to be investigating whether this is a good option or not. Caruso said he and Wil Howard have scheduled a meeting to give a presentation to the folks from INDOT. Zent and Glick are interested in seeing a proposal from Caruso and Howard that can be presented to legislators during the fall legislative session in order to be ready to propose in 2016 Committee meetings. The local option gas tax is an obvious no brainer versus the LOHUT which is a 100% burden on the local tax payers. The gist of the Local Option Gas Tax is for almost no annual cost to our local taxpayers. The revenues of roughly 80% would be generated from those who use our roads but don't contribute to the local tax base. Caruso stated that he doesn't have hard numbers because the State Auditor's Office hasn't been forthcoming with the information. Howard said Steuben is not just a donor county with our fuel taxes but a donor county with all of our taxes. Caruso said he feels Steuben County is unique in that we get transient traffic, lake traffic, and rural farm equipment traffic and the number one road abuse is from truck traffic being dumped in Steuben from the Ohio Toll Road exit just east of the Indiana line onto Hwy 20. Our industrial parks aren't connected to our interstates so the trucks have to travel through town. Jim Getz said he would also like to see the data from the diesel fuel sold in our county.

Correspondence Received:
Coroner's Monthly Report – June 2015 & July 2015
Highway Engineer Report August 3, 2015
Steuben County Clerk – Certification and request by Fremont Schools for approval of a Local Public Question on the ballot
2016 Budget Binders were distributed

There being no further business, Dan Caruso moved to adjourn, Linda Hansen seconded.

Steuben County Council

Richard Shipe

Ruth Beer

Jim Getz

Dan Caruso

Wil Howard

Ken Shelton

Linda Hansen

Attest: _____
Steuben County Auditor