

Steuben County Council  
Minutes of the February 10, 2015 Meeting

The Steuben County Council met in special session on Tuesday February 10, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Steuben County Community Center Building, 317 S Wayne Street, Suite 2 H, Angola, IN. Those present were President Richard Shipe, Dan Caruso, Ken Shelton, Wil Howard and Vice President Ruth Beer. Auditor Kim Koomler and Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Hickey were present. Absent this day were Linda Hansen and James Getz.

President Richard Shipe called the meeting to order.

Steve Mumby, Humane Society, came before the council to request an appropriation from the County Option Dog Tax Fund in the amount of \$3,900.00 to be appropriated to line item #1129-000-3000.01 Misc. Disbursements. Mumby explained the need for the funds was to pay for the cost of purchasing a new furnace at the Humane Shelter. Mumby stated that the old furnace had a cracked exchanger. Dan Caruso made the motion to approve the appropriation. Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with five (5) ayes.

Ken Shelton requested the opportunity to speak to council on a related matter. Shelton stated that he attended the February 2<sup>nd</sup> Commissioners Meeting and at that time Steuben County Commissioners chose not to recommend any additional funding for the Humane Shelter. Shelton stated that he is concerned that given the information Mr. Mumby has passed on to the Council that the expenses are going to continue and the shelter is going to be in a position that they won't be able to continue to provide the service. Shelton said he doesn't see how the Sheriff's Department will have the time or manpower to take on this task. Richard Shipe said that Mr. Smith was being kind to the council knowing that we have already set our budget for the year, by deciding not to bring that request to the council. Shipe stated that he believes the intention was to bring it back to the council during the 2016 budget hearings. Shelton stated that it is the job of the county council to make that decision and we should be given the opportunity to do so. The county commissioners choosing not to address the request at this time could ultimately cost us even more down the road. Shelton asked if it would be appropriate to respectfully request that the commissioners take another look at that. Richard Shipe recommended that Ken Shelton petition the commissioners to reconsider their decision. Councilman Shelton agreed to take it to the next Commissioner meeting for further discussion. Mr. Steve Mumby asked for clarification on what Ken Shelton is planning to submit to the Commissioners. Ken Shelton stated that he will be taking this issue back to the commissioners requesting they reconsider their decision not to approve the additional appropriation request and pass it on to the county council for funding approval. Dan Caruso asked what funds are currently available to the shelter at this time. Shipe explained that there is an annual contractual agreement between the commissioners and the shelter for \$18,000.00 paid in two installments of \$9,000.00. The 2015 contract has not been fully executed by the Humane Society. The Humane Society has declined the 2015 contractual agreement in lieu of approval for their request for additional funding from the county. Caruso asked if the Mr. Mumby has made any progress on providing the council with operating budget Performance on the potential new building. Mumby stated that the board hasn't met with the architect and doesn't have any way to calculate projected budget for the new proposed building at this time. Caruso asked Mumby to explain how the humane shelter will determine the share of cost breakdown based on activity in all of the other taxing units throughout the county. Mumby explained that the shelter determines the breakdown by obtaining a person's place of residence and base the funding requests on county and city ratios.

Hugh Taylor, Supplemental Public Defender additional appropriation request for \$3,000.00 to fund PD Nordmann's attorney fees line item number 1200-000-3000.01. Ken Shelton made the motion to approve however the motion died for lack of a second. Further discussion: Ken Shelton said he spoke to Mr. Taylor about his request and it is for 2015 funding for additional compensation for PD Nordmann. Wil Howard asked about the requirements and stipulations of the public defender position. Howard wants more information regarding limitations in terms of the number of hours they can work and the number of cases they are allowed to have at one time. Howard stated he also wants to have more information on the reason for the request before making a decision. Council members agreed that they want to have Mr. Taylor provide a more detailed explanation for his request at their March council meeting.

Pam Feller, Chief Probation Officer, was present to explain her request for appropriation of Adult Probation User Fee Fund money. Feller said that last year there was a mix-up in ordering and billing for drug testing supplies and they were paid from the wrong account. The claims are sent to the judges for approval and by the time she discovered the error, the money had already rolled back into the fund balance at year-end and was no longer available for disbursement without an appropriation line item. Ruth Beer made the motion to approve, Dan Caruso seconded and the motion carried with five (5) ayes.

User Fee Fund, Request for Additional

Appropriate: \$ 934.00 to: 2517-000-3000.04 Drug testing/DFS Grant

Kristy Clawson, EMA Director and Gary LeTourneau, E-911 Communications Director, submitted request for additional appropriations into the Public Safety LOIT Fund for the purpose of budget bookkeeping. The Auditor explained that during the 2015 budget hearings both departments county general budgets were cut back by the county council and at that time council decided to move the appropriations to the Public Safety LOIT Budget. In order to complete this process and ensure the funds are available, the appropriations are being submitted for approval at this time. Ruth Beer made a motion to approve the amounts and the specific line item numbers as shown below. Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with (5) five ayes.

|              |     |  |
|--------------|-----|--|
| \$ 500.00    | to: | 1170-080-3000.80 EMA Public Awareness      |
| \$ 1,500.00  | to: | 1170-080-4000.05 EMA Computer/Equip        |
| \$ 3,200.00  | to: | 1170-080-4000.06 EMA Equipment             |
| \$ 32,628.00 | to: | 1170-303-3000.55 E-911 Service Agreement   |
| \$ 20,000.00 | to: | 1170-303-3000.61 E-911 Tower Rental        |
| \$ 25,000.00 | to: | 1170-303-3000.___ E-911 Radio Repair(new#) |

Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer came before the County Council to request transfer of funds in the county Highway MVH Fund from road repair to construction projects. We would like to use \$50,000.00 from the funds we are saving on the lower gas rates and apply it to road repair(specifically for the Maple Street Project). Also transfer funds within the Major Moves fund for the Orland Maple Street Project increased costs. Sharkey stated that due to INDOT involvement in this project, the design standards are higher resulting in a total project cost increase. Dan Caruso made a motion to approve the requests for transfer as shown below. Ruth Beer seconded and the motion carried with five (5) ayes.

|             |       |   |
|-------------|-------|---|
| \$50,000.00 | from: | 1176-533-2000.20 Gas-Fuel-Lube                                |
|             | to:   | 1176-533-3000.70 Road Repair                                  |
| \$50,000.00 | from: | 1172-000-3000.01 Road Repair/Const/Equip/Hwy                  |
|             | to:   | 1172-008-4000.01 Construction/Highway Maple Street Project    |
| \$1,440.00  | from: | 1172-008-3000.01 Professional Service & Design                |
|             | to:   | 1172-101-3000.01 Co Park Improvement Proj. (claim correction) |

Engineer Sharkey also discussed the CR 200 N/SR 827 road widening construction project which will run from the city limits on 200 N running East to just East of the intersection of State Road 827. Sharkey advised the council that she will be submitting three (3) additional appropriation requests for their consideration in March. The county was awarded federal grant funds to be used for that project. This is considered a Federal Reimbursable Grant with the State funding eighty percent (80%) and the local match being twenty percent (20 %). The City of Angola and Steuben County have entered into an agreement where we will split the twenty percent(20%) portion of the cost in half (1/2) each paying ten percent(10%).

Ed Nagle, Weights & Measures submitted the following request for transfer of funds for the purpose of purchasing a new Prover at a cost of \$699.25. Dan Caruso made a motion to approve the transfers, Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carried with five (5) ayes.

|           |          |       |  |
|-----------|----------|-------|--|
| Transfer: | \$200.00 | from: | 1000-308-2000.10 Office/Operating Supplies |
|           |          | to:   | 1000-308-4000.15 Mach/Equip/Repair/Remodel |
| Transfer: | \$100.00 | from: | 1000-308-3000.52 Vehicle Maint/Repair      |
|           |          | to:   | 1000-308-4000.15 Mach/Equip/Repair/Remodel |

Dan Caruso moved to approve the Treasurer/Auditor monthly report, Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with five (5) ayes.

Ruth Beer made a motion to approve the minutes of the January County Council Meeting. Dan Caruso seconded. The motion carried with five (5) ayes.

Kayleen Hart and Zachary Martin from the Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District came before the county council to update them on their 2015 Soil & Water District Projects Plan. Hart stated that the district has received the RCPP Grant which stands for the Regional Conservation Partnership Project Grant and also a three (3) year continued funding mechanism for the conservation cropping Systems Initiative to the ISDA. Zach Miller highlighted many of the achievements the Soil & Water Conservation District has had in recent years. Dan Caruso thanked Ms. Hart and Mr. Miller and complimented the Soil & Water Conservation District for their annual report which was extremely well done and their effectiveness in utilizing these grants and the benefits Steuben County receives is phenomenal.

Gary LeTourneau came before county council to provide information regarding the overtime status of his department and advising council that he will be coming to their March meeting with a request for

additional appropriations to cover expected and projected overtime costs. LeTourneau also gave an update report the Harris Radio System. LeTourneau stated that he is working on a needs assessment of the existing Harris system and whether it can be upgraded and improved or whether it will need to be replaced with something more inner operable. We have been addressing radios that had antenna, battery issues and overall mechanical as needed. User groups have not met recently as they are waiting for Letourneau to complete the information gathering process. Overall the system is more solid that it has been of recent months/years. There is really nothing we can do with the current system to boost reception issues that we have. That is being addressed as a future project.

Dan Caruso asked the council members to continue to move forward with discussions and information gathering for a county Human Resource position. Caruso feels that the position is a necessity to protect county government from a financial perspective by saving the county money from a liability standpoint.

Council President Richard Shipe introduced Mr. Richard Domonkos, LTAP. Domonkos was asked to come before the County Council to give a presentation on LOHUT Local Option Highway User Tax. Also present were City Officials from Angola, Orland, Hamilton, Hudson, Fremont, Clear Lake Town and Trine University. Mr. Domonkos is a Training Specialist with the Indiana LTAP through Purdue University. President Shipe asked all City Officials to if they were in favor of moving ahead with the passage of the LOHUT Tax. Those county and city officials in attendance today are Deb Twitchell, Bill Boyer, Dick Hickman, City of Angola, Brent Sholl, Hamilton, Chris Snyder, Fremont Town, Jennifer Sharkey, County Engineer, Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent, Ron Smith, Commissioner, Rhonda Engle, Town of Orland, Kay Kummer, Clear Lake and Marlene Smith, Town of Hudson.

Richard Shipe stated that Jennifer Sharkey has created a comprehensive plan for road maintenance and upkeep. The plan is to bring the roads back to the standard that we can improve and maintain our roads. The county is deficient funding right now to maintain our roads. The monies we will receive from this tax will go directly toward our county roads. Richard Domonkos said this is exactly what LTAP has been working to implement for the last five (5) years. Purdue/LTAP is looking at how the state, counties and cities maintain their roads and what investment can we put into roads in their first five (5) years to help them last longer. The result of that study is crack-sealing, is the least amount of investment for the greatest return. Mike Marturello asked council when they anticipate taking action on LOHUT. Richard Shipe stated that is still up for discussion. We have received mostly positive comments from everyone today and would like to have full membership of the county council before we decide whether we will move ahead with this tax or not. If we do move forward we should get it done before the July 1 deadline so we can begin collecting in January 2016. Richard Shipe asked each town represented today to help spread the word and your support for LOHUT. Everyone will benefit from the tax and we should all be involved in the decision making process. Richard Shipe asked to see a show of hands of those who are in favor. Shipe would also like to see if anyone has an alternative for this tax. Our roads are failing and this is our only option right now for collecting money that will be dedicated to just our roads and nothing else.

County Council is responsible for passage of the Ordinances needed to implement the tax.

Correspondence received: Eddy Awards Banquet Invitation, EMS 2015 year-end report, 2015 Capital Improvement Plan, Steuben County Humane Society letter, Indiana Historical Society, SC Soil & Water Conservation District December minutes, Thank you note from F. Mayo Sanders.

Ruth Beer moved to adjourn.

Steuben County Council

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Richard Shipe

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Jim Getz

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Dan Caruso

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Wil Howard

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Ken Shelton

\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Hansen

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Ruth Beer

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kim Koomler, Auditor

