

Steuben County Council
October 13, 2015
Meeting Minutes

The Steuben County Council met in special session on Tuesday, October 13, 2015 at 9:00 AM. The meeting was held in the Steuben Community Center Building, 317 S Wayne Street, Suite 2H, Angola, IN 46703. Present this day were, Richard Shipe, President, Jim Getz, Dan Caruso, Wil Howard, Ken Shelton, Linda Hansen and Ruth Beer, Vice President. Auditor Kim Koomler and Deputy Lori Hickey were present to record the meeting.

Richard Shipe introduced Mr. Jeff Peters of Peters Consulting to discuss financing options for the proposed Motorola radio project. Shipe asked if any of the county council members were in disagreement with the proposed project moving forward. There were no concerns or objections with moving ahead.

Ruth Beer asked Gary LeTourneau to give council clarification on the total project amount. Beer stated that she understood it to be \$9.4 million did not include the 10% contingency, while others understood that the contingency was built in to the \$9.4 million. LeTourneau stated that the \$9.4 million was with options and the 10% contingency is over and above bringing the total project to \$10,296,710 million.

Dan Caruso asked if the 10% contingency could be separated out of the bond and paid from another fund if it is needed at some point in the future. Councilwoman Hansen said that it could be part of the \$3.0 million that we have committed to the project from Major Moves funding. Caruso doesn't want the tax payers to pay long-term debt interest on a contingency and agreed that Major Moves or another fund would be a better plan.

Jeff Peters has calculated a total bond issue in the range of \$6.8 million. Total interest \$590,000.00 estimated payments of approximately \$1,058,000 per year with a tax rate of \$0.0325 cents with a tax impact of \$14.05 and a tax impact of \$8.11 per year/per taxpayer after the expiring debt goes away. Caruso asked Peters how comfortable he is with that debt position knowing that there may be other long-term projects coming. Peters said it depends on the type and cost of the long-term project. Peters stated if the county is enlarging an existing building or constructing a building then he would have no problem with the county utilizing more of their \$20.0 million dollars bond capacity.

Jim Getz asked Brian Reilly, Motorola Representative to clarify the terms of the lease agreement Motorola has proposed to the County. Reilly said Motorola will agree to a 9 month zero % interest with zero down lease agreement. Reilly stated that this is being offered by Motorola as bridge financing to get project moving ahead and carry the County over until they can get their bond funding in place. Robert Rummell, Motorola, added that the county would not have to make any payments to Motorola and would accumulate no interest for the first 9 months. Reilly also stated that there are protections for the county that are built into this agreement. The lease agreement has an "out clause" and several other layers of protection. Jeff Peters asked what the circumstances would be to the county if the bond issue fails. Reilly said the term of the lease agreement could be renegotiated at that point.

In review, Richard Shipe said if the Commissioners take \$3.0 million from Major Moves the county council is looking at roughly \$6.5 million obligation depending upon the bond terms. Jeff Peters told council that the lease rental financing would not count against the GO Bond capacity. Linda Hansen said taking the courthouse project into consideration, she would prefer to go with the GO Bond rather than a lease rental.

Richard Shipe asked Peters to explain the reasoning for selecting the GO Bond process over the Lease Rental. Jeff Peters stated that the number one reason to select lease rental is if you think you are going to bump up against that bond cap. If you are all in consensus that you won't be close to that \$20 million cap then I recommend you select a General Obligation Bond. The county has a low debt and a low tax rate for the taxpayers. Steuben County received a bond rating of investment premium grade and that was several years ago prior to accumulating the cash balances you have today. With that being said, I would anticipate you will get an even higher bond rating which will create more activity and bidders to purchase your bonds. Jeff Peters stated that if council authorizes the go ahead today, he will contact bond counsel, Kirk Grable to start developing the timeline and necessary documents.

Linda Hansen made a motion to approve a GO Bond for an amount not to exceed \$6.82 million and a term not to exceed 10 years. Jim Getz seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director, submitted request for an additional appropriation to cover employee overtime through the remainder of 2015. LeTourneau said he is fully staffed and anticipates all staff should be fully trained by the end of the year. Dan moved to approve the additional, Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

State-wide 911 Fund 1222-000-1000.40 Overtime \$20,000.00

October 13, 2015 Continued

Shelly Herbert came before council to request approval for the following additional appropriations. The funds are needed to cover city election costs for the November 3rd general election. Herbert advised council that the funds will be reimbursed by the cities, towns, and schools once she invoices them. Linda Hansen moved to approve. Ruth Beer seconded. With no further discussion the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Clerk's Election Board

1000-062-1000.01 Board Members	\$1,500.00
1000-062-1000.03 Absentee Voter Bd	\$1,500.00
1000-062-2000.35 Voting Machines	\$ 200.00
1000-062-3000.03 Program Election Cards	\$5,000.00
1000-062-3000.83 Election Seminar	\$ 500.00

Emmett Heller, Highway Superintendent came to council to request an additional appropriation to cover a budget shortfall. Heller explained that the reason for the request is due to the large number of road projects his department handled this year but the gas and fuel line item was not increased accordingly. Ruth Beer made a motion to approve the request. Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

MVH Fund	1176-533-2000.20 Gas Fuel & Lube	\$40,000.00
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Jennifer Sharkey, Highway Engineer came before council to request an additional appropriation to purchase a larger vehicle that would better fit her needs. Sharkey stated that the 2012 Jeep Patriot is a good vehicle but not enough cargo room for survey equipment, shovels, full-size plans, and other pertinent engineering & highway equipment. The new vehicle is a 2016 Dodge Durango estimated cost of \$29,000.00. Sharkey is requesting \$16,000.00 which is the cost less trade-in of \$13,000.00 for the Jeep Patriot. Ken Shelton moved to approve. Linda Hansen seconded and the motion carried with six (6) ayes and one (1) nay, Dan Caruso.

MVH Fund	1176-533-4000.15 Vehicle	\$16,000.00
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Jeremy Musser submitted a request for an additional appropriation to pay for part-time help in the Pre-trial Diversion Fund. Dan Caruso moved to approve the additional. Ken Shelton seconded and with no further discussion the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Pre-Trial Diversion	2511-000-1000.41 Pt Time Employee	\$ 2,000.00
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Brett Hays, Community Corrections Director, submitted a request to approve an additional appropriation to pay for a new generator. Hays said the generator will serve as a back-up power system for the Work Release facility as well as Community Corrections. If power is lost to the building there is no heat, no computers, and no phone service. County Commissioners accepted the quote from Manahan Construction for the generator in the amount of \$19,685.00. Council questioned the reason commissioners are requesting the funds from the CEDIT Fund and not from the CCD Fund. Linda Hansen said she would like to discuss this with the Commissioners to see what their reasoning is for the decision. Hansen said this expenditure is a capital outlay and should be made from our CCD Fund. Hansen suggested that the council take no action with regard to this request and ask Mr. Hays to return to the Commissioners for consideration of another fund. Council is not interested in paying for the generator from CEDIT Funds.

Brett Hayes submitted a request for an additional appropriation to repair the leaky roof over the Community Corrections lobby area. Jim Getz said he is in favor of approving the roof at this time. Getz made a motion to allow the additional \$9,100.00 to pay for the roof repair. Linda Hansen seconded. There being no further discussion, the motion carried with four (4) ayes and three (3) nays.

1112-000-3000.38	Community Correction Repairs	\$9,100.00
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Kristy Clawson submitted a request of additional funds from CEDIT County Economic Development Income Tax to pay for repairs to the EMA Tornado Siren. Dan Caruso moved to approve the additional. Jim Getz seconded. With no further discussion, the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

1112-000-3000.00	EMA Tornado Siren Repair	\$1,017.00
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Hugh Taylor, Public Defender, submitted a request to transfer funds from Investigator to Postage line items. The postage line item almost depleted and there are bills to pay for postage. Ruth Beer moved to approve the transfer. Ken Shelton seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

\$500.00	from: 1000-271-1000.30 Investigator
	to: 1000-271-3000.13 Postage

October 13, 2015 Continued

Brett Hays, Community Corrections Director, submitted requests to transfer funds to zero out line items in his 2015 grant budget. Dan Caruso moved to approve the transfers, Jim Getz seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

\$1.45	from: 9116-000-1000.11 Case Mgr D
	To: 9116-000-1000.07 Confinement Officer B
\$1.45	from: 9116-000-1000.11 Case Mgr D
	To: 9116-000-1000.06 Confinement Officer A
\$ 0.30	from: 9116-000-1000.11 Case Mgr D
	To: 9116-000-1000.05 Case Mgr C
\$ 0.30	from: 9116-000-1000.11 Case Mgr D
	To: 9116-000-1000.02 Case Mgr B

Vicky Meek, Emergency Medical Service Director submitted a request to transfer funds from the paramedic line item to the EMT personnel line item to correct a mistake in bookkeeping. Dan Caruso moved to approve, Wil Howard seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

\$1,078.44	from: 1000-301-1000.09 Paramedic
	To: 1000-301-1000.02 EMT Personnel

Jennifer Sharkey updated the County Council in the Orland Maple Street Project the Bike Trail Project, the 200 N 200 W intersection stoplight and the 200 North Road widening projects.

Linda Hansen moved to approve the Auditor/Treasurer monthly comparison report dated September 30, 2015. Dan Caruso seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Auditor Koomler gave a draft copy of the 2016 County Council Schedule for their review.

Council members reviewed the upcoming bond issue process and timeline. Council discussed the possibility of calling a meeting on Monday, November 2nd at 8:00 AM. Auditor Koomler stated that the county has strict guidelines and legal requirements for public hearing notifications. Koomler stated that she would work with Kirk Grable and Jeff Peters to see if this date would fit into the schedule.

No further business was discussed and the meeting was adjourned.

Steuben County Council

Richard Shipe, President	Jim Getz
Dan Caruso	Wil Howard
Ken Shelton	Linda Hansen
Ruth Beer, Vice President	Auditor Kim Koomler