

Steuben County Council  
September 9, 2015  
2016 Budget Adoption Meeting  
8:00 AM

The Steuben County Council met for their regular meeting to adopt the 2016 County Budget. Present this day were Richard Shipe, Jim Getz, Dan Caruso, Wil Howard, Ken Shelton, Linda Hansen, and Ruth Beer. Also present, Kim Koomler, Auditor and Lori Hickey Deputy Auditor.

Kim Koomler presented the council with final budget numbers for their review and adoption.

County Council continued their discussion regarding county employee wages for a few select employees. Jim Getz brought forth a request. Getz stated that he had a meeting with Ms. Tami Sumney about her pay request for 2016. Sumney feels her level of responsibility, workload and for and the money that she has saved the county justifies the 3% pay raise she is asking for. Richard Shipe made an argument for this at a prior meeting noting her longevity and diligence to provide cost savings to the county. Tami is a 23 year employee and is outside of the pay study so she doesn't receive longevity step increases. Linda Hansen asked where a 3% increase would put Tami. Calculating a 3% increase would come to \$1,650.00 total pay of \$56,650.00 not including the \$500.00 increase. All of our elected officials asked for 3% increase and didn't receive it. Getz stated that his final comment is based on Gary LeTourneau's response to his question regarding the implementation of the new Motorola radio system. Getz asked if implementation would put more work on our IT Department? LeTourneau said no it would not place any additional duties on the IT Department Director. However, that entire building is tied together and at some point I would believe it will affect the IT Department. Ken Shelton said he feels there is no question that they all deserve more money. Shelton said he is an advocate of giving as much as we can but where do we draw the line on the pay raises. Dan Caruso moved to give Tami Sumney, IT Director a \$250.00 increase from the EDIT funds. This would be on top of the \$500.00 pay increase we are giving to most other employees. Linda Hansen seconded. The motion carried with a vote of five (5) ayes and two (2) nays from Ken Shelton and Wil Howard. The breakdown on Sumney's 2016 salary will be as follows: EDIT \$14,500.00 and County General portion \$41,250.00 total pay will be \$55,750.00.

Rick Shipe suspended discussion on the budget adoption until after the county council finishes their other business for today.

Steuben County Council Public Hearing  
8:30 AM  
Non-Binding Review of Other Taxing Units

Richard Shipe opened the Public Hearing for Non-Binding Reviews of the other Taxing Units within Steuben County. Shipe read aloud the proposed budget, tax rate and levy for the following:

Angola Civil City  
Carnegie Public Library  
Clear Lake Civil Town  
Clear Lake Township  
Fremont Township  
Fremont Civil Town  
Fremont Community School Corporation  
Fremont Public Library  
Hamilton Civil Town  
Hamilton Community School Corporation  
Hudson Civil Town  
Jackson Township  
Jamestown Township  
MSD School Corporation  
Millgrove Township  
Orland Civil Town  
Otsego Township  
Pleasant Township  
Prairie Heights Community School Corporation  
Richland Township  
Salem Township  
Scott Township  
Steuben Township  
York Township

Steuben County Council reviewed the proposed budgets for 2016. The council has given the following non-binding recommendation to the Unit: The Steuben County Council strongly urges all units to stay within the guidelines of the County Annual Growth Quotient as an acceptable Maximum Levy Growth. Steuben County is a CAGIT County and an acceptable limit for the Maximum Levy has not been issued. Please review all Budget, Levy and Rates on the Review Worksheet to insure all funds have a Max Levy budgeted when submitting budgets to DLGF. Dan Caruso moved to approve. Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

There being no objections or comments from the public, Council President Richard Shipe closed the non-binding adoption public hearing.

Steuben County Council  
Special Meeting  
Wednesday, September 9, 2015  
8:45AM

Richard Shipe opened the Steuben County Council special meeting set for 8:45 AM on Wednesday, September 9, 2015. With all members in attendance, Shipe called the meeting to order.

Richard Shipe introduced Mr. Jeff Schnabel, from RES Poly Flow. Mr. Schnabel came before council today to inform the county council about his company's interest in locating their first commercial plant in Steuben County at the I-69 interchange in Ashley, Indiana. Schnabel explained that RES Poly Flow has a new technology that converts plastic waste materials into transportation fuel. RES Poly Flow is requesting a loan in the amount of \$500,000.00 from the county. Schnabel stated that the new plant will bring many opportunities to the community. The first plant brings 58 jobs to Ashley, Indiana. RES Poly Flow plans to increase the volume of production at the Ashley location by bringing in liquids produced by plants in surrounding states for the final phase of production into transportation fuel to ship to our customer base. We are currently developing contracts with our customers now. We would consume about 80 acres of ground and we would produce approximately 2.1 million barrels per year by the end of the 10-year growth plan time frame. The plant brings a broad range of jobs from material handling to chemical engineering positions so you have a broad skillset and a very good wage base of about \$2.6 million for the 58 jobs. Mr. Schnabel sees many new opportunities for other industrial development. This is plastic waste that is destined for the landfill, it's not recycled plastic. Recycled plastics are reused in other applications which is great, but it only represents 7% of the plastics that are produced. We take the remaining 93% of which fills 30% of our landfills and we provide a better use for it.

The project equipment is about \$90 million and the plant will operate 24/7 producing fuels. Dan Caruso asked what the estimated time to operation will be. Schnabel stated full operation will be approximately 18 months with a start-up at 12 months. Caruso asked what if there will be any concerns from IDEM regarding state and federal regulations. Schnabel stated that IDEM has already confirmed that RES Poly Flow is to be considered a manufacturer with a variance and not a land fill. This is the first variance of this type issued in the state by IDEM. Caruso asked what RES Poly Flow does with the intake side that doesn't qualify to be produced. Schnabel said we end up with cardboard which is sold to the fiber market, pulling bottles and cans out with very little trash coming back out of the plant. Our plastic suppliers will take it back because they are also waste companies. Richard Shipe asked if there will be any byproducts left. Schnabel said the waste will be very minimal. Initially, the plant will be powered by natural gas. Once the plant is fully operational, the plant will be powered solely by its own natural gas-like substance that will run the plant ongoing. This fuel burns as cleanly as natural gas with roughly the same BTU as natural gas.

Dan Caruso said his understanding is that the Commissioners are passing along a proposal to appropriate the \$500,000.00 from the Major Moves Fund structured similar to NE Indiana Railroad loan commitment. Linda Hansen said this is a great way to use our Major Moves money. Jim Getz agreed and stated that this plan falls within the footprint of the direction we want our industry to go in Steuben County. Getz said council should go along with the Commissioners recommendation and approve the funds. Getz suggested that RES Poly Flow should pursue other industries that will feed off of them and their investment, in turn putting a much larger investment back into Steuben County. Jay Schnabel said they have a lot of great introductions to the local folks and are very encouraged by the local support and excitement about having RES Poly Flow in Steuben County. Schnabel said they hope to make the Ashley plant their showplace. This is what we will be selling plants around the world from so we are excited about the opportunities. Dan Caruso moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$500,000.00 to Major Moves Fund for loan agreement with RES Poly Flow. Jim Getz seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Additional Appropriation	Major Moves Fund	1172-000-3000.06	ResPoly Flow Loan	\$500,000.00
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Gary LeTourneau, Communications Director came before the county council to present the E-911 Radio System proposal and make an official request for approval to move forward to the funding phase. LeTourneau provided a brief overview of the scope of the project. The goal of the project is to enhance interoperability for the cities, towns, county and state and increase our coverage county-wide. Proposals went out to three (3) different vendors where all were given specifications of the project. Proposals were closely scrutinized by a committee of city and county officials. Based on several factors, the committee recommended the bid be awarded to Motorola. The Commissioners accepted the proposal from Motorola. Mr. Brian Reilly, Area Sales Manager for Motorola was also present to answer any questions the council may have regarding the scope of the project. Dan Caruso asked if the Commissioners were planning to have the agreement document on to counsel for further review. Ron Smith said their attorney would be reviewing the document.

Caruso asked if the commissioners are going to ask for a deeper review by an attorney specializing in municipal telecommunication agreements such as Barnes and Thornburg. Ron Smith said the commissioners would ask for that to be done. Ron Smith asked to have an agreement of endorsement of the Motorola Radio System from all of the municipalities within Steuben County. In the past, when the county entered into the Harris Open Sky agreement, all municipalities said they were onboard. However as time went by, and problems became apparent those same municipalities quickly jumped ship. Smith wants all emergency responders and municipalities to endorse in writing that they are in favor of Motorola. Council members agreed that this is a good idea and asked Lynne Liechty to solicit all municipalities for their endorsement of the Motorola County-wide Radio System Project.

Mike Meek, Angola Fire Department Chief, stated that he supports the Motorola Emergency Radio System Project that is being proposed today. Meek stated that after performing city-wide testing, the new system functions very well even in places that are currently hard to reach. Meeks said his issue with the existing system is when Angola

Fire or Emergency Medical help neighboring counties the only way they can communicate with each other is by utilizing a few old radios that are still connected to the State's 800 radio system. In reality, when we go to neighboring counties, the incident commander has to listen to three different radios to know what is happening.

Sheriff Tim Troyer commented that interoperability is the key to this new system. With Michigan and Ohio operating on the same radio system as Indiana the transition will be seamless for our deputies and dispatchers. Until now we have had no way to communicate with each other once we get out of range and this system will fix those and other problem for all of the Emergency Services in Steuben County and surrounding counties and states. Sheriff Troyer believes this is the right system, with 90 of the 92 counties in Indiana already on it. The State Safety Network is the way Steuben County needs to go.

Ken Shelton thanked Gary LeTourneau and the radio system user group for all of their hard work they have put into this project. Shelton stated that the question was asked in the Commissioner meeting to Mayor Hickman if the City of Angola would participate in this project financially. We also have the school districts concerned about the financial impact to them if this project moves forward. Shelton thinks this could dramatically affect how we as a council will pay for this project.

Gary LeTourneau said right now all costs for all schools, county highway, cities, fire departments countywide are included in the total cost analysis. If the commissioners decide we need to approach these other entities we will have to have that discussion. Shelton asked if those entities would be receptive to that request and LeTourneau said he doubts they would be able to help with the funding. Their budgets are already set for next year. The commissioners are asking council for the full funding with no consideration being made to other funding sources. Shelton said the commissioners offered the possibility of major moves funds being used to offset the total amount we will be asking to bond.

Lynne Liechty reported that after researching our options for other vendors and meeting with other County Commissioners, Emergency Services and State and local municipal representatives it became very apparent that Motorola was the only company that could meet our unique needs. Motorola has 24/7 on-call maintenance agreement with almost immediate response times. Motorola also has the microwave system that can serve as a back-up system for the county during an emergency outage situation. The interoperability is one of the biggest issues we currently have. The radio signals are dropped or lost frequently and police, fire and emergency services are left to use their personal cell phones to maintain contact with each other and with dispatch. Liechty said this is unacceptable for the safety of our citizens and our emergency personnel. Councilman Getz stated that at the end of the day we as a council are on board with the project. We just need to work through the details on how to pay for the system.

Richard Shipe directed the discussion to the topic of project funding and or financing options. Shipe asked Mr. Reilly what options the county council has in that regard. Brian Reilly stated that Motorola has a loan option, however the county may want to consider a bond issue to get the lowest interest rate. Reilly stated that in order for the county to receive the discounted price, Motorola could offer some sort of "bridge financing" lease or loan agreement with little to no interest to allow the project to move forward before the end of 2015.

Council members discussed numerous funding scenarios and asked Motorola and Gary LeTourneau to work toward presenting numbers to them at a special meeting on Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2015.

Janel Meyer, Soil & Water Conservation District came before the County Council to request an additional appropriation into the county general budget to pay for part-time help. The County Auditor advised that the money comes from Clean Water Indiana grant fund match and according to State Board of Accounts we are required to pay wages from the general budget. The money has been received by the County Treasurer and needs to be placed on the line item. Linda Hansen moved to approve, Dan Caruso seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

SC Soil & Water Conservation:	1000-750-1000.41 Pt-time Help	500.00
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Bill Harter, Coroner submitted a request for an additional appropriation of funds to cover Laboratory and autopsy cost through the end of 2015. Ken Shelton moved to approve the request. Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Coroner:	1000-007-3000.03 Laboratory	2,500.00
	1000-007-3000.05 Autopsy	2,085.00

Nichole Upp came before council to request an additional appropriation of funds for the three (3) part-time employees in the Prosecutor's office. In the past, we have experienced high turnover which resulted in unspent appropriations at year end. This year we are at full staff in our part-time positions and we are in need of more funds to maintain a 28 hour work week for our current part-time help. Linda Hansen asked if any of the three employees are doing IV-D work. Nichole stated no. Upp said the work they are performing is scanning of existing and new files, electronic discovery, and the Fremont Town Court reorganization. In general, the prosecutor's office is tasked with more duties to be compliant with current Indiana Law. Hansen asked if there was a reason why they didn't distribute the funding between Pre-trial Diversion and County General fund more evenly. Upp stated that the new legal requirements are putting a heavier burden of the fund. The person that handles the Fremont Town Court is paid totally from Pre-Trial Funds. Linda Hansen moved to approve \$6,000.00 in Prosecuting Attorney General Fund and \$4,000.00 in Pre-Trial Diversion and have the Prosecuting Attorney come back to the next meeting to request the remaining \$2,000.00 from Pre-Trial Diversion fund. Jim Getz seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Prosecuting Atty.	1000-009-1000.41 Pt-time Help	6,000.00
Pre-Trial Div.	2511-000-1000.41 Pt-time Help	4,000.00



Vicki Meek, EMS Director, came before county council to request a transfer from paramedic salary to overtime line item. Meek stated that she has calculated her anticipated overtime through the end of 2015 she will definitely need the additional funds. Meek stated that she is preparing for the worst. Linda Hansen moved to approve. Ruth Beer seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer:	\$2,000.00	from:	1000-301-1000.02 EMT Personnel
		To:	1000-301-1000.40 Overtime
Transfer:	\$28,000.00	from:	1000-301-1000.09 Paramedics
		To:	1000-301-1000.40 Overtime

Commissioners submitted a request for a transfer of funds within the Drainage Board budget. Linda Hansen moved to approve the transfer. Jim Getz seconded. The motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer:	\$300.00	From:	1000-063-1000.01 Compensation
		To:	1000-063-2000.01 Office Supplies

Linda Hansen brought forth discussion regarding the proposed budget cut for the Drainage Board Per Diem and the fact that no raises are being given to the County Commissioners. Hansen reminded council that in the spirit of cooperation the council may want to reconsider the decision to drop the Drainage Board per diem from \$50.00 to \$35.00. Hansen stated that County Council is expecting the commissioners to be cooperative on the health insurance and she doesn't feel this is sending the right message to the Commissioners. Jim Getz stated that we, Council and Commissioners, have a lot of positive things going on right now. Getz made the motion to leave the per diem the same as it was prior which puts the per diem back to \$50.00. Linda Hansen seconded the motion. Further Discussion: Ruth Beer stated that she has a real problem with someone receiving a salary they shouldn't also be receiving a per diem on top of that. Beer said to keep things moving in a positive direction, she would support the decision. Dan Caruso commented that the county should consider a new policy to be in effect when a newly elected commissioner comes on board that would reduce the per diem amounts. With no further discussion, the motion passed with a vote of six (6) ayes and one (1) nay from Dan Caruso.

Board of Aviation submitted a requested the following transfers. Jim Getz moved to approve the transfers. Linda Hansen seconded. Jim Getz stated that with the coming changes to the Board of Aviation and the wheels are in motion. Dan Caruso said he would like the Board's explanation of the terminology for the reason of the request. Getz said in both cases, council would like to have more detailed information on to whom this money is being paid. Dan Caruso said in the future he would like to be given full disclosure of reason for the request. There being nothing further, the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer:	\$480.05	From:	1107-000-2000.31 Asphalt Crack Filler
		To:	1107-000-3000.53 Repair to Building & Structure
	\$340.00	From:	1107-000-2000.31 Asphalt Crack Filler
		To:	1107-000-3000.52 Repairs to Equipment

Ruth Beer made a motion to approve minutes of the August 26, 2015 Public Hearing and 2016 Budget First Reading. Wil Howard seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Linda Hansen moved to approve the Auditor/Treasurer Monthly Comparison Report. Ruth Beer seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Dan Caruso asked Richard Shipe if the Abatement Committee could begin meeting to review the abatements and compliancy status prior to the next year's request arrive. The committee consists of Dan Caruso, Wil Howard and Richard Shipe.

Linda Hansen brought forth a concern regarding bonding to the table for discussion. Hansen stated that she promised her constituents the county would never have more than two (2) bonds at one time. Hansen would like council to consider utilizing the Cumulative Capital Development Funds for purchase of the vehicles, computers, and other major capital expenses. Hansen suggested the county council consider (1) bond issue for the Emergency Radio System and establish a 2<sup>nd</sup> bond for the courthouse issues. Hansen told council that the tax payers are accustomed to paying into two bonds so they shouldn't feel any difference. Hansen doesn't want the county council to get into a pattern where we are pushing all of our capital expenses into a bond issue. Hansen thinks this would resolve it in her heart that the county isn't tapping the taxpayers any more than we have for the last ten years and, we will be accomplishing two projects. Wil Howard said that the Cumulative Capital Development fund does keep getting replenished each year and we are growing a substantial surplus that the county needs to utilize. Richard Shipe stated that council should take a more critical look at the expenditures from the short term bonds and possibly put off purchasing any new vehicles for the next few years.

Gary LeTourneau came back before council to answer additional questions on the Emergency Radio System Project. LeTourneau addressed questions related to the time-line of the project. LeTourneau and Brian Reilly will be available at the meeting on September 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the project and financing.

Richard Shipe asked for a motion to close the special meeting. Jim Getz moved to close the special meeting. Ken Shelton seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Richard Shipe reconvened 2016 Budget Adoption Hearing and stated that in the matter of our 2016 Budget Hearing, the county council has determined that we do not have sufficient information to perform the final adoption of the

2016 County Budget; therefore, the Council has continued the 2016 Budget Adoption Meeting to Tuesday, September 15, 2015 at 9:00 AM.

Correspondence received: Coroner's June & July Month End Report; Steuben County Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting agenda;

Steuben County Council

Richard Shipe, President

Dan Caruso, Member

Ken Shelton, Member

Ruth Beer, Vice President

Jim Getz, Member

Wil Howard, Member

Linda Hansen, Member

Attest: Kim Koomler, County Auditor