

Steuben County Council
Tuesday, June 10, 2014
Meeting Minutes

The Steuben County Council met in special session at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, June 10, 2014 in the Steuben County Community Center Building Suite 2H. Present were, Richard Shipe, F. Mayo Sanders, Dan Caruso, Ruth Beer, Sara Tubergen, Linda Hansen and John Ingledue. Mayo Sanders asked County Council for a moment of silence in honor of Kenneth Crandall former County Council Member.

President Shipe called the meeting to order.

Inger Friend came before the County Council to introduce the new Purdue Extension A & R ECD Educator, Crystal Van Pelt.

Bill Harter, Coroner was present to explain the request for an additional appropriation to his Coroner Budget for Medical Supplies. Harter stated that he has had a higher than normal run volume this year and is running extremely low on toxicology supplies. Harter also submitted his month end reports for the months of January, February, March, April & May of 2014. F. Mayo Sanders moved to approve the additional, Ruth Beer seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Coroner: Additional Appropriation Medical Supplies 1000-007-2000.13 \$500.00

Kim Koomler, Auditor presented a request for transfer of \$3,000.00 from her Deputy Auditor line item into a newly created line item for part time help/transition training. Koomler stated that this is being requested for the purpose of paying the payroll/insurance deputy to train for the position. The current payroll/insurance deputy is transferring to the Prosecutor's Office and Koomler needs to train her replacement. In addition, the position in the Prosecutor's office will not be vacated until Jean Kinsey has exhausted all of her paid time off so Upp cannot move until sometime in late August. In the meantime, Upp will be teaching her replacement as well as training for her new position so there will be an overlap in both positions. I have discussed this with Jeremy Musser and we are in agreement to work together for a smooth transition. Koomler also recommended that county council consider placing a larger amount of money into the Commissioner's budget line item or splitting it out among all departments in the 2015 budget for these overlapping training issues. F. Mayo Sanders stated that this is something that has been an issue for years and we do need to give it consideration. Linda Hansen moved to approve the transfer, F. Mayo Sanders seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer \$3,000.00

From: 1000-002-1000.10 Deputy Auditor
To: 1000-002-1000.11 Part Time Help/Training

Brett Hayes, Community Corrections Director, came before council to present the following requests for an additional appropriation. Hayes stated that the additional is being requested for the purpose of Community Transition Program. This is money they have earned from the State for payment to supervise DOC inmates coming out of the Department of Corrections. This is money Hayes needs council to appropriate in order for him to be able to spend. Sara Tubergen moved to approve, Linda Hansen seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Additional \$4,240.00 9113-255-3000.01 CTP

Hayes also submitted the following transfer requests for council approval. Hayes explained the need for each request. The transfer to electronic equipment is to cover an increase in the number of people being placed on home detention. The transfer to repair-remodel is to pay for work release renovations. We had some additional costs we hadn't originally planned. The transfer to vehicle repair and maintenance is the cost of increased mileage due in part to the LaGrange factor. And finally, the 335.00 request is to cover the cost of higher wage plus benefits for a more experienced person taking the position. Ruth Beer moved to approve all transfers, Sara Tubergen seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer \$3,400.00

From: 9112-000-1000.23 Unemployment
To: 9112-000-3000.01 Electronic Equip.

Transfer \$10,185.90

From: 9112-000-1000.41 Part Time Help

To: 9112-000-4000.15 Repair-Remodel

Transfer \$2,000.00

From: 9112-000-1000.23 Unemployment

To: 9112-000-3000.52 Vehicle Repair & Maint.

Transfer \$35.00

From: 9112-000-1000.41 Part Time Help

To: 9112-000-1000.21 PERF

Transfer \$300.00

From: 9112-000-1000.41 Part Time Help

To: 9112-000-1000.05 Case Manager C

Ronald Smith, Commissioner was present to request \$95.00 to cover another overlap training issue. Dan Caruso moved to approve, F. Mayo Sanders seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer \$95.00

From: 1000-068-1000.23 Unemployment Ins.

To: 1000-068-1000.13 Emergency Pt. Time Help

Eric Ditmars & Commissioner Smith were present to discuss the request to transfer \$142,000.00 from the Major Moves Buildings line item to Construction. Ditmars said the total amount placed into the line items for county park improvement project was sufficient but the amount originally appropriated to the specific line items was not exact due to changes throughout the project. The project is near completion with approximately \$80,000.00 needed to complete. Richard Shipe asked what comments were coming from the campers moving in to the park since the changes have been made. Ditmars said most of the campers are pleased with the improvements however we have had a wet spring and with all of the earth being moved it is a muddy mess and the roads are in poor condition and will need to be looked at due to the rough winter. As a whole, he hears positive feedback from the campers for as many changes that have occurred. Shipe asked if the campers will still be able to have decks. Ditmars said, yes they will be allowed decks as most of the area campgrounds do the same. F. Mayo Sanders moved to approve the transfer, Linda Hansen seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Transfer \$142,000.00

From: 1172-101-4000.01 Buildings

To: 1172-101-3000.02 Construction

Ditmars also updated council on the overall park operations including the county owned Crooked Lake access ramp which is in need of some major repair. Ditmars said he sees numerous improvements needed at the public beach, boat ramp. Dan Caruso stated that there are a lot of major capital expenditures to maintain this area for the public. We are talking about a proposed dock system, 80,000 for the boat launch, asphalt, etc. Ditmars said yes we are looking at a lot of cost but this public area brings tourism dollars into the county as well as many other benefits the park doesn't necessarily recoup. Caruso asked if the commissioners had any ideas on how to do these improvements and possibly charging a fee to help recoup some of the expense. Commissioner Crowl stated that the commissioners can't charge a fee and if we do charge a fee to for lake access the DNR can take away all services including fish stocking and would hurt the public greatly. Ron Smith told the County council he thinks the new ramp on Little Turkey Lake that the DNR put in a few years ago, which has handicap accessibility, would be the proper type of ramp for the county to consider. Crowl said one thing to consider is charging for a trailer parking fee instead. We currently charge a fee to those who come in for fishing tournaments but not to the public. Sara Tubergen suggested the county could install boxes to collect money at each parking spot. This would eliminate the need to have a person onsite to collect the money. Tubergen said this could work here as well.

Sara Tubergen asked if the Auditor had made the inquiry to the Financial Advisor regarding the effect on the county's long-term financial picture if we go ahead and implement the proposed wage study salary increases for next year. Auditor Koomler stated that she had not yet make the inquiry but planned to before the next council meeting.

Auditor Kim Koomler presented the county council with a letter and policy document prepared by her office implementing a background check policy and procedure for all new hires. The policy requires all department heads to perform a background check for all applicants for available Steuben County Government positions. Sara Tubergen moved to authorize Richard Shipe to sign the letter and approve the policy/procedure, F. Mayo Sanders seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Hugh Taylor, Supplemental PD, came before the county council to request an additional appropriation of \$5,000.00. Taylor stated that every one of his Public Defenders have had a murder case which takes a considerable amount of time. The PDs who handle murder cases are presently making \$33,500.00. PD Nordmann is making about \$5,000.00 less and Taylor would appreciate the appropriation be approved to pay Nordmann an equal amount. Taylor stated that there is a slight possibility that a private attorney may take the case over. Taylor said if he could have the appropriation approved by council and if it's not needed he would return it to the general fund or wait until next month to act on it. Taylor said he has other issues to discuss with county council and would like to be placed on the agenda for their next meeting. Council will need to hold off on approval of the additional due to the fact that it hasn't been advertised. Taylor said he will submit the proper paperwork to the Auditor prior to the next meeting.

The Auditor asked council to direct her on what amount they want to put into their budget for salary for 2015 budget. Sara Tubergen said she feels the amount should remain the same. F. Mayo Sanders said he personally feels the council should place an additional \$500.00 into their salary for next year. Sanders said he hasn't seen any increase to the Council for at least the last 10 plus years. Hansen Stated that \$500.00 amounts to about \$20.00 dollars per month which is actually less than our increase in insurance premiums. Hansen also said she did a comparison and Steuben County is in line with surrounding counties. F. Mayo Sanders moved to increase the county council salary a minimum of \$500.00 annually. Linda Hansen seconded. The motion was denied by a vote of three (3) ayes and four (4) nays.

The County Commissioners were present to discuss current needs and considerations with the county council. James Crowl stated that the commissioners have asked Gary Fair to establish a plan and get pricing on what it will cost to fix our county parking lots. Crowl said it is pretty staggering the shape of our parking lots. Plus the fact that the old jail building is having problems with sewer drain backup. The main drain pipe is bad underneath the parking lot. It is over a hundred years old and needs to be replaced at a cost of over \$20,000.00. We have to run two pipes in order to take the drain across the street to connect to the city drain. So, with the Annex, Community Center, EMS and EMS North, all employee lots and the drain pipe we are looking at approximately \$122,500.00 to repair everything. Next month we plan to be on your agenda to request the money to repair these issues.

Ron Smith informed council that there are items at the county park for future considerations. Smith stated that the plans for new building we have been working on for over a year are back for council's review. The Commissioners said in the original plans they were going to take our E911 Communications Dispatch center and move it out to this new building. However, Mr. Ken Lowden has encouraged the Commissioners that this would not be a good idea and is exploring some possible options. Therefore we are reconsidering our plans for that building but we are still going to have the Park office, the FSA Office, Purdue Ag office and there some others there as well as an instruction area. We have applied for a FEMA grant and FEMA will only cover the underground storm safe building. We feel we will be approved by FEMA and Region 3-A is assisting with grant writing. We are hoping to get the news yet this summer. The bid deadline is in July everything is falling into place and the cost information will be forth coming. Now what we are looking at is the Arena building

The Commissioners are going to have 4-H Fair as planned at the park this summer and afterward we would like to move forward with replacing Rensch Hall with a new arena building and move it to the top of the hill. Smith presented council with a proposal for a plan to purchase a building to serve as an Arena building to replace Rensch Hall. This can be used for all types of events including rodeos and horse shows. We are currently looking at cost and will be coming to county council to request funds to pay for this building.

James Crowl added his thoughts regarding the need for this arena building. Crowl said over the 70 years the 4-H Park has been out there and every time somebody uses the buildings out there someone has to pay a charge for the use. Who gets that money? The General fund receives all revenues from the rental of that building. Crowl said with the structure that Ron is talking about and if that FEMA grant is denied we will still have the money to put in a basement with an 8 inch concrete wall instead of a 14 inch. We will still be able to put a steel building on top of the basement. This will still be somewhat of a safe room but nothing as elaborate as the FEMA building. We won't know that till late summer or even as late as January of 2015. Either way this building has to go if we are going to move everything we planned to in the 4-H Park. It has to be handicapped access and concrete walks, it will need to have restrooms. We have used our major moves for all sorts of projects across the county ó cities, railroads, fire departments as well as giving over 1.7 million dollars in interest to the general to balance the budget. The next year 1.6 million went to the general fund. It's time that the county would receive the benefits from the major moves money and have the council help out with this park improvement projects. Let's work together using the major moves money and get this done for the county. Smith said this will be an unheated building. Mayo Sanders asked why we aren't planning to heat the building. Sanders said if it is heated the building could be used year around. Dan Caruso said he thought that the \$3 million dollars was appropriated to get all of this done. Crowl said it was to get the campground done and didn't include this project. Caruso said he thought the campground had all kinds of money to get things done outside of the

\$3 million. The Lions building had its own money, the electrical upgrades had separate money appropriated. Sara Tubergen said you are asking for more money than the original \$3 million to do more upgrades and improvements. Tubergen would like to have figures from other counties as to what kind of revenue these types of arena buildings bring in. If other counties have buildings used for this same purpose then you should be able to show us how much we can expect to earn. John Ingledue also thought the \$3 million was to include the County Park improvements and the 4-H Park. Caruso said he isn't arguing investing in Steuben County and our residents but what else have we gotten for over \$4 million dollars in this region. Smith said we have put about the same amount into IMAN Project. Smith also stated that the Major Moves money was given to the toll road counties for the purpose of upgrading our infrastructure and later on down the road the state said we could also use the money for economic development, but that wasn't the original intent. Everything we have spent the money on has been for infrastructure we have done some econ development. So there is 500 kids in the Angola area youth league and they have raised their own money to pay for their own stuff all along, what do we tell them when they come in with requests. Caruso said what if they ask for 4 million dollars to build some type of structure for them. Smith said this isn't going to any other entity it is going to Steuben County infrastructure. Because there are necessities that society must have.

Sara Tubergen said we need to think about not only the cost to build the structures but the amount of money it will take to maintain them. Tubergen said she feels like when council gave commissioners the 3 million dollars for the county park, we should have been told you were going to come back and ask for more. You need to present to us how we are going to be able to take care of the buildings and improvements and if we are going to make any money from them. We need to look at the long term financial picture. Is our budget going to be able to handle all of these improvements. Tubergen wants to see what other buildings like this generate in costs and revenues. Tubergen wants to see it in black and white, how much will it cost to maintain, what their income is and what is the long-term plan. Also, why did Ken Lowden think we should not put the E-911 Dispatch Center at this location. Smith stated that due to the nature of our society it's an at risk feature. You are allowing those people using the facility to mingle and be right in the same building which should be a secure facility. Sara Tubergen asked how much of the \$3 million dollars we appropriated to the park has been spent. Smith said Eric Ditmars has reported his that this new building will be over and above the \$3 million already given to the park improvement. Dan Caruso restated that he wants to see the requested figures before the next meeting.

John Ingledue stated that he isn't against what the Commissioners are doing but he wants to see that we have spent the \$3 million dollars before we give you any more money. Council was given copies of the most up to date breakdown on expenses within this project.

Ron Smith told the county council that now is the time to spend the major moves money. The interest rates and costs of the materials are low and the value of building now is going to be greater than the interest you may earn if you don't use the money and leave it invested.

F. Mayo Sanders said he is in agreement that if we are going to do something we need to do it and do it right. We have set around for 10 years or more talking about doing things and never moving forward. I was happy that we approved the \$3 million and we need to keep moving in the same direction with other projects we have been discussing.

Dan Caruso said this must fall within the priority list which also includes the many road projects.

Sara Tubergen said we don't have an endless supply of money and we need to see that we can afford the building after it is build. The more you have the more you have to keep up.

Linda Hansen moved to approve the Treasurer/Auditor report. Sara Tubergen seconded and the motion carried with seven (7) ayes.

Richard Shipe asked who will be attending the Commissioners meeting for discussion regarding the Board of Aviation. There are some issues that have come before both the commissioners and the council which we feel need to be reviewed together. Linda Hansen, John Ingledue, Ruth Beer, and Mayo Sanders may be available.

Richard Shipe asked council members if any of them would like to attend the state called County Council meeting on Saturday, June 21, 2014. Ruth Beer confirmed that she would like to attend. F. Mayo Sanders said he would like to attend as well.

Ron Smith advised council that the County Commissioners have a meeting today at 12:00 with INDOT to discuss the bike trail project to prepare for the bid letting. Also, the Commissioners approved the money to take action for the EDC for the rest of this year and next year because of the six month window for announcement. With a stipulation that the EDC must comply with the state law for open door meetings. Smith said he will be attending the commissioners association meeting tomorrow and he has requested the association place this discussion on their agenda. Sara Tubergen said there was a court case that

determined the EDCs didn't have to follow that open door law. Reason being the EDC should have privacy. The court case upheld the EDCs position. The newspaper article didn't state that the court decided in the EDCs favor. Commissioner Smith said Steuben County Commissioners want to conform with Indiana Law no matter what other county EDCs are doing. Tubergen said every other county is doing their meetings closed door. EDCs provide a service and they are not a government entity and that's why the court upheld the position. Richard Shipe asked if that is still true if the EDCs use public money to run their Commission. Tubergen said the Indiana court upheld this position. Companies like privacy, they don't want their competitors to know what is going on. Crowl stated that is what the Commissioners have discussed from day one. The commissioners understand the sensitivity of economic development but what is the matter with having a few minutes of an open session meeting where the public can come in and set down and the commission can report their financial statements and give their accomplishments and any other discussion they deem appropriate. Then close the meeting for the sensitive meeting which can be held that same night or any other time. Tax dollars are funding the Commission and they are required to be open and transparent. Sara Tubergen said it is about four times in the last four years Steuben County has threatened our funding for the Economic Development Commission and the other cities and townspeople are getting tired of it.

Correspondence Received:

County Highway Engineer Report

Veteran Service Officer Monthly Report

Soil & Water Conservation District Meeting Agenda - June 11, 2014

Thank You Notes from Hudson United Brethren Church; SCCA Steuben County Cancer Association

John Calloway letter regarding the Airport

Coroner's Monthly Reports January through June 2014

Linda Hansen moved to adjourn the meeting, F. Mayo Sanders seconded.

Steuben County Council

Richard Shipe

F. Mayo Sanders

Dan Caruso

Ruth Beer

Sara Tubergen

Linda Hansen

John Ingledue

Attest: Kim Koomler, Auditor