

Jennings County Council Meeting
April 11, 2017 7:00 p.m.

Josh Yeager Absent

The meeting was called to order by Howard Malcomb leading the pledge to the flag.

Mike Kelley made a motion to approve prior minutes; Paul Belding seconded the motion. Motion carried with a unanimous vote.

First on the agenda was Judge Jon Webster to talk to the Council about his public defenders. A letter was received from the Public Defender Commission of notice of possible termination of public defense reimbursement. The letter stated that Jennings County is currently not in compliance with Commission caseload standards. Several years ago the County signed up voluntarily for the Public Defense Reimbursement program and in doing so agreed to follow certain stipulations. The salary payments were addressed and corrected in 2016 but now the State is saying the County is incompliant with caseloads of attorneys. Such caseloads violate Commission Standards and the county's comprehensive plan. In accordance with the state statute, Jennings County is failing to comply with the Indiana public defender commission's standards and corrective action is essential. Judge Webster assured the Council that he would have no problem finding 3 more public defenders and that is what is needed to lighten the caseload and therefore be in compliance with the Indiana public defender commission's standards. Judge Webster said the costs would be \$35,000 per attorney for their annual pay. Judge Webster went on to say that these attorney are considered contract people and not county employees. Judge Webster asked Judge Smith and Jack Gay, member of the County's Public Defender Board to come and address the Council on these issues.

Jack Gay came forward to talk with the Council and he told the Council that Dan Wright, Rayann Thompson and he made up the Public Defender Board and these are voluntary positions and no pay is involved. Mr. Gay stated he believes a full time Public Defender office would help alleviate some of the back log of inmates being processed through the courts. Mr. Gay stated that he had talked with an inmate who had been in jail for 5 months and yet to meet with his attorney (public defender) and most times that is happening because of the overload of cases and it is court time before client and attorney meet and talk. Jackson County has recently opened a public defender office at the costs of around \$650,000. Mr. Gay knows that number is frightening but he says right now the county is over \$200,000 and adding 3 more to go over \$300,000 and no grantee that those numbers will be enough. Mr. Gay just wants the Council to think about that for the future.

Judge Gary Smith then spoke with the Council and wanted them to know that he was not in agreement with some of the statements made earlier and that his public defenders were not causing the problem of being out of compliance.

Dave Woodall made a motion to hire 3 new public defenders at \$35,000 each. Mike Kelley seconded the motion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Judge Webster then asked the Council for additional monies to make his part time position to a full time position. The current part time person went on maternity leave and decided not to return to work. Judge Webster stated that he really could use another full time position for his office to be able to keep up with all the paperwork required. Auditor Vance stated that there was \$15,000 in the part time line item and with it being April already \$10,000 should be enough to finish the year and then Judge Webster could address the salary during budget time. Judge Webster asked what the base pay was for the county and it is \$26,314 replied the Auditor.

Mike Kelley made a motion to change the part time position to a full time position for the Circuit Court and to add \$10,000 to the current line item for part time. Tony Eder seconded the motion and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Next on the agenda was Don Biehle with the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Department addressing the Council concerning the Grant they have applied for with the Office of Community and Rural Affairs. SIRPC (Southeastern Indiana Regional Planning Commission) is assisting the Fire Department in filling out the application and documents needed to apply. The Fire Dept is also working with FPBH on the engineering expertise needed. Mr. Biehle stated that the OCRA grant has to be applied for by a governmental unit and the Jennings County Commissioners agreed to be the applicant for this project at their last meeting. The Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. will be the sub recipient for the project but the Commissioners will sponsor as Jennings County. Mr. Biehle stated there is a timeline and July 7th is the date that they must submit the pre application letter of intent to apply for this grant. After that the people looking at the application will give feedback and tell Mr. Biehle what additional information may be needed to process the application. September 1st is when the final documentation will have to be sent in for the grant. At that time a budget will need to be submitted and they will want to know what the costs of the project will be and what the funding sources will be. The paperwork given to the council shows the cost of the project to be \$799,000 and the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Fire Dept. is asking the support of the county in the \$200,000 range for the project. The location of the fire house will be just across highway 50 from Brush Creek Elementary School. It will be on property that is currently owned by Purdue University and Purdue University has agreed to donate this land to Jennings County which is 8 acres for this project. The land has been surveyed and in the process of being appraised. The value of the land can be used as a local match as support for this project.

After much discussion Tony Eder made a motion to fund up to \$205,000 for the Campbell Twp. Volunteer Firehouse contingent on the need of funds.

Motion died for lack of second.

Larry Maschino made a motion to table till next meeting a decision on this project; Dave Woodall seconded the motion; motion passed.

Next was Greg Martin with the Parks Department addressed the Council concerning 2 grant donations received. \$500 was received from BMW a motorcycle group and that has been earmarked for restroom upgrade. \$400 was given by a family for the Walnut Grove School.

Mike Kelley made the motion to approve the use of the donations; Larry Maschino seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Next was Dave Gerth, Director of EMS, addressed the Council concerning the growing use of Narcan. Mr. Gerth stated that for some reason the Drug & Alcohol Commission did not grant their request this year for monies. Mr. Gerth stated he applied for the monies as Narcan being a treatment but was denied. Right now he still has money available to purchase Narcan but may not have enough to finish out the year and will have to come and request an additional appropriation. EMS supplies the police department and first responders and he would like to continue this but unless something changes, will more than likely run out or discontinue supplying to those departments.

Sheriff Driver stated that he had received \$5100 from the equipment sold at auction and would like to give that to EMS to help with the costs of the Narcan.

Dave Woodall made a motion to allow the Sheriff to donate \$5100 to EMS for the purchase of Narcan; Paul Belding seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

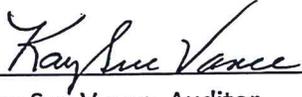
Next the Auditor presented an Amended Salary Ordinance to the Council for approval. The changes showed where the Jail salaries were moved to LOIT fund, the increase monies for the Circuit Court pauper counsel, the new ADA/HR/FIN.ADV/Trainer Position, the corrected salary for the Court Security Officer and the Prosecutor's Office Victim Advocate corrected salary.

Mike Kelley made a motion to approve the Amended Salary Ordinance; Dave Woodall seconded the motion. Motion passed with unanimous vote.

Larry Maschino pointed out with the additions that Judge Webster requested tonight as far as salaries that another amended salary ordinance would be needed for next meeting which the Auditor agreed.

Mike Kelley made a motion to adjourn; Larry Maschino seconded the motion and motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Attest:



Kay Sue Vance, Auditor



Howard Malcomb, President



Mike Kelley



Paul Belding

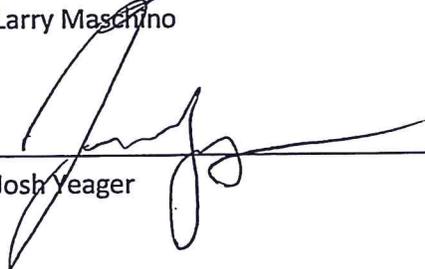


Dave Woodall

Tony Eder



Larry Maschino



Josh Yeager