

## Jennings County Council Meeting

~~Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room~~

November 12, 2019 6:00 pm

Members present: Howard Malcomb, Paul Belding, Charlie Weber, Dave Woodall, Mike Gerth, Mandy Creech and Bob Ellis.

The meeting was opened with Howard Malcomb leading the pledge.

Charlie Weber made the motion to approve the minutes from the prior meeting, Paul Belding seconded. Motion passed with a unanimous vote.

Eric Kirkham from the Vernon Twp Fire Dept reported that they are still in preliminary phases of getting everything in order for the new fire dept as far as asking the council for money. They are building the new fire station across the street from the current station. It will be 60'x 100' which is a little bigger than the one Campbell Township just built. They were unable to get the grant that Campbell Township was able to get. They are still going forward and will find their funding on their own. They should have more information and be able to come before the council mid to late January or early February. They would like to begin construction in March or April 2020. There had been talk about the fire station being built across the bridge at the Hwy 3/7 split but there were several hoops to jump through, state regulations and setbacks that were going to be very difficult and expensive. The property at the Hwy 3/7 split that they purchased for the new firehouse is currently for sale and the money they receive from the sale of that will be used towards the new building. The town of Vernon currently owns the current fire station building. The Water Board has moved into the firehouse since they knew they were planning a new firehouse. This causes some conflict. It will take approximately \$600,000.00 for the new building.

Dave Turner brought information on the K9 handlers. He reported that with the FLSA they have to provide pay to the K9 handlers to take care of their dogs while they are at home. It is estimated it takes ½ hour each day and there are 2 K9 handlers. It would be a total of \$21.59/day x 365 days=\$7,880.35 for both. He was asking for approval for this extra pay next year. It was in the original budget but was taken out because they didn't have the correct figures. Mike Gerth made the motion to allow the additional appropriation for \$7,880.35, Dave Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Dave also said previously (possibly March) the Commissioners passed the ordinance that the holiday pay must be paid out by the end of the month. The Sheriff's Department carried over quite a few hours. They have paid these down but they will keep accumulating and they are out of money for that. Some of this is carried over from possibly 2012-2013 when they zeroed out all of the books. They have accumulated from that time on. They will need roughly \$35,000.00 to get all the hours caught up. The new budget should be able to cover the holiday pay next year so this won't happen again. Much discussion was held about what holidays will be paid in the 2019 budget. Mike Gerth made the motion to allow \$28,000.00 additional appropriations to catch up the Holiday pay and Dave Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jason Bliton reported that the DOC sent a statement showing the Sheriff's Department brought in \$525,969.00 (generally \$225,000.00) by proper billing. It seems like the billing was not done in the

correct amount of time but now that it is being done correctly they have seen an increase. This money goes into County General. Charlie Weber asked for him to find out if we could go back and bill the amount that was missed. He will check into that.

Jason also spoke on the rescinding of the jail tax and still having an overcrowding issue. There was talk of putting in a modular building behind the jail. One quote on that was \$2.7 million. Commissioner Matt Sporleder wants a GEO study done to see if it's possible to build something there. Jason got several quotes on the GEO study and the cheapest one was around \$3,500.00. The Sheriff's Department could pay for this out of Commissary if they could get reimbursed at the first of the year through the jail tax. Dave Woodall made a motion to allow the GEO study and take it out of commissary fund to be reimbursed by the Rainy Day Fund if the billing comes in before January. Charlie Weber seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Jason then spoke on the upgrades of cameras at the jail. There is a quote of \$15,632.00 for 64 cameras that can be upgraded and added to. It comes with cables, labor, DVR drive and 5 year warranty. He would like to go ahead and push it off until the first of year to pay MG Motion through the jail tax. Mandy Creech made a motion to hold off on this. Motion died after further discussion. Mike Gerth made a motion to allow the \$15,362.00 for cameras payable out of the Rainy Day. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion passed with 6 voting yes and 1 (Charlie Weber) voting no.

Mike Gerth spoke about when he and Bob Ellis were at the jail, the booking area needs upgraded. Jason said they had a quote of \$85,000.00 to redo the booking area. Jason thinks it can be done cheaper. He wants to hire local and do a little at a time and it should be done around \$20,000.00. Charlie said he would like to see a comprehensive outline of the work the jail is planning on in the future instead of them coming to meetings and asking for some each meeting. Dave said all of this needs to go to the Commissioners first and then come to the Council.

Nicci Lucas, HR, spoke about the Air Ambulance Proposal. Jill Spaulding from STAT Flight presented information on air medical transport. They offer membership which insurance doesn't cover. The membership covers if anyone is flown by STAT Flight or by sister providers the insured will not receive a bill from them. They accept what insurance pays. STAT Flight has been accident free for 11 years. There are 2 different plans-County Wide and Nation Wide. The County Wide covers anyone to be flown to another hospital. If that person needs transferred elsewhere, they would not pay for the 2<sup>nd</sup> transport. The Nation Wide covers anywhere. She said a lot of counties will purchase the County Wide membership for all households and then they allow the households to purchase the upgrade to National Membership. The National Membership is approximately \$35.00/year/household. The membership covers any person living in your home. If you are flown by another air transport (ie IU Health) this does not cover you. Mike and Charlie said they were not thrilled about having this county wide but they would like to offer it to the county employees. This needs to be taken in front of the Commissioners. Jill will get together a proposal and return with that. This will be added to open enrollment as a possible option.

Jim Reeves reported that the Commissioners approved a dump truck purchase. They will be purchasing 1 this year and 2 next year. The dump truck cost \$143,200.00. He is asking for guidance on bank rates. The annual payment will come out of EDIT/CEDIT. Charlie Weber made a motion for a 4 year loan at

3.1% with a \$500.00 processing fee for 1<sup>st</sup> Financial. Mandy Creech seconded. 6 members voted yes and 1 (Mike Gerth) abstained.

Jim asked for \$5,000.00 additional appropriations for the fairgrounds due to water leaks. This comes from fairgrounds non-reverting fund. Mike Gerth made the motion to approve. Dave Woodall seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim also asked for his new position of clerk to move to full time from part time. This would be an additional \$3,700.00 for 2019. Mike Gerth made the motion to ok this money transfer and to add a full time person. Bob Ellis seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl Miller from the Assessor's Office introduced Ed Koerner from X-Soft. This program is in 68 counties and would replace Proval, Scanman and Propman. In 1 year they could eliminate Tyler (the outside company they use currently). X Soft is \$180,000.00 one time charge, \$45,000.00/year for 4 years, \$5,000.00 for tablet and \$31,000.00/maintenance. In one year they would be money ahead of about \$80,000.00. Dave Woodall approved the purchase out of Reassessment Fund, 4 years at \$45,000.00/year. Mike Gerth seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Charlie Weber spoke on the Redevelopment Commission TIF overview. When the TIF area was created the revenues that the county received at that point was fixed plus a small percentage increase every year. The TIF area gets the amount that is improvements. They have been advised to get rid of properties that they see no potential for developing because of they have the risk of them decreasing. This way they can maximize the revenues towards the TIF. The TIF Board has designated areas that they believe will not be developed and should not be part of the TIF area. He just wanted everyone to know this is what the Redevelopment Board is doing.

The listing for the 2020 County Council meetings were presented. Tessia said she did not put budget on the list until Baker Tilley is talked to and those dates will be added later. Charlie Weber made the motion to accept the meeting schedule. Dave Woodall seconded, Motion passed unanimously.

Howard brought up the Treasurer's Bond that needs to be signed by the County Council due to previous years the audit from SBOA requires this. Bob Ellis made the motion to sign and Dave Woodall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tessia requested additional appropriations of \$75,000.00 due to changing payroll dates. Charlie spoke on changing the payroll dates. Some offices are paid in arrears, others are paid on Wednesday which the time period ends the day before. This is causing a lot of issues with the SBOA. No one knows why or when this was set. The proposal is to keep the pay on every other week and put everybody on a 1 week delay. However this creates an issue with salary and hourly people will get short paid 2 days making this change. It was suggested that the Council give a bonus of \$150.00/person to help make up for this excluding Board members and election board. This will get everyone on the same pay schedule. Charlie Weber made a motion to appropriate \$75,000.00 to pay for the additional pay for the additional pay for the Highway Dept, Animal Control and part time people and to pay \$150.00 bonus to all employees except board members and election poll workers. Bob Ellis seconded the motion. 6 voted to pass the motion with 1 opposed (Dave Woodall).

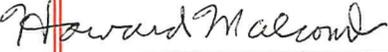
Tessia reported that there previously was an additional appropriation ordinance for \$7,000.00 for Veterans Office and the highway asked for \$165,000.00. This needs a vote on the ordinance as it was approved and advertised, etc. Mike Gerth made the motion to accept the ordinance. Dave Woodall seconded. This passed unanimously.

Randy Shepherd spoke about the previous County Government Christmas Parties. This year's will be held Friday December 6 at the Community Building at 6 pm. All county employees and their spouses/significant other will be invited. Nicci Lucas, HR, will be presenting the educational portion of the conference by presenting the new handbook. They are asking for an additional appropriation of \$3,000.00 out of the general fund. There will also be a band playing for 2 hours after the dinner and presentation. Mike Gerth made the motion for \$3,000.00 additional appropriation for the county winter conference. Charlie Weber seconded the motion. 6 voted to pass the motion, 1 opposed.

Paul Belding made the motion to adjourn. Bob Ellis seconded the motion.

  
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Tessia Salsman, Auditor

  
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Mike Gerth

  
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Howard Malcomb, President

  
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Mandy Creech

  
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Dave Woodall, Vice President

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Bob Ellis

  
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Paul Belding

  
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Charlie Weber