

## Jennings County Council Meeting

Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room

January 14, 2020 6:00 pm

The meeting was opened with Tessia Salsman, Auditor, leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

All members were present. Each council member stated their name.

As this is the first meeting of the year, the first order of business is to elect new officers. Charlie Weber nominated Howard Malcomb for President. Dave Woodall seconded the nomination. There were no other nominations. This passed unanimously. Howard then asked for nominations for Vice President. Mike Gerth nominated Dave Woodall. Mandy Creech seconded the motion. This passed unanimously.

Howard asked for changes or corrections from the December 18 meeting minutes. Tessia said that Greg Martin asked for information to be changed that was on the meeting minutes but she said the minutes that are done is what is being discussed at that meeting. He wanted to change "Lowes put in a playground". He said that was inaccurate. He wants it to read "Jennings County Parks and Recreation after receiving 110,000 worth of grants installed two playgrounds, one at Eco Lake Park (2018) and another at Muscatatuck Park (2017). Installation costs minus concrete were estimated at 15,000 per playground for a total of 30,000 saved and total project savings of 140,000.00." He also said he would like to have "We would like to have a volunteer to take over (much like the Tripton Park project)" changed to say "We would like to have a volunteer to take over (much like the Tripton Park Project, that used a 3 million dollar bond, financed in partnership with the city and the TIF district)." She explained that the minutes are what is discussed at the meeting. It was decided that nothing could be added to the previous minutes but it could be discussed at this meeting.

Mike Gerth made a motion to accept the prior minutes and Bob Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Christy Willhite was present to introduce herself as she was appointed to the Alcohol and Beverage Board. Howard asked her to state her goals and what she would like to accomplish with this appointment. She introduced herself and stated that she lives in Jennings County. She said that she is not familiar with the position so she is unable to state any goals at this time. She said that she is very interested in getting involved with the community more. She is involved with her children's school and her father-in-law is Bob Willhite, a county commissioner. She is a mother of 4, her oldest is a marine. She has been the PTO Treasurer for 7 years at Graham Creek Elementary. She, along with her husband and in-laws run a pallet business. She is the office manager there. She is involved in her church also. The Council thanked her for coming to the meeting. Discussion was held on some that is involved with this appointment. Charlie Weber made the motion to appoint Christy to the Alcohol and Beverage Board, Mandy Creech seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Craig Hahn was present to introduce himself for the Animal Control Board appointment. He has been in

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law enforcement for almost 12 years and worked closely with animal control. He was asked to be on the board to help them in making standard operating procedures and some rules to follow and abide by. Howard brought up the fact that it's important that they have the backing of the police department. Bob Ellis made the motion to appoint Craig Hahn to the Animal Control Board, Dave Woodall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Pat Hauersperger and Danny Young were appointed to the County Park Board. They are currently still in their terms, they are 4 year terms that are staggered. The Board is currently filled at this point. There will be an opening in December 2021. The ordinance showing 4 year terms was given to all council members.

Jim Reeves from the County Highway had a question on the salary ordinance. One employee did not receive the 3% increase. This was the Clerk 2 position. Charlie said that she was added after the budget process so he feels this was an oversight. He said that everybody that was in a position during the year should have gotten a 3% increase. Dave Woodall made the motion to increase her by the 3% and give back pay transferred from Part Time money. Mike Gerth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dave Turner said that he sent out sheets on January 10 and January 13 and another one today and they had the wrong figures on those. He brought in the new sheet today. On Jan 10 the letter was talking about the School Resource Officer (SRO). When the SRO was appointed it left them one deputy short. He would like to see a new deputy hired to fill that void. The school pays \$40,000.00/year. SRO is \$44,046.00/year. There's a difference of \$4,046.00. A new deputy, roughly, would be \$40,369.36 plus benefits. They also have, in the past, given credit for up to 4 years experience. The school has applied for a grant to continue the \$40,000.00. The Sheriff's Office also had a deputy resign on Monday, which has left them 2 positions short. His salary was \$49,438.00 and they owe him 182.75 hours which totals approximately \$4,343.60. Much discussion is held on the budget issues, the LIT fund was budgeted at a negative amount last year already. There was discussion about encumbrances for the sheriff/jail, also discussion on paying out an employee that resigns. The deputy that resigned yesterday (Jan 13) should not receive the holiday pay for Jan 20. He gets paid out for vacation time, comp time and personal days. Dave Turner said there will be some additional money when hiring a new officer. Tessia said it will stay in that line item until the end of the year and/or if the salary ordinance is changed. The commissioners have given the approval to hire a new deputy. The new deputy will be paid under the General Fund, just add another line to the salary ordinance. SRO will be put in General Fund. Mike spoke on the need to have more deputies on the road, they are spread too thin. There was more discussion on the budget process. Dave Turner spoke on the statistics of the jail and the amount of calls they address (11,000 calls at 11 officers=1000 calls per; 2300 traffic stops; 4200 hours in training mandated by law; served 2700 papers; worked 375 crashes). Mike Gerth made a motion for the position to come out of the General Fund and title it SRO (40,369.36) and lower the salary ordinance (10806 to the max of

\$44,046.00). Much discussion was held. Howard Malcomb seconded. 4 members voted in favor of the motion, Mike Gerth, Howard Malcomb, Dave Woodall and Paul Belding. 3 members voted against the motion, Charlie Weber, Mandy Creech and Bob Ellis.

Jason Bliton brought up a small mistake that was made on the salary budget for the jail. On line item 14701 the classification coordinator, they had asked for \$35,973.00 on that, \$34,309.00 was approved. This employee is actually a staff sergeant/classification coordinator. He works with the rest of the sergeants on the floor as well as assisting with billing and classifying all of the inmates. He is over the floor. He was asking that he be put up to \$34,809.00 to be with what the other sergeants are at. Charlie Weber made the motion to raise his pay the additional \$500.00. Bob Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously. He said that he wanted to express the gratitude from the employees for the raises, they were very appreciative.

Jason also spoke on funding of a body scanner. He sent an email and pamphlet to the council members on Intercept Tech84 Body Scanner. It's an x-ray machine that will be at book-in and this will determine whether or not inmates are bringing anything unwanted into the facility. Since Jason took over last year there has been 1 person escape using a handcuff key that had gotten through the facility. That could have been prevented by scanning him before he was sent out of the facility for court. There was one female who brought in a large amount of pills in a baggy in her body cavity. They can only do a strip search but are limited to the extent. The scanner would have found this. They actually found her passed out on a bunk with the pills beside her. A few months later they had a female who had approximately 3 ounces of methamphetamine on her and before it was discovered she put it in her mouth and tried to swallow it and choked to death. The officers worked hard on her to try and revive her but unfortunately she did die, but not in the facility. A few weeks ago a work release guy was caught bringing in pills. They use Bartholomew County Scanner (they have the same one) occasionally. The cost on it is \$144,000.00 with a 1 year warranty, \$149,000 with a 2 year warranty and additional years of warranty is \$10,000.00 each. Approximately 20 counties in Indiana have this particular machine. If given the ok they could have it installed in a week. Jason is asking that this be funded out of the new jail tax. There is a \$40,000.00 grant available but he would like to hold that for other things (possibly new tasers for the jail and on the road, the ones they currently have are obsolete as of Jan 1. They still work but no support for them). Dave Woodall made the motion to purchase the scanner with a 2 year warranty out of the jail tax. Paul Belding seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Sheriff Kenny Freeman then reported on a list of things that need done at the jail. The body scanner was priority. The other things, not in priority order is raising the book-in counter area for a better safety barrier, painting the kitchen and lobby floor, some carpet replacement, add an additional padded cell,

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build an 80 x 40 pole barn for training and some other painting that needs done. The boiler system and heating needs replaced. Sheriff Freeman was given an estimate on a 2 boiler system and will replace the hot water heaters that they have. There is currently 4 hot water heaters and if they have to be replaced it would be about \$10,000.00/per. The current ones are about at the end of their life cycle. The current estimate for the 2 boiler system is \$200,000.00. Howard said that Curt Schneider wants to come to a meeting to discuss possible water savings for the county.

Tessia said that she wanted to go over additional appropriations that were asked for in 2019 for 2020.

Drug and Alcohol Task Force \$20,000.00

EMS \$5,326.00 for a new employee rate

K-9 \$7,880.00

Clerk \$447.00 for Deputy 1

Tessia will be asking for an additional appropriation for the 1000 fund for the new position at the Sheriff's department.

The sprinkler system at the jail – Greg has an estimate for \$2,545.84 from Koorsen which is the Fire and Security. The current one is leaking at this point. Dave Woodall made the motion to approve this from Cum Courthouse and Mike Gerth seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Dave Woodall and Howard Malcomb said anytime the commissioners need money from the Cum Courthouse fund the Council needs to approve that. Tessia said it is in the commissioner's budget. Dave Woodall said it is not suppose to be. Much discussion was held.

Next is encumbering money from the 2019 budget to the 2020 budget.

1. A grader from the highway department for \$125,000.00. Jim Reeves said he turned in a signed bill and claim in December. The grader will be here whenever he tells them the money is there.
2. Sheriff's Department for \$29,301.28. This was brought to them with the invoices in 2019. They want to pay these out of the 2019 budget.

Mike Gerth made the motion to approve the above, Charlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tessia said there are some changes in the salary ordinance to match the budget. There are some changes in the probation department as it was budgeted twice. This will be removed from the salary ordinance. PTBOA had never been on the salary ordinance with prior administration and it was added as they are a paid board. They were paid by voucher but they need to be paid by payroll. Tessia found out that all boards have to be paid through payroll. Amy Thompson said that the 4D payroll is not from the general fund and it is incorrect. Tessia said that is one of the changes, it is coming from 8899 but it is paid through payroll so it has to be on the salary ordinance. Amy asked to remove that Richard Wahlman is not court security on the salary ordinance as listed incorrectly. It was decided that this was on the budget not the salary ordinance. Nothing can be done on the budget at this point. Amy said she

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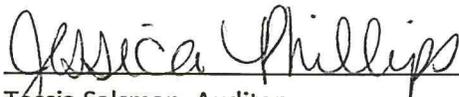
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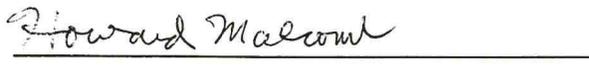
brought this up several times previously in meetings. The description in the budget will be changed. Charlie Weber made the motion to approve the salary ordinance with the changes made tonight. Dave Woodall seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Howard said Matt is ready to meet with Curt Schneider for the solar project. They can meet whenever the Council is ready. This will be scheduled at the next meeting.

Dave Woodall made the motion to adjourn. Bob Ellis seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

  
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Tessia Salsman, Auditor-  
Jessica Phillips, Deputy

  
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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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Charlie Weber