

Jennings County Council Meeting

Government Annex Building, Commissioners Meeting Room

June 16, 2020 6 pm

The meeting was opened with Howard Malcomb leading the Pledge of Allegiance

All members were present with the exception of Dave Woodall.

Mike Gerth made a motion to approve the minutes from the March 10, April 14, April 14 (Joint), May 12, May 12, May 18, May 19 (Joint) meetings. Charlie Weber seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Randy Shepherd, Assessor, presented an invoice for the new server which is needed for X Soft software package that was approved last year. This amount is \$13,349.96. He said it would be a general expense budget item, so out of county general. Mandy asked if the IT department has looked at the quote, Randy told her this was from the IT department. This was not budgeted for because it was not known that we would need it. The money to pay for X Soft is coming out of Reassessment Fund, it is already there. Howard asked if the server amount could come out of the Reassessment Fund. Randy said he thought it should come out of County General but he said that is up to the Council. It was discussed who else would be using this server. Randy reported that the X Soft is \$45,000.00 per year but once the other softwares are eliminated and once all residential assessments come back to the office then the money will start coming back in pretty quickly. It now has approximately \$323,000.00 in it. Charlie asked if there was a problem on taking it out of that fund. Randy explained that when Tyler is eliminated and the Assessor's Office goes out inspecting properties full time they will need a car as they will be going out 4-5 days a week. He was figuring the car to come out of Reassessment and the server coming out of County General. Mike asked if the car couldn't come out of the bond that is coming up for renewal. Randy said it will be 16 days after ordering the server to get it in and then they will have set up time. Charlie Weber made the motion to approve the server out of the Reassessment Fund. Mike Gerth seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Rhonda Brierly-Hall from Health Care Navigator reported that they were working Community Action of Southern Indiana and they were requested to come to Jennings County for health insurance. There was a high rate of people that had no health insurance in the county. She was helping them get Medicaid. She helped determine whether their household and income based size would be eligible. She also helps people who turn 65 on Medicare options. Because of the COVID19 they lost funding. She is requesting funding for the program to help people continue to get assistance in choosing an affordable healthcare. Mike asked where the funding came from before. She said it came from donations, FSSA, federal government. The loss of funding has hit the southern part of the state hard for some reason. She has approached the city also. Her company has applied for grants and funds but it will be July or August before they get any of those. She is asking for \$53,440 annually which includes her salary, office equipment, rental of office space, laptop and a work cell phone. This is a free service to people. Charlie said he is concerned as the projections out until 2022 shows the county is upside down. He feels people

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being laid off, etc will hit hard with the LIT tax in 2022 and the county needs to be tightening our belts on the budget process. He feels it is not the time to be adding expenses. He said he feels it is a valuable service to the community. Rhonda said she appreciates the time and consideration of the Council.

Amy Thompson, Clerk, was asking for a line change in her budget. Everything went well with the election. They did have additional in the budget due to Presidential election, then the COVID19 hit. There was additional training needed. Her staff did help as it is the Clerk's duties to do this. The staff did have additional overtime as well as Brenda King, Election Clerk. She said she had submitted overtime the prior pay period and it went through. She said evidently this was an issue and she has been instructed to ask for an overtime line. She said it is very difficult to run the election office in taking Comp Time. It is hard enough using the vacation time. It would be much easier to do the overtime. It is during the election when it would be used. It is already built into her budget. She just needs to change one of the line items to read that. She has line item 11211 which is election help and it has not been utilized. It has \$4,000.00 in it. She feels that the November election will require some additional help also. Charlie asked if she won't be using 11211 as it is characterized today. She said it is for election help which would be in that category. 11211 is not overtime so it cannot be paid out of this unless it is changed. The Commissioners need to approve this. She is asking that account 11211 be reclassified as an overtime line. That is in the County Election Board budget. She doesn't anticipate needing the full \$4,000.00 for OT, she also has a clerical assistance (10406) line item. She asked if part of that could be appropriated later in the Clerical Assistance if needed. Charlie made the motion to make a new line item classed as OT and transfer \$2,500.00 from Election County Board Location 0062 Account 11211. Paul Belding seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Brenda King asked about the 2 months before she can pay OT. The last 2 pay periods she was paid OT and there was no questions asked so she was asking what the problem is now. Howard said there are certain steps to take and if it was in the budget there would not have been a problem. Her question was why they received OT out of the budget on the previous pay period but now it's an issue. That is not an issue for the Council, it needs to be brought before the Commissioners.

Howard said that Sheriff Kenny Freeman called and wants approval for the upgrades to the book-in area, \$19,000.00. Discussion is held on the upgrades. Mike Gerth made the motion to approve the \$19,000.00 for the book-in area upgrades to be taken out of Rainy Day Fund subject to the Commissioner's approval so it would be safer. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously. Other upgrades for the jail were discussed as well as the bidding process for the heating/air for the jail. Mike Gerth made the motion to approve \$36,783.00 for the epoxy for the kitchen floors and walls out of the Rainy Day Fund. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

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Mike Gerth made the motion for \$19,137.00 out of Rainy Day Fund for epoxy for shower floors, walls, ceilings. Charlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tessia said the Commissioners had hired 2 part time employees to screen the front door of the Annex Building for temperatures and masks. It was discussed previously but not voted on. This will be covered by the reimbursement grant. Items will need to be tracked that qualify for the grant. Charlie made the motion to approve \$5,000.00 to come out of General Fund as an additional appropriation for this. Mike seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tessia also reported that the last unemployment payment was \$10,786.99 for 1 month. It normally is around \$1,000.00-\$1,500.00. She feels there will be a few more big payouts like that. There is \$4,000.00 left in that particular line item. She is asking for \$20,000.00 additional appropriation for the unemployment line. Charlie questioned that, he said that the first \$9,000.00 worth of wages is subject to unemployment and most of the employees would have made that by now. Tessia said she will check into that.

An additional appropriation of \$4,626 is needed for 1213 Fund GAL/CASA even though it is a pass through for children's advocacy. Charlie made the motion to approve the \$4,626.00 additional appropriation. Bob seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

She reported there is a violation fund for Area Plan that had \$40,000.00 appropriation and then the Council opened another fund, 4920 for the Unsafe Building, a non-reverting fund. The \$40,000.00 needs to be moved from the Violation Fund to the Unsafe Building Fund. Charlie made the motion of reduction of \$40,000.00 from 31206 and move to the 4920. Mandy seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Tessia then spoke on additional appropriations that were asked for through the year. There is one for the general fund \$2,500.00 and \$5,000.00 for Emergency Mgmt non-reverting fund, \$100,000.00 from Personal Services for Public Safety LIT and \$9,065.00 for Rainy Day and Innkeepers Tax of \$35,000.00. These need to be voted on to sign. Mike made the motion to approve the signing of these additional appropriations. Charlie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Charlie said he would like to discuss the \$900,000.00 grant on COVID related items. Ellie had sent out e-mails that someone recommended that the county employee Rick Hall track it. Tessia stated that she understood the Commissioners were under the impression they were to track it and they were looking at Barnes and Thornburg. She said she wasn't part of that discussion so she can't really say. Previous to that she thought someone had said that Jerry Shepherd was tracking it. It seems like no one is sure of who is tracking. Jerry said that as far as the Grant is involved, in other counties the Auditor's Office is directly involved with collection of everything that comes in. Jerry said they are collecting data for future disasters. He had asked if he could have access to information turned in so he could track what

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was being spent for future. Mike said it would be a good idea to have everything sent to the Auditor and copy Jerry on it. Jerry said other counties are actually forming a committee with the Auditor to go over the tracking. Tessia said there are 2 different programs and the forms are different. There is the CARES Act and FEMA. She said you can't collect on both of them. After much discussion Jerry said he is basically using this information to form a plan and he is not actually filing it. This will change the emergency plan and how he plans for the future. Tessia said this has to be tracked through the city, town, and county. Jerry said Shawn Gerkin is handling everything for the city. Charlie asked about what is purchased that would go toward this that would be so costly. Jerry said it would be good to have Rick Hall come and explain this better. Laptops have been purchased so employees can work virtually and attend the Zoom meetings. The Commissioners would have to approve someone to take care of it. It cost \$5,000.00 and it is reimbursable through the CARES Act. Tessia said she was under the impression Jerry was taking care of all this and then it was dropped to hire anyone due to this. When she realized that Jerry wasn't tracking this, nothing else has been decided. This will be put on the Commissioners Agenda for next week.

Charlie made the motion to adjourn. Mike seconded. Motion passed unanimously.



 Tessia Salsman, Auditor



 Charlie Weber

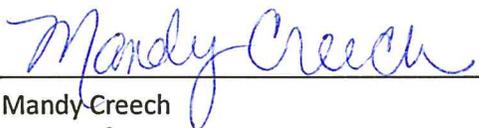


 Howard Malcomb, President



 Mike Gerth

 Dave Woodall, Vice-President



 Mandy Creech



 Paul Belding



 Bob Ellis