

**Owen County Council Regular Meeting
August 11, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Commissioners' Room 2nd Floor of the Owen County Courthouse
60 S. Main Street
Spencer, IN 47460**

Present: Irma Jean Franklin, Donnie Hall, Anton K. Neff, Patty Steward, and Mike Wood. Nick Robertson and Kristin were not present at the beginning of the meeting. Ms. Szczerbik arrived at 7:15 p.m. It was announced Mr. Robertson was ill.

Guests: Bob Siscoe, Mike Stanley, Lori Quillen, Teena Jennings, Chester H. Richardson III, Cris Lunsford

MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 9 & JULY 14, 2008

Anton Neff moved that the minutes of June 9 be approved as presented. Patty Steward seconded the motion. The motion passed 5-0. Patty Steward moved that the minutes of July 14 be approved as presented. Irma Jean Franklin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS

a. General Fund Appropriation for CASA matching grant—Speaking Lori Quillen

Mr. Wood reviewed for the members that they voted on this proposal at the last meeting but it had to be advertised and that is the reason it is before them this evening. The change in the Director's salary is effective 8/11/08 from \$5,000 to \$10,000. The amount reflects raised contract salary.

Mr. Neff moved to appropriate \$2,019.23 to 100-136-4389, CASA Director, for the director's salary. Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. (Motion # 38)

Mr. Wood stated that \$2,637.08 was to become ½ of the Assistant Director's salary as opposed to ¼ and is effective from August 11, 2009 through remainder of year.

Ms. Franklin moved to appropriate \$2,637.08 to 100-136-4118, CASA Assistant Director, with the amount reflecting ½ time salary effective 8/11/08 through remainder of the year 08. Mr. Neff seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. (Motion # 39)

Patty Steward moved to appropriate \$201.71 to 100-136-4124, FICA, with the amount reflecting the increase of time of the Assistant Director from ¼ to ½ and is effective 8/11/08 through 2008. Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. (Motion # 40)

Mr. Neff moved to appropriate \$138.50 to 100-136-4125 which reflects PERF increase based on ½ time salary effective 8/11/08. Ms. Steward seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. (Motion # 41)

Ms. Lawson stated this has to be approved by the State but she will make it effective as soon as permission is received.

b. Drug Court Appropriation—Speaking Donna McElroy

Ms. McElroy explained that the money being requested for appropriations is from grants and must be used before December 31, 2008.

Mr. Neff moved to appropriate from Fund 294 \$500 to line item 4320, Travel & Passes, \$2,000 to 4253, Chemicals, \$2,500 to 4382, Professional Contracts, and \$370 to 4321, Training. Mr. Hall seconded the motion. Motion passed 5-0. (Motion # 42)

c. Road sign appropriation—Speaking Auditor Lawson

Ms. Lawson explained that at the end of the 2008 Legislative Session it was requested that all counties have an in depth audit of the 911 revenues and expenditures. The reason is that the 911 money is declining. The landline numbers has decreased because so many people are now using cell phones as their primary number. The money generated from those phones is \$.50 per month compared to \$2.02 for landline phones. The State would like to have a one set fee for all phones, regardless of the type of phone. After researching the 2005, 06, and 07 911 revenues and expenses during the 2007 Audit, the State Board of Accounts Auditor determined that there were some expenses paid for road signs from the 911 fund that should not have been paid. A couple of years ago, the Commissioners decided that since the road signs were for 911 purposes, replacement signs could be paid from the fund. However, that is not supposed to happen. In 2008, \$3,131.75 has been spent for road signs. Upon conferring with the District Director she was told that the County would not be “written up” if the County corrected this for 08.

Mr. Neff moved to appropriate \$3,131.75 out of Fund 292, Road Signs, to cover the 2008 expenses which have already occurred to make the correction in the 911 Fund. Ms. Steward seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 43)

Ms. Lawson volunteered to bring a request to the Commissioners at their next meeting to consider an amendment to change the ratio in Ordinance 2005-17 concerning the way the \$75.00 fee is split. Currently, the Ordinance splits the amount \$50.00 for signs and \$25.00 for fuel.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELFARE UPDATED MONTHLY REPORT

The members reviewed the monthly report presented to them. The projected amount has gone from approximately \$40,000 to \$87,000 plus. Mr. Wood stated this is a touchy situation because the County is supposed to provide the needed services but with the changes made by House Bill 1001, he is concerned the County is held captive to some degree. Ms. Lawson is now receiving itemized statements. Ms. Lawson is also waiting on a copy of a resolution from another county auditor concerning borrowing money for welfare. She is concerned that unless they borrow from a bank, they could not put that out as a levy till 2010.

IN THE MATTER OF FLOOD FUND AND FEMA UPDATES

Ms. Lawson prepared a spreadsheet concerning individual contracts mostly local and one from Greencastle. Mr. Wood asked if there are any other binding contracts at this time and Ms. Lawson reported there are 3 bridges being worked on at this time with CLR and will be signed at the next Commissioners’ meeting. She also has \$5,000 worth of trash hauling bills and will have to get the information to FEMA but the invoices will have to be paid before the reimbursement comes. There is one dumpster remaining at Fishcreek.

Approximately \$4,000 will be returned to the Flood Fund from vendors who did not deduct their in-kind donations from their original bills.

Ms. Lawson also told the members that she received a letter from Senator Lugar who is pushing a 90-10 split as opposed to the 75-25 per cent reimbursement which will really help Owen County.

At this time the potential that the county may have to pay including bridges is \$101,000. EMS and the Sheriff's department turned in their claims directly to FEMA.

To date, \$68,973.27 has been paid out of the Flood Fund and there has been no reimbursement.

IN THE MATTER OF 2009 BUDGET NON BINDING INFO FOR OTHER TAXING UNITS BY COUNCIL

The County Council is now required to perform a non binding review of all taxing units except the schools. The proposed budgets presented to them tonight are to be reviewed by the Council. The Council can make recommendations and then they will be sent to DLGF for their review. This has to be done before the County Budget is approved.

IN THE MATTER CONCERNING THE 2009 BUDGET

Mr. Wood referred to a letter issued August 1 from the State of Indiana which is an order extending the deadline for the political subdivisions and the fixed budget and tax rates and levies for 2009. The budget deadline for all political subdivisions has been extended to December 1, 2008.

Ms. Lawson explained that the date for deductions for which taxpayers apply is now December 31 for 08/09. When she certifies assessed values, AVs, she will have one number which may change by December 31 because when people file exemptions, AVs are lowered. Another issue is that this County is not compliant on the Sales Disclosures for 2007. Assessor Kenny Anderson believed, until today, that the Sales Disclosures were compliant so he will have to backtrack to find out why they are not compliant. At the end of September she may not have AVs rolled and calculated for September for adoption of the budget. County growth may be somewhere between 3.3 and 4%.

Ms. Lawson stated she had been assured by the DLGF that the turn around time will be no more than two weeks even if the adoption of the budget is submitted in December. By statute, budgets are to be approved by February 15.

After discussion among the members concerning whether to retain their original schedule for budget hearings and when the Wage Committee information would be presented to the full board, it was decided to go ahead and hold budget hearings August 20 and 21 as advertised. The members decided to hold Personnel Service requests during the morning of the first day. Final personnel requests will be determined on September 29. The target date to adopt the final budget will be at their regular meeting October 13th.

IN THE MATTER OF A LETTER REFERRING TO CERTIFICATION OF LOCAL OPTION INCOME TAX

Mr. Wood commented he thought they should review the information. Ms. Szczerbik stated that she supported what they did last year but in looking at courthouse security among other issues, she thought more time should be spent on this issue. To that end, she recommended that perhaps on September 29 part of the time could be spent discussing this issue.

Mr. Neff asked how the members wanted the wage committee recommendations presented to them. Both Mr. Neff and Ms. Steward stated they want to make a presentation of the wage committee to the members before the September 29 date. Perhaps a preview of the wage committee will be given at their September 8 meeting.

Mr. Wood stated that although they have in the past let the State tell the Highway department to cut their own budget, this year he has informed them that the Council will look closely at that particular budget.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENTS

Ms. Szczerbik referred back to the issue of loans concerning welfare. At this point in time there isn't much that can be done. Hopefully as time passes, more information will become available.

Mr. Wood mentioned that on August 14, he and Mr. Truesdel will be meeting with salaried employees to do a review of supervisors.

IN THE MATTER OF RESOLUTION 2008-30

Ms. Szczerbik read the Joint Resolution she would like for the Council and Commissioners to sign which in part is honoring and commending all Owen County personnel and officials for their heroism and dedication to the rescue and relief efforts during the June 7, 2008 flood disaster.

Mr. Neff moved to approve and sign Joint Resolution 2008-30 which is a resolution prepared by Councilwoman Kristin Szczerbik honoring and commending Owen County personnel for their actions during the recent flood disaster. Ms. Szczerbik seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 44)
The final copy will be signed by the Council at the budget hearings next week.

Ms. Szczerbik will present the Resolution to the Commissioners at their next meeting. The Joint Resolution will then be presented at the County wide picnic on August 23, 2008.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. Franklin moved to adjourn. Ms. Steward seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Donnie Hall

Irma Jean Franklin

Anton Neff

Nick Robertson

Patty Steward

Kristin Szczerbik

Attest: _____
Angie Lawson

Michael Wood