

**Owen County Council Regular Meeting
September 8, 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, Nick Robertson, Kristin Szczerbik, Patty Steward, and Mike Wood. Deputy Auditor Beverly Johns was present for Auditor Lawson who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

Guests: Tami Snodgrass, Bob Siscoe, Michael Conly, Spike Shepler, Cris Lunsford, Darin Crum, Matthew Crum, Stan Frank, Debbie Dailey, Mike Stanley

MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

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

Ms. Szczerbik moved to table approval of both the regular meeting minutes for August 11 and those presented for the first round of Budget Hearings. Mr. Wood asked for a second. There was no second.

Anton Neff moved that the minutes of August 11 be approved as corrected by changing Mr. to Ms. on page 1 when referring to Irma Jean Franklin. Patty Steward seconded the motion. The motion passed 5 in favor, Kristin voted against and Nick abstained as he was not present at the last meeting.

Patty Steward moved to table the budget hearing minutes until the October meeting. Kristin Szczerbik seconded the motion. Motion passed with 6 in favor and Donnie Hall abstaining.

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS

a. Reassessment—Speaking Assessor Kenny Anderson

Mr. Anderson explained that technically the first year is an evaluation contract for \$130,800. For 2009, the contract will be \$139,300 and the third year the contract will be \$145,600 for a total of \$415,700 for three years.

Mr. Anderson explained to the members that when they receive the new state approved software, his office will require a new server. He received a price on the server today for approximately \$14,000.

Anton Neff moved to appropriate \$130,800 from Fund 254 for purposes of re-evaluation to line item 4355. Patty Steward seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Motion # 45)

b. Coroner—Speaking Coroner Darin Crum

Mr. Crum requested \$5,000 to get through the remainder of the year. It was suggested that since there are funds in the budget that can be transferred from line item to line item that money be used first. Mr. Crum agreed and he will transfer funds and return to the Council only if necessary.

IN THE MATTER OF PMSI, Inc—Speaking Spike Shepler

Mr. Shepler explained PMSI is an acronym for Project Management Services and is a company located in Noblesville. They were asked by the Commissioners to submit plans concerning the future of the Armory Building for county offices as well as Extension Office and Dispatchers who are located in the jail.

Mr. Shepler introduced Mike Conley from the Architura Corporation which is a company working jointly with PMSI, Inc. during the process.

Mr. Shepler explained their credentials to the members and where they had completed similar work. PMSI brings the planning process and knowledge of county government offices and Architura brings the knowledge of layout of buildings and the historic value of such buildings. Mr. Conley then presented information about Architura and work they have completed—over 50 projects in the last 5 years—some small, some large renovations and projects.

Mr. Shepler stated that the first step will be to do a needs assessments, growth, storage, location of records, etc., and hopefully project out approximately 10-15 years. They will develop a long term facility program, taking the aforementioned data and putting together an overview of this County's government. They will also include the special requirements such as technology, courthouse security, recording equipment, etc. Identifying funding sources is also something about which they will be able to advise. He recommended public meetings be held to enable the community to become aware of the remodeling.

Commissioner Steve Redenbaugh explained to the Council that after trying to obtain several quotes, PMSI, Inc. is the only firm that offered any interest in working on this project.

Ms. Steward indicated that long range planning was a major concern during earlier Council Workshops and Budget Hearings. Mr. Shepler commented it is better to be proactive than reactive.

Ms. Steward moved to appropriate \$15,000 from the Riverboat Fund 267 to allow PMSI, Inc to begin the Project Planning and Management Services for Owen County Courthouse and National Guard Armory Annex. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Motion # 46)

IN THE MATTER OF McCREADY AND KEENE, INC.—OWEN COUNTY POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN

Sheriff Richardson stated there was no one present from the McCready and Keene to discuss this issue. The members had been provided with a copy of a letter. This issue will be reviewed and discussed at a later meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELFARE UPDATED MONTHLY REPORT—Speaking Debbie Dailey

Ms. Dailey discussed the monthly Welfare report beginning with the projection based on August. They received a tax distribution in August making the current cash balance \$404,777 with outstanding obligations of \$526,361. This projection differs from last month in that they are actively looking at all cases and several have been closed. Therefore the projected expenditures are not what Ms. Dailey thought they would be.

Mr. Neff had several questions concerning revenues and expenses. It was unclear if his questions pertaining to her statistical sheet were answered by Ms. Dailey.

Ms. Steward noted that during budget hearings Welfare owed Probation money and inquired if that \$8,000 will be paid and Ms. Dailey stated it would be paid.

Mr. Wood stated a committee has been formed to meet with Ms. Dailey and asked if that committee had met. She replied no and asked what he hoped to derive from that committee. She stated that if they had another year or 18 months they would have a whole different planning strategy. She had met with Judge Nardi and Kristin but not any other members of the committee. She first came before the Council in January and that was before they really knew whether the State would be taking over Welfare.

Mr. Neff commented that it is his impression that the DLGF is thinking this is not as big of an issue as Council members and she may think it is because of what will be happening by the end of the year. In an email from Tammy White, State Board of Accounts, Mr. Wood read “for more specifics you should be receiving information from the Department of Child Services or the DLGF as the year end approaches. If you need information for the budget shortfall purpose, work with the DLGF representative.”

Mr. Neff suggested the Auditor contact Rush County and ask what they are doing concerning paying bills for Family and Children. They need to look for funds that can “gift” money towards getting things paid. It should be reviewed if Fund 283, the Children’s Psychiatric Residential Fund, can be used.

Mr. Hall asked how many cases had she closed and she responded half dozen or so.

IN THE MATTER OF AN EMS UPDATE—Speaking Director Cris Lunsford

A Remount and Refurbish Quote had been presented in writing to the Council members and Mr. Lunsford asked if they had questions.

The quote provided what the remount cost includes and what “credits” would be given if certain options were deleted. Ms. Szczerbik then asked if any of the items could be deleted. Mr. Lunsford explained one of the “credits” was to delete upholstery for a savings of \$2,500. He pointed out that the upholstery is the 1989 original and new criteria have been established since 1989. Therefore, he thought new upholstery should be not be deleted.

Mr. Wood asked if the previous remounts had all of these features and Mr. Lunsford stated that the newest one has everything except the Led light bar. The last remounts did not have the option of LED because they were not available.

Mr. Robertson moved to appropriate \$89,915 from EDIT Fund 247 to 247-4309.10 to pay for the remount and refurbishing of the current EMS Sentinal ambulance by Life Star Rescue, Inc. on a 2009 Chevy G-4500 chassis. Mr. Neff seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. (Motion # 47)

IN THE MATTER OF COURTHOUSE SECURITY—Speaking Dan McBride and Kristin Szczerbik

A copy of the revised implementation plan was presented to the Council members. Within the document, the following areas were discussed: Phase 1, Objective 1 included establishing one door entrance to the courthouse with an approximate cost of \$25,000 to \$40,000 depending on design, bids, and materials. Other costs included non-entry doors that may cost approximately \$3,576 for four doors. The projected X-ray machine cost was estimated to be between \$15,000-\$40,000 depending on machine, accessories and used or new; Phase 1, Objective 2 dealt with the providing courthouse security personnel under the administration of the Sheriff with the cost for the Chief Security Officer Position at \$45,000. The projected cost for 4 security officers for 32 hours per week at \$10.00 per hour totaled \$66,560 and miscellaneous costs for the officers totaled \$8,000 for a total of \$74,560.

Mr. Neff stated that he was under the impression that the first focus would be to have a deputy in the courthouse because that was the most practical thing to do at this time. Mr. Wood clarified that the courthouse officer will be a deputy from the Sheriff's department. Ms. Steward commented that the question was asked concerning the bare minimum for next year because the complete security program presented could not be done all at once. The total cost would be \$200,000 and having an officer in the courthouse for security was the main objective.

Side two of the first tape is scratchy from here till the end and cannot be deciphered. The second tape is also scratchy and inaudible. The remainder of the minutes will reflect the notes taken by Beverly Johns.

IN THE MATTER OF LOIT DISCUSSION

Certification of Local Option Income Tax regarding the Operating (Levy Freeze) LOIT had been received. The letter stated that the DLGF and the Department of Revenue are required to certify the CAGIT rate that must be imposed in a county to raise tax revenues as specified. In 2009 the estimated amount needed is \$172,335 with a corresponding income tax rate of 0.0527 and in 2010 the amount will be \$351,565 with a 0.11 rate.

Per Indiana law, LOIT Options include property tax relief and public safety. A county may adopt an additional CAGIT to provide local property tax replacement credits to all property, provide or increase the homestead credit percentage uniformly or provide local property tax replacement credits to qualified residential property. The additional CAGIT can be raised in increments of 0.05% up to a maximum of 1.00%

Also, a county may adopt an additional CAGIT for Public Safety. The county must first have adopted a 0.25% rate for the additional CAGIT for Operating (Levy freeze), the CAGIT for Property Tax Relief, or a combination of both. The Public Safety CAGIT rate can be adopted up to a maximum of 0.25%.

Ms. Szczerbik commented that property tax relief and public safety are two areas in which the LOIT can be changed. She spent two hours on the phone discussing this issue with a DLGF representative to obtain numbers that would be helpful in the Council's decision making. She stated that she thought the only reason to increase the amount would be for public safety.

It was suggested that the website of Larry DeBoer, a professor at Purdue University, be looked at by the council members.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENTS

It was announced that a work session to discuss wages and salaries will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursday.

The budget hearings concerning personnel services will begin Monday, September 29 at 8 a.m.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Franklin moved to adjourn. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Donnie Hall

Irma Jean Franklin

Anton Neff

Nick Robertson

Patty Steward

Kristin Szczerbik

Attest: _____
Angie Lawson

Michael Wood