

**Owen County Council Regular Meeting
October 14, 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, Patty Steward, and Mike Wood. Kristin Szczerbik called Mr. Wood and informed him she would not be able to be present tonight. However, she arrived approximately 9:00 p.m.

Guests: Mark Snapp, Bob Siscoe, Frank Nardi, Sheila Reeves, Cris Lunsford, Chester Richardson III, Tami Snodgrass

MEETING WAS OPENED WITH THE PLEDGE TO THE AMERICAN FLAG

IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR September 8, 2008

Ms. Steward moved to approve the minutes of September 8. Mr. Neff seconded the motion. (Motion passed 6-0)

IN THE MATTER OF TRANSFERS AND APPROPRIATIONS

a. EDIT—Sign Resolution for approval—Mr. Wood requested public comments concerning Additional Appropriation **Resolution #2008-34**. There were no public comments. Because the Council passed this resolution at their last meeting and there were no public comments, members signed the Resolution requesting an additional appropriation of \$89,915.00 in the EDIT Fund for Life Star Rescue for 2009 Chevy G-4500 Remount.

b. Riverboat Fund—Sign Resolution for approval—Mr. Wood requested public comments concerning Additional Appropriation **Resolution #2008-35**. There were no public comments. Because the Council previously approved this request, the members signed the request for an additional appropriation in the Riverboat Fund, in the amount of \$15,000 from the cash balance in said fund to pay toward the contract with PMSI, Inc. for Planning and Management of Buildings.

b. Extension Office—Transfer for copier Charges—Speaking Patty Steward on behalf of Mark Evans

The maintenance agreement for the Extension office copier was \$5.00 more than appropriated in that particular line item.

Mr. Neff moved to transfer \$5.00 from the Postage line item 100-123-4212 to line item 100-123-4378 to pay the final charges on the copier maintenance agreement. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 45)

c. Health—Mass Prop. Additional Appropriation—Speaking Sheila Reeves

Ms. Reeves stated that the Council had appropriated up to \$45,000 in Fund 278. She requested a transfer of \$1,389.00 to close the fund. Ms. Reeves explained that line item 278-4220 is \$1,389.00 “in the red” and needs a cash transfer. By adding the additional amount, the fund will close at zero.

Mr. Neff moved to appropriate \$1,389.03 in Fund 278 to line item 4220 for supplies. Ms. Steward seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 46)

Ms. Franklin asked about the distribution of the radios. She would like to hear from Jack White concerning how they were distributed.

Ms. Reeves continued that a letter from the Health Officer had been presented at the last meeting. The letter explained that the Health Officer wanted to hold a couple of claims and they would be submitted to the Auditor at a later date.

Mr. Neff moved to table the issue till the November meeting. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 47)

Ms. Reeves informed the members that the next Health Board meeting will be held November 17. She presented them with the new grant cycle information. She asked if anything had been done with the Master Tobacco Request Fund 273 for Volunteers In Medicine, Johnson Nichols Clinic during the budget hearings for 2009. Mr. Wood stated there was some discussion during budget hearings for using some of the funds. Ms. Reeves requested to be on the November agenda so the money could be appropriated.

d. Circuit Court—Transfer for Clerical Assistance—Speaking Judge Nardi

He was present to request a transfer for clerical assistance to cover the remainder of the year.

Mr. Neff moved to approve the transfer of \$1,500 from 100-136-4232, repair of equipment, to 100-136-4114, clerical assistance. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 48)

IN THE MATTER OF SHORTFALLS IN UTILITIES AND HEALTH INSURANCE & DECLARATION OF COUNTY TAX RATES—Speaking Auditor Angie Lawson

Ms. Lawson stated that during the wage discussions she had mentioned there would be a couple of items about which she would have to come before the Council. She requested direction from the Council as to whether they preferred appropriating money from EDIT or an additional in the General Fund so she could be prepared for the November meeting.

The group insurance is approximately \$30,000 per month and there is currently \$30,000 available. She will need \$60,000 for November and December. By consensus it was recommended that the request for the additional appropriations for both the utilities and health insurance come from the General Fund.

IN THE MATTER OF McCREADY AND KEENE, INC.—OWEN COUNTY POLICE RETIREMENT PLAN—Speaking Sheriff Richardson and Elaine A. Beaty, Vice President

Sheriff Richardson introduced Ms. Elaine Beaty, Vice President of McCready and Keene, Inc. She presented written information concerning the third amendment to the Owen County Police Retirement Plan. The information had already been approved and signed by the Merit Board. Ms. Beaty also stated that the amendment is a requirement of the Internal Revenue Service.

Mr. Robertson moved to sign the 3rd Amendment to the Owen County Police Retirement Plan as required by the Internal Revenue Service. Ms. Franklin seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 49)

Mr. Hall asked about how the funds were invested and the fees charged by McCready & Keene. It was explained that they charge approximately \$2,000 to monitor the fund and Morgan Stanley is the overseer of over half of the sheriffs' pension plans in the state. The fees are actually expenses covered by the trust fund so there is no direct check written for the fees by the county.

There was discussion concerning the 457 (B) plan which would allow contributions from only the Sheriff's employees. It was determined that this issue must be presented to the Commissioners. Ms. Franklin stated that it should be remembered that there are other 457 plans.

IN THE MATTER OF THE WELFARE UPDATED MONTHLY REPORT

There was discussion regarding the update from the Division of Family & Children and it was unclear from the report of what the estimated shortfall would be in January 2009. The members could not tell if things were improving, remaining the same, or worsening. The Auditor was asked to contact Debbie Daily and request clarification for the November meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF REVIEWING BUDGETS OF ALL TAXING UNITS

The members reviewed all of the Owen County Taxing Units budgets for 2009 and there were no additional recommendations made by any of the members.

Mr. Robertson moved to have Mike Wood, President of the Council, sign the budgets on behalf of the Council with no recommendations. Mr. Neff seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 50)

IN THE MATTER OF LOIT DISCUSSION—Speaking Auditor Lawson

The Council discussed whether to adopt the Local Option Income Tax rate for 2009. Various issues concerning ramifications of adopting LOIT were discussed. At a recent meeting held for taxing units, Melissa Ambrey clarified that if the operating levy is frozen at the current rate, it can never be increased. All additional revenue would have to come from income tax. If the tax is put on, it continues for an indefinite time. The consensus was that there is no way of knowing exactly how various territories and agricultural land would compare to other land.

Mr. Neff moved to not adopt the LOIT for 2009. Ms. Steward seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0. (Motion # 51)

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF THE 2009 COUNTY BUDGET

Concerning the budget, Ms. Lawson had concerns about the 2% part time wages as well as longevity. Mr. Neff stated that the 2% has to be given because the council had already determined that all employees would receive the 2% raise. The discussion clarified for Ms. Lawson the process she will use to prepare the salary ordinance. Longevity was also explained by Mr. Neff concerning support and specialty positions.

There was considerable discussion about the Sheriff's salary and Mr. Neff will email to the members a new spreadsheet.

There was no decision made in adopting the budget. Elected officials and department heads should contact their liaison before the November 10th meeting.

IN THE MATTER OF COUNCIL COMMENTS

Mr. Wood reviewed the letter in their packets concerning the education of probation officers. The members believe that the State compensates the Probation officers appropriately.

Ms. Szczerbik gave a Security Fund update, for the month of September, the actual amount collected was \$761. This is from fees added to court fees.

IN THE MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Franklin moved to adjourn. Mr. Robertson seconded the motion. Motion passed 7-0. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Donnie Hall

Irma Jean Franklin

Anton Neff

Nick Robertson

Patty Steward

Kristin Szczerbik

Attest: _____
Angie Lawson

Michael Wood