

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
August 19, 2015**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday, August 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**1. Call to order**

President McWhirt called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

**2. Prayer**

Councilman Conner led in prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Leming led the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Roll Call**

In attendance were Council members Jim McWhirt, Shane Middlesworth, Michael D. Conner, Tresa Baker, Mark Leming and Frank Hix. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stephenson, Auditor Roger A. Bainbridge, Chief Deputy Tammy Miller and Executive Secretary Sharon Kirkwood. Mike Scott was absent.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Conner moved to approve the regular session minutes of July 15, 2015 as presented. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 5-0 with President McWhirt voting to abstain due to absence.

**6. Auditor's Report**

Auditor Bainbridge reported on the General Fund Balance Report. Auditor Bainbridge, "The figures reflect more expenses due to 3 payrolls this July versus last July. The receipts show a little less than normal. The General Fund Balance shows \$403,000 plus the C.O.I.T. balance of \$207,000 in addition to the Sheriff's Merit Pension account of \$181,000." Chief Deputy Miller added the Sheriff's Merit Pension Fund has been built up over the years by the deputies delivering court papers. So, instead of using the C.O.I.T. Fund to cover the entire cost of the pension expense it can be supplemented by the pension fund.

Auditor Bainbridge reported on the Health Insurance Report. Auditor Bainbridge, "The 3<sup>rd</sup> column reflects a large amount in March which was catch up for January through February. The large amount in June was due to an employee who had heart surgery. There was also another employee who had to be life-lined by helicopter to Fort Wayne. Those 2 items created the larger than normal expense. The dental buy-up plan is another change recently passed by the commissioners. For those employees who want to pay the extra charge for increased dental coverage can do so. The numbers show 4 months of payments for April, May, June and July. Again July was a 3 pay month so the numbers can run about \$2,900 for every 2-pay month. Or \$1,450 per pay and since July has 3 pays it was higher. The overall balance is down about \$425,000 from this point last year but it's due to the extraordinary expenses that just occurred.

President McWhirt asked if there were any insurance numbers for budget purposes. Auditor Bainbridge stated nothing yet.

**7. New Business**

**A. Grant County Economic Growth Council**

- Workforce Development Program (WDP) Grant Application
- Program Update

Tim Eckerle, Director of Grant County Economic Growth Council, presented Workforce Development Program Grant Application. Charity Bailey of the Growth Council Team, Alex Husky of Ivy Tech Marion, Gary Gatman of Work One North East Indiana of the Work Force Investment Board. Mr. Eckerle, "The Growth Council's primary mission is to facilitate investment and reinvestment for job creation and retention. In today's world the greatest decider of where companies make investments and reinvestments is talent. People go on and on about low tax environments but yet the most successful job creation engines in this country are from the highest tax environments like in San Francisco in Silicon Valley, Massachusetts and some

other high cost areas. It's all about talent. So the Growth Council has been working with a joint venture with Work One, Ivy Tech in a project called 'Grant's Got Talent'. The national award winning video is another way to highlight Grant County beyond just the people in the video. Taylor University produced this video." The video was played. Mr. Eckerle, "In essence we are training people for entry level manufacturing jobs. The course they went through was 120 hours. The new program coming is providing machine maintenance training in hydraulics, electronics and controls. The partnership is basically that Work One will help with recruitment. In this case we will only be dealing with the existing employees of these companies. Each company will identify people they feel will have the abilities to move within the company to receive a higher wage. They will be screened at Work One for deficiencies like if they need blue print writing or whatever. The actual training will be conducted by Ivy Tech. To finance the project we are looking to the Indy Office of Community Affairs. They have a grant program that will allow for \$250,000 with a local match from Work One. Ivy Tech is donating \$180,000 of equipment. Eventually we will come back to you because the county will be listed as the applicant. If we are successful with the proposal after August 21<sup>st</sup> then the final application will be sent August 28<sup>th</sup>. The project will start shortly thereafter training about 50 people with 180 hours of training."

President McWhirt restated the group is looking for approval to begin the project and the grant requires a governmental entity to become the applicant. Councilwoman Baker questioned if there would be a local monetary match. President McWhirt stated, "I am not opposed to going forward with the application because it would be a program that is helpful to us as a county and have better trained workers. However I would not be willing to commit to any additional dollars from county funds at this point because we haven't started the budget process yet. We do as a county through L.O.I.T. give some funds towards the Growth Council's efforts of \$315,000 per year so hopefully through the other agencies like Work One that they will handle that match. It could be that as we go through the process that we could put something towards that then you could ask. The commissioners have to give their blessing as well which they intend to do at next weeks' meeting."

Councilman Conner moved to move forward on the grant application process. Second by Councilwoman Baker; there was no public input. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **B. County Sheriff – Transfer**

Tim Holtzleiter, Chief Deputy of the Grant County Sheriff's Department, requested to transfer \$12,000 from salaries to overtime from the Detention Center budget. There has been a turn-over in staff as well as sick leave issues that have affected payroll.

Councilwoman Baker moved to approve the transfer from 1000-381-1000.11 Salaries to 1000-381-1000.12 Overtime in the amount of \$12,000 as requested. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; there was no public input. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **C. County Assessor**

Gary Landrum, Grant County Assessor, requested an additional appropriation of \$28,000 for contracted services by the Nexus Group. Assessor Landrum, "The services were for 2015 assessment work that was contracted out in March 2015 but wasn't budgeted. Assessor Landrum stated the State of Indiana went to what they call reciprocal reassessment which manages assessing the county by ¼ at a time for 4 years. This approach allows the office to visit each property for assessing and gives us a better use of our time." President McWhirt questioned how the assessed valuations are trending up or down. Assessor Landrum stated, "Probably about the same, maybe reduced due to some appeals. The big box properties appealing for lower values on their assessments will reflect a little less from the previous year."

Councilman Middlesworth moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$28,000 for contractual services 1224-008-3000.66 as requested. Second by Councilman Leming; there was no public input. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **D. County Health Department**

Tara Street, Office Manager/Registrar, requested an additional \$75,000 for immunizations and vaccine supplies in Fund 4902 Immunization & Vaccines Fund. The fund will maintain a sustainable balance as insurance reimbursements are received.

Councilman Conner moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$75,000 for vaccine supplies as requested. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; there was no public input. Motion carried 6-0.

**E. County Emergency Medical Services**

Duaine Ashcraft, Director of Emergency Medical Services, requested an additional appropriation of \$10,000 for salaries to cover the cost of 210 hours of vacation coverage, also an additional \$5,000 for salaries that wasn't budgeted. Run volume and time are up about 17% so income is up. The monthly income averages \$55,523 which is about \$59,000 above expenses for the department. After realizing that Mrs. Harness is the only one coding for Medicaid/Medicare and the coding changing it only makes sense to train a few more personnel to insure billing can be completed. So after asking for their willingness to be trained they were sent to Chicago and Minneapolis to complete their training by month end. So part of this additional will fund the 7 hours (times 3 people) to keep up the coding which has to be completely switched over by October 1. We aim for about \$40,000 a month in billing.

Councilman Conner moved to approve the additional appropriation of \$10,000 and \$5,000 as requested for salaries and EMT full time. Second by Councilwoman Baker; there was no public input. Motion carried 6-0.

**F. County Auditor**

- Ordinance – Public Safety Fee for Heritage Barns 1-2015

Roger Bainbridge, Grant County Auditor, presented an ordinance for Heritage Barns. Auditor Bainbridge, "State legislature has passed legislation for Heritage Barn Deductions which enables barns that were constructed prior to 1950 that are not being used for agriculture or livestock but will declare them a historical landmark. The new law removes the assessed valuation from the barns. It is a partially funded mandate in the sense an ordinance may be passed to where anyone who files for the deduction to pay a public safety fee which is not to exceed \$50.00 per year. There have been 3 filings so far this year. Attorney Stephenson prepared an ordinance if the council wishes to pass it. The funds will go to police and fire departments in that area township." Discussion ensued with the following action.

Councilman Conner moved to approve Ordinance 1-2015 allowing an annual public safety fee of \$50 to Heritage Barn Deductions. Second by Councilwoman Baker, there was no public input. Motion carried 6-0.

**8. Old Business**

None.

**9. Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion**

There were no reports.

**A. Committee Reports**

None.

The next regular meeting will be held on September 16, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

The budget hearings will start on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m. also on September 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. in the Grant County Council Chambers.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting ended at 6:54 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

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JIM McWHIRT, PRESIDENT

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SHANE MIDDLESWORTH

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MIKE SCOTT

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MARK LEMING

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TRESA BAKER

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MICHAEL D. CONNER

ATTEST:

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FRANK HIX

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ROGER A. BAINBRIDGE  
AUDITOR