

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL  
REGULAR SESSION  
March 21, 2018**

The Grant County Council met in regular session on Wednesday March 21, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

**1. Call to order**

President McWhirt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**2. Prayer**

Councilman Roorbach led prayer.

**3. Pledge of Allegiance**

Councilman Leming led the pledge of allegiance.

**4. Roll Call**

In attendance were Council members Jim McWhirt, Frank Hix, Mike Roorbach, Mike Conner, Shane Middlesworth, Mark Leming and Mike Scott. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stephenson, Auditor Roger Bainbridge, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

**5. Approval of Minutes**

Councilman Conner moved to approve the minutes from the February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018 meeting as presented. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 6-0, with Councilman Leming abstaining as he was not present at the February meeting.

**6. Auditor's Report**

Auditor Roger Bainbridge reported from the General Fund Balance report. The report shows us within 5000.00 at the same point as last year. Hopefully in 9 months from now we can say the same thing. There is nothing out of the ordinary that I can see.

Auditor Bainbridge also reported from the Health Insurance Fund report. The report shows a balance of 484,000.00 which is low, but is better than last month. This is much lower than it was last year. We are still waiting on an anticipated stop loss payment of somewhere in the range of 300,000.00. That would take it back up to within a reasonable point where we were most of the last year. Chief Deputy Angie Jarvis stated we are working with 2 insurance companies due to the change from UMR to Anthem, which could be why you are seeing a little bit of an increase. We are still clearing out last year's bills. Auditor Bainbridge stated this is another reason to be cautiously optimistic until we see a few months under our belt.

Auditor Bainbridge also reported we have our abstract approved by the state. We have our property taxes for 17 pay 18 calculated and turned them over to the Treasurer, we are ahead of the process. She has until April 13, which is 3 weeks from the day after tomorrow to get them out and she feels as though she is ahead of the process as well.

President McWhirt noted we did have our 2018 budgets approved by the DLGF.

**7. New Business**

**A. Grant County Economic Growth Council-**Mr. Bill Gartland spoke about and gave a brief history of the Economic Growth Council and the projects they are doing. Tim Eckerle presented Council members with a packet of information from the Economic Growth Council and spoke about the 2017 highlights of the Economic Growth Council.

**B. County Highway Department-** Superintendent David White is asking for approval to fill a vacancy. The position is for a Bookkeeper and has become open due to a retirement. Superintendent White would like to fill the vacancy as soon as possible. Councilman Conner

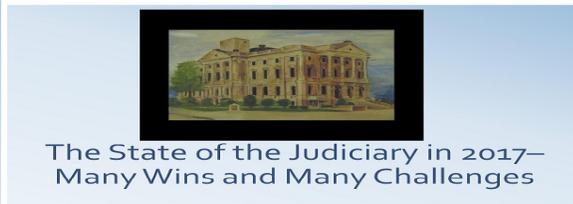
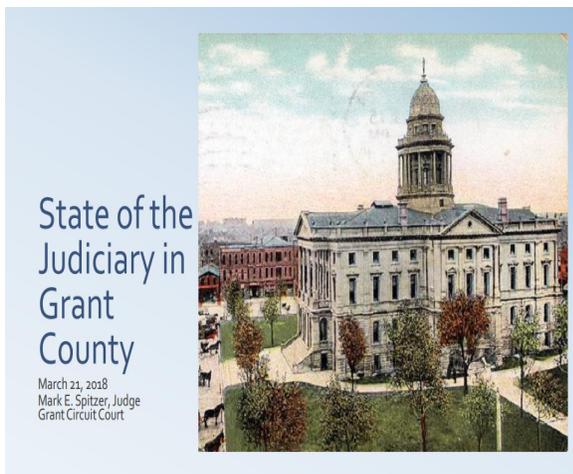
moved to approve the filling of the vacancy as requested. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 6-1.

**C. County Auditor-** Auditor Roger Bainbridge is requesting the appropriations be made for the following Elected Officials:

Clerk	1217-001-3000.29	\$500
Auditor	1217-002-3000.29	\$1,250
Treasurer	1217-003-3000.29	\$775
Recorder	1217-004-3000.29	\$1,000
Surveyor	1217-006-3000.29	\$200

These amounts are consistent with what has been appropriated in prior years. Councilman Conner moved to approve the appropriations as requested. Second by Councilman Roorbach; motion carried 7-0.

**D. State of the Judiciary-**Judge Spitzer presented the State of Judiciary. The presentation is as follows:



Justice Steven David, Indiana Supreme Court, speaks at Veteran's Treatment Court Graduation



- Statewide EBDM
  - Evidence-Based Decision-Making in Criminal Justice
  - Objective – Criminal Justice Reform
  - "Blue Ribbon Committee" of Stakeholders From all branches of State Government identifying and implementing reforms of the Criminal Justice System, Led by the Indiana Supreme Court
  - One of only Two States Selected by the NIC to Participate (Indiana and Wisconsin)
  - Started with Grant County in 2011!
  - State Committee Members from Grant County
    - Judge Spitzer
    - Cindy McCoy
    - Chris Cunningham

2017 Wins – Imitation – The Sincerest Form of Flattery

- Counties Visiting Grant County in 2017 to Learn From Our System
  - Miami County
  - Howard County
  - Johnson County
  - Wabash County (Reentry Court)
  - Vigo County
  - Harrison County
  - Delaware County
  - Dearborn County
  - Bartholomew County (Family Recovery Court)
- Counties Inviting Us to Visit to Help Implement Programs Like Grant County
  - Madison County
  - Laporte County
- Counties Planning to Visit in 2018
  - Fulton County (Drug Court)
  - Martin County (Drug Court)
  - Allen County (Family Recovery Court)
  - Wabash County (Drug Court)

2017 Wins – Imitation – The Sincerest Form of Flattery

- Judge Mark Spitzer
  - Supreme Court Strategic Planning Committee
  - Statewide EBDM Committee (and several subcommittees)
  - Drug Court/Veteran's Treatment Court
  - National Center for State Courts Judicial Peer Group on Evidence Based Practices
- Judge Jeffrey Fordt
  - Reentry Court
- Judge Dana Kenworthy
  - Regional Judicial Open Initiative (RJOO) – 1 of 3 "judicial champions" from Indiana (RJOO includes 8 states: IL, IN, KY, MI, NC, OH, TN, & WV)
  - Indiana Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges Board of Directors – current Vice-President
  - Juvenile Justice Improvements Committee
  - ICS Regional Service Council (Regional)
  - Participating in national training initiative for Family Recovery Courts (1 of 3 FRC's in the nation presenting)
  - Family Recovery Court
- Judge Warren Haas
  - Judges and Lawyers Assistance Program Committee
  - Special Courts Committee
- Magistrate Brian Merrill
  - Domestic Relations Committee
  - Pro Bono Committee for District 1 (Chair)
  - Trierney Court
  - JRM Planning Committee

2017 Wins – Local Leadership Shapes State Policy

- OJDP grant for Family Recovery Court: \$33,000 (1 year grant totaling \$33,150)
- IOCS Court Interpreter Grant: \$3,000
- IOCS Problem-Solving Courts Grant, Family Recovery Court: \$9,050
- IOCS Drug Court Grant: \$7,000
- IOCS Family Court Grant: \$34,400
- IOCS Reentry Court Grant: \$9,650
- IOCS Vet Court Grant: \$6,480
- DART Vet Court Grant \$300
- DART Drug Court Grant: \$1,800
- DART Grant Community Corrections \$3,000
- IOCA Grant \$85,474
- Community Corrections Supervision: \$839,264.00
- Community Corrections 2006: \$6,000.00
- Court Recidivism Reduction 2006: \$164,800.00
- Probation 2006: \$87,800.00
- Jail Treatment 2006: \$1,500,000.00
- Prosecutor's Diversion 2006: \$61,500.00
- Prenatal Grant: \$221,000 (\$442,000 over two years)

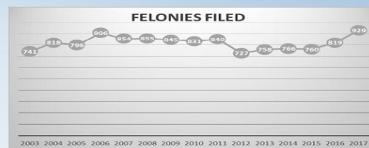
\$1,755,271 in Total Grant Awards!

2017 Wins – Grants

2017 "Challenges"



Challenges – The Opiate and Methamphetamine Crisis



Felony Cases filed in Grant County, 2003-2017



- A public/private partnership promoting positive youth development and enhancing public safety
- 32 of 92 counties participating
- Collaborative approach – local steering committee of which Jim McWhirt is member
- Utilizes data to inform decision making
- Grant County in phase 2
- Carefully examining the utilization of the detention center
- Additional planning group working on jail over-crowding, exploring utilization of detention center for adults and juvenile intake

### Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative

### Staffing



- IV-D Court Reporter Retiring
- Council has suggested not to fill the position, but use a "floater"

### The Problem

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Circuit	Jury Trial, Civil Overflow	Civil, Mental Health	Divorce, Pretrials	Vet Court, Drug Court	Criminal, Divorce
Sep. 1	Criminal, Jury trials	Civil	Civil	Pretrials, Initial Hearings, Civil	Restry, Divorce
Sep. 2	Criminal, Criminal pretrials	Pretrials, Civil Overflow, Child Criminal	Jury trial, Civil Overflow, Child Criminal	Childs TPR, Family Recovery, Ct	Divorce, Civil
Sep. 3	Criminal	Criminal	Jury Overflow, Civil	Small Claims	Guardianship, Probate, Divorce, Overflow, Civil
Juvenile	Delinquency, Paternity, Protective Order, Body Attachment, Detention	Childs/TPR initials, IV-D hearings, Protective Order, Body Attachment, Detention	Criminal, Delinquency, Paternity, Protective Order, Body Attachment, Detention	Paternity, Protective Order, Body Attachment, Detention	Paternity, Protective Order, Body Attachment, Detention

### Grant County Court Schedules

#### Cost of Hiring one (1) court reporter:

Base Salary:	\$31,363.00
Insurance:	\$21,000.00
Life insurance:	\$ 230.00
PERF (16.2%):	\$ 4,453.27
Tax (7.65%):	\$ 2,399.12
Total:	\$59,742.39

Title IV-D Reimbursements to the Grant County General Fund  
 2014 – 2016 \$140,721.52 (\$46,907.17/year average)  
 2017 \$47,622.31

### Court Reporter Costs

#### Present Employee IV-D Utilization:

- Teresa 71%
- Marcie 22%

### IV-D Utilization (Eligibility for Reimbursement)

- Who floats? When? For what purposes?
- The Court giving the floater will likely be closed to the public when a floater is used
  - Court reporters also answer phone calls and give information to the public and attorneys – when they are in court, they are not available to do that in the office, in jury trials, two people (reporter and bailiff) must be in court.
  - Vacations, leave time, comp time, etc. affect staffing
- Who will coordinate and manage the floater needs?
  - Schedules change very frequently for many different reasons
- Court reporters are "experts" in their areas of law because they prepare orders, make entries in the electronic court record, communicate with attorneys on legal issues, prepare court reports specific to their role, etc. The floaters would need to be experts in *all* areas of the law.
- This would be a staffing *decrease* in the face of a workload *increase*

### Problems with the "Floater" concept

- Retain the position as currently constituted
- Continue to seek funding from IV-D funds for the position

### Judges' Recommendation

Questions?

## **8. Old Business**

**Superior Court II, Juvenile Division**-Judge Brian McLane: discussion resumed from Judge Spitzer's presentation concerning the court reporter position replacement. Judge McLane expressed today he was without one of his court reporters and they had 75 missed phone calls which works out to be about 10 calls an hour. Not to mention when we get e-filings we get 50-60 tasks a day. Judge McLane is again expressing he needs 2 court reporters. "Each court is specialized, so if we had a floater come in twice a month, I have no idea how to keep them trained, and keep appropriate work quality". Discussion ensued concerning reimbursements and other ways of staffing. Councilman Scott made a motion to table this for another month, next month's Council meeting (April 18<sup>th</sup>), to get more information on staff and how to find other ways to make things work. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

## **Reports, Resolutions, Communications and General Discussion**

**Committee Reports**-Councilman Middlesworth expressed the Detention Center Review Committee met today. Councilman Middlesworth and Councilman Roorbach attended the meeting. There were good conversations and they were invited to a meeting in April. Councilman Roorbach expressed there is a committee to set up a convert the Detention Center for more jail space. They will receive more information on this at the April meeting.

The next Council meeting will be April 18, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

## **10. Adjournment**

President McWhirt adjourned the meeting at 7:33 p.m.