

Commissioners & County Council Joint Meeting Minutes

October 24, 2023

4:05 p.m.

Pineview Government Center
Commissioner Office Suite 104
2524 Corydon Pike

Commissioner, Al Knable, called the meeting to order and led the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Present: Commissioners-Full quorum
County Council-Full quorum

Also Present: Auditor, Diana Topping; Sheriff, Steve Bush; Treasurer, Steve Burks; Attorney, Bridgette Cantrell and Attorney, Rick Fox

New Business:

1.) Animal Shelter Update

Al Knable stated they are continuing to negotiation with the one RFP that was received. They hope to have a final meeting before finalizing. The range could be between \$150,000.00 - \$200,000.00 a year, saving \$50,000.00-\$75,000.00 a year. They hope to have a new Animal Ordinance in November.

2.) Administrative & Judicial Building Updates

Al Knable stated they have a meeting scheduled with the Bank Executives. The bank owners wanted to make a presence on the first floor but are considering selling the entire bank and 2/3 of the parking lot so they could have a presence at the southern 1/3 of the lot. It has been discovered that there was not a formal asbestos study or structural analysis on the Courthouse. That will be carried out in 2024.

3.) Annexation Update

John Schellenberger met with neighboring property owners on the annexation of Pineview. He believes any concerns can be worked out.

4.) EMS Update

Jason Sharp stated the EMS Board has sat down with the Commissioners to discuss a better RFP for the future. Attorney, Rick Fox, is currently working on the RFP. They should have something ready in the next 30 days. The current contract ends in the spring of 2024.

Jason Sharp stated Brad Striegel, Tony Toran Jim Freiberger and himself met with the Communications Bargaining Unit. It is under review with the Council attorney.

5.) Benefits-Perf, Healthcare

Attorney, Rick Fox, stated there was not a written resolution to change the Perf contribution. Jim Freiberger said the Council voted to cut 1/3 of the funding of the additional 3%. He would like a benefits study since the salaries have been raised.

Danny Short said it is rare in the State to pay the additional 3%. Most counties require the employees to pay it.

Mr. Fox presented FCR 2003-10 stating the County will pick up the 3% on behalf of the employees. Danny Short said the Council changed the amount budgeted in the line, they did not take away the benefit. It is up to the Commissioners to fund it or modify the benefit.

Brad Striegel asked when the Commissioners are planning on addressing the issue.

John Schellenberger stated, in the past, the Commissioners and Council have worked out compromises.

Al Knable said that this should have been discussed prior to budget adoption. He has no plan to change the contribution for 2024. He is not in favor of dropping this on the employees at this time. He is in favor of having other discussions for the future but not at this time.

Denise Konkle said the Council will leave the line item as it is until they hear from the Commissioners.

Connie Moon explained how they got to the place of making cuts to budgets. She said they can't get consistent information on the numbers and projections from the Reedy Group. She said they all need to work together and communicate. The motion for cutting Perf was not intended to make the employees pay the 1%.

Denise Konkle said they need to fix the communication problems.

Danny Short said that Senator Holdman stated the Judicial LIT is for Court staff only.

Brad Striegel stated the leadership style is more of the break it then fix it mentality. He said the decisions made to cut budgets was unfair.

6.) Building Authority Budget

Aaron Combs, President of the Board of Directors of the New Albany Floyd County Building Authority, stated the City-County Building is owned by the New Albany Floyd County Building Authority. There is a formal lease between the Commissioners and the Building Authority that governs the relationship. The lease requires that the Building Authority review and gain approval of the budget from the Floyd County Commissioners prior to June 30. The Commissioners approved the operations budget. They did not approve the Capital expenditures of the budget. The Commissioners were hopeful a funding decision would be forthcoming to renovate the building. The Capital expenditures that were cut from the budget totaled \$500,000.00.

Scott Waters stated the lease is a 40 year lease that was rewritten in April 2021. The particular line item that was reduced is for the electric bill for the Criminal Justice Center. They have real concerns with trying to reduce the budget and the effect it will have on the office holders and the public that use the building.

Jim Freiberger stated the line item, 1000-068-3000-10, is labeled Building /Office Space Rent. Rick Fox stated Auditor, Diana Topping, confirmed the utilities are paid out of that line. He requested the line item be renamed to reflect Utilities.

Danny Short asked what it would do to the lease if the developer used the BOT, build-operate-transfer, model. Mr. Waters stated that the Building Authority would terminate the lease during the renovation.

Dale Bagshaw suggested paying the jail utilities out of the Jail LIT fund.

Danny Short questioned why the Building Authority budget had increased over \$600,000.00 in the last few years.

Chuck Edwards stated the County owes a larger amount of their budget since the City moved out. He said there was a big increase in salary and benefits due to bringing it up to industry standards.

7.) Cyber Security Budget

Don Lopp stated his rationale to move the Cyber Security Budget to County General because it reflects the entire county.

8.) GO-Bond Resolution

Brad Striegel said the Council passed a resolution. Al Knable stated they have unanswered questions that need to be addressed before moving forward on the resolution.

John Schellenberger read an email from Matt Frische, Reedy Group, stating it would be best to include the list of items being paid from EDIT as uses for the 2022 GO bond that they plan to issue. He believed the plan was to shift the funds from EDIT to the new fund to be used for future building projects. Mr. Schellenberger stated he has not heard of any plans to use the funds for Cyber Security or other unfunded items.

Danny Short asked why the Council would create a three year bond for one million and one half dollars for no benefit for the Council.

Attorney, Bridgette Cantrell, asked if the Council would like for the Council attorney to do research on the Jail Utilities, PERF and Cyber Security issues. The Council decided to hold off until the Commissioners' Attorney presents more information.

Public Comment

Josh White, County Employee, asked when there was a formal study on PERF. Denise Konkle stated the County is required to pay 11.2% and the additional 3% can be paid by the County or employees. Currently the County pay 14.2% the 3% is what is in question.

Mr. White asked why the employees were not notified of the change in contributions prior to budget adoption. Connie Moon stated the Council never said that the employees would have to pay. They told the Commissioners that they would have to find another way to fund the 1%. Mr. White said a lot of employees were not happy with this decision without being notified.

Dale Mann, Georgetown, said the Council and Commissioners will spend a fortune to get more money from citizens but will not spend a dime to save money. He would like to know how much they have paid consultants in the last year. He said the way out would be impact fees. He asked about efficiency studies.

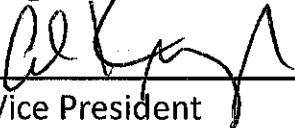
Don Lopp stated Development Impact fees are ruled by State Statute, are for Capital projects and does not help Council with the general fund. It is limited to water, sewer, storm water roads and parks. He asked what the total budget and total deficient that was passed. Connie Moon stated that no one knows. Denise Konkle said she they are \$1-1.5 million short. She said they need a steady revenue source. Mr. Lopp stated he is in favor of an efficiency study.

Motion to adjourn. Moved by Brad Striegel. Seconded by Jason Sharp. Motion passed unanimously.

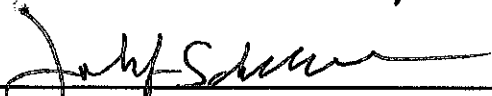
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Tim Kamer, President



Al Knable, Vice President



John Schellenberger, Commissioner



Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor

FLOYD COUNTY COUNCIL



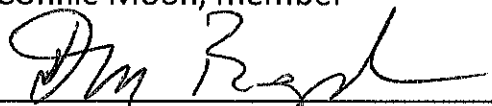
Denise Konkle, President



Brad Striegel, Vice President



Connie Moon, member



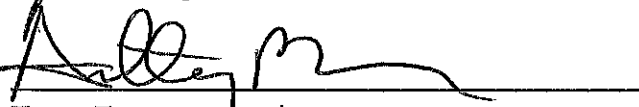
Dale Bagshaw, member



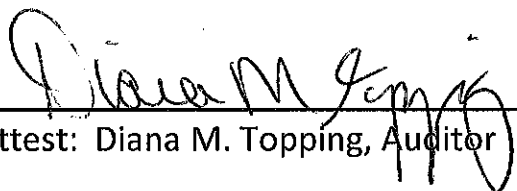
Danny Short, member



Jim Freiberger, member



Tony Toran, member



Attest: Diana M. Topping, Auditor