Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING

April 6, 2015

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in special session Monday, April 6, 2015, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen present were C. Richard Summers, Randy Wininger, Floyd L. Hawkins, Warren D. Albright, James A. Stiles and Councilwoman Barbara McFeater. Councilwoman M. Lynn Gee was unable to attend. Also attending were Auditor January Roush, Commissioner Dan Gregory, Judge Lynne E. Ellis, Kathy Collins, Community Corrections Director; Sheriff Travis Roush, Chief Deputy Joshua Greene, Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett, Terri Alcorn, Highway Clerk; Recorder Rhonda Sanders, Surveyor Nathan Hoffman, John Wood and Kevin Cook, Computer Systems, Inc.; Tim and Jordan Dant, Dennis Jones, Mike and Pat Jones, Misty Tharp, Jason and Allie Jones, Leslie Bauer, S.H.O.P; Josh and Courtney Hughett, Martin County Journal and Jill Albright, Loogootee Tribune.

President Summers called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:00pm.

Leslie Bauer, S.H.O.P., came before the Council to request funds to help support a local teen center. S.H.O.P is an acronym for Strength, Honor, Overcome and Persevere. The teen center is currently located in The River Church. The group’s goal is to have their own facility and not be church affiliated. Several in attendance voiced their support for the teen center. A local business owner offered usage of a building of his that will soon be vacated. Auditor Roush will research the legalities of assisting the teen center.

The minutes from the special meeting held March 2, 2015 were approved as submitted with the motion made by Councilman Albright and seconded by Councilwoman McFeaters. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Recorder Rhonda Sanders came before the Council to request an Additional Appropriation of $14,000 for new software. The current software is Thomson Reuters Aumentum. Recorder Sanders is unhappy with the program and service. Martin County is the only county left in Indiana with the Thomson Reuters program. The Commissioners approved a 5 year contract, pending Council approval for the funds, with Computer Systems Inc. at their March 3, 1015 meeting. Recorder Sanders is able to use $6,636.80 from the Identification Security Protection Fund but needs an Additional Appropriation of $14,000 to cover the remaining due. The total due per year will be $20,636.80. Kevin Cook, President of Computer Systems, Inc., stated the yearly amount due includes any software updates and telephone support. Computer Systems, Inc currently has 40 counties in Indiana. Councilman Stiles made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation from the General Fund, Recorder, Capital Outlay, Software-$14,000. President Summers made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Councilman Albright made a motion to approve an Additional Appropriation from the General Fund, Courthouse, Part-Time Custodian-$1,080. Councilman Stiles made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Kathy Collins, Community Corrections Director, updated the Council on the Pre-Trial Home Detention program. The program currently has one client. Councilman Hawkins made motion to approve the Additional Appropriation from the General Fund, Commissioners, Other Services & Charges, Pre-Trial Home Detention Program-$3,000 and also to make it retroactive to the date the client began using the services. Councilwoman McFeaters made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Judge Lynne E. Ellis, came before the Council to request an Additional Appropriation $200,000 for Public Defender. The Commissioners recently signed four Public Defender contracts worth $42,000 per year. There is also a carryover of Public Defender fees from 2014. The upcoming murder trial is not included in the contracts. Judge Ellis also explained the need for transcripts and deposition. Councilman Albright made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation from the General Fund, Circuit Court, Personnel Services, Public Defender-$100,000. Councilman Wininger made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Auditor Roush submitted an Additional Appropriation of $25,000 for Juveniles in Institutions out of LOIT Public Safety County Share. There is $17,335 of outstanding invoices. Councilwoman McFeaters made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation for the LOIT Public Safety County Share, Other Services & Charges, Juveniles in Institutions-$17,335. Councilman Wininger made the second. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Sheriff Travis Roush came before the Council to update them on the change of ranks within the Sheriff’s Department. Sheriff Roush met with the Merit Board and they created a Captain rank. He will be requesting an Additional Appropriation for the May meeting. By adding the Captain rank there will be a more vertical chain of command rather than a horizontal. The change of rank will also be an incentive for Deputies to stay with Martin County throughout their career. To be eligible for Captain rank, the Deputy must have 9 years of service.

Josh and Courtney Hughett, Martin County Humane Society presented their quarterly report. There have been 70 adoptions. They made $7,209 at their recent fundraiser.

The Council recessed at 7:07pm. President Summers called the meeting back to order at 7:18pm.

Commissioner Dan Gregory and Highway Superintendent Leo Padgett came before the Council to discuss the implementation of the Wheel Tax. The Wheel Tax is the Local Option Highway User Tax. Of the 92 counties in Indiana, 50 have adopted the Wheel Tax. The fee collected would be used to pave and maintain county roads. It costs $80,000 to black top one mile of road the correct way. A lengthy discussion followed. Several taxpayers voiced their pros and/or cons on the Wheel Tax. To be implemented in 2016, the Wheel Tax must be approved by July 1, 2015. The Council would like to see a 5-10 year plan.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm with a motion made by Councilman Hawkins and seconded by Councilman Albright. All were in favor and the motion passed. The next Council meeting will be held Monday, May 4, 2015 at 6pm.

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 C. Richard Summers Randy L. Wininger

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M. Lynn Gee Floyd L. Hawkins

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Warren D. Albright Barbara McFeaters

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James A. Stiles

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 January L. Roush, Martin County Auditor