Est

Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 6, 2023

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session on Monday, February 6, 2023, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, Adam Greene, Jordan Dant, Monty Gregory, Jim Hamby, and Andrew Beaver. Also attending was Auditor Michelle Norris.

Jordan Dant called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:01 pm.

**RE: CONFIRMATION OF REORGANIZATION**

Jordan Dant stated at the last meeting on January 9th there were two motions made for President but there were not enough votes for a confirmation. There were three votes in favor of Jordan Dant and four were needed for a majority. A motion was made by Councilman Beaver to confirm the reorganization for Jordan Dant as President, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: RATIFICATION OF BOARD APPOINTMENTS AND ALL OTHER BUSINESS**

President Dant stated County Attorney David Lett has advised the Council to ratify the board appointments and all other business from the previous Council meeting, which can be voted on in one motion. A motion was made by Councilman Greene to ratify the appointments from the January 9th meeting, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to ratify all other business from January 9th, seconded by Councilman Beaver. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: MINUTES**

The minutes from the regular meeting held January 9th, 2023 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Albright, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCE AMMENDMENT**

Judge Isha Wright-Ryan came before the Council to ask for a wage and salary amendment for three positions in the Court. Judge Wright-Ryan stated the money is in the Court’s budget for court reporter 2 and court reporter 4 and would only require a pencil transfer if the salaries are approved. The original rate for court reporter 2 was $17.08 and the yearly salary was $31,080. Judge Wright-Ryan asked to make the salary a range $17.08-$18.72, with a yearly salary of $34,071, so she could offer that position a salary within that range. The person who holds the court reporter 2 position has been in that position for eleven years and has not had a substantial increase in salary. Judge Wright-Ryan would like to make it possible for that salary to be higher. If that person were to ever leave, she would have the flexibility to start the new person at a lower salary.

A new employee was hired for court reporter 4 and that salary was set at $14.26 per hour. Judge Wright-Ryan did not want to cap the employee out at the maximum amount so the employee was hired in at $14.00 per hour. After 90 days the employee could potentially be increased to $14.26 if a range were approved.

Judge Wright-Ryan has a position in the Supplemental Adult Probation fund 2100, administrative assistant level IV, the salary was $20,000. Based on the hours the employee is working, and to get the employee to $14.00 an hour, Judge Wright-Ryan is asking the Council to increase the salary from $20,000 to $20,384. This is also in the budget and would be a pencil transfer within the 2100 budget.

A motion was made by Councilman Hamby to approve the salary and wage amendments for the Court’s employees effective January 1st, 2023, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

Community Corrections Director Danielle Murphy could not be present at the meeting due to covering for a field officer. Auditor Michelle Norris stated Director Murphy had submitted a salary and wage ordinance amendment request for a part-time field officer. The position was left off the original salary and wage ordinance. The position is for $20,000 at $15.30 per hour. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the Community Corrections salary and wage amendment effective January 1st, 2023, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: MARTIN COUNTY HUMANE SOCIETY ANNUAL REPORT**

Martin County Humane Society (MCHS) Secretary/Treasurer, Courtney Hughett, came before the Council to give the yearly report. Ms. Hughett stated the County contributes $15,000 to the MCHS but it costs about $55,000 to run the shelter per year. Dr. Alexandra Loughmiller has been serving as the shelter vet and performing spay and neuter clinics, which has saved the shelter money. Councilman Gregory asked where the additional $40,000 of the Humane Society’s budget comes from. Ms. Hughett stated it comes from grants and fundraising.

Councilman Hamby stated based on the report given by the MCHS there has been a lot done in the last year. Ms. Hughett stated the Society has opened a spay and neuter clinic because when COVID hit, Pets Alive stopped coming to Martin County to get the animals. They were sending 30 animals per month to Pets Alive, public and shelter pets. After Pets Alive stopping coming, MCHS had to make appointments at local vet offices to get animals fixed. It cost $250 to fix the last dog at a local vet, which could not be sustained. MCHS is lucky to have Dr. Loughmiller performing a spay and neuter clinic one day a week in Martin County, while she is also working in Bedford and Indianapolis. MCHS has people bringing pets from all over the State to get fixed, with the furthest being from Fishers, because there are no low-cost appointments available.

MCHS works with rescues: It Takes a Village in Evansville, White River Humane Society in Bedford, and some for Dubois because they are unable to get appointments for the animals. The State passed a law a few years ago stating shelters cannot release an animal without it being fixed. MCHS charges $50 to fix a cat and $80 to fix a dog at the clinic. The dog from Fishers was going to cost $750 from a veterinarian in Fishers to be neutered. Dr. Loughmiller does an average of 22 surgeries per day, once a week at MCHS, and Ms. Hughett states she could easily fill up another day.

It was asked if Loogootee City Council contributes to the MCHS. Ms. Hughett stated three years ago Loogootee contributed $6,000, and that was almost voted down, and has not contributed since then. The MCHS is paying vet costs and supplies anytime feral cats are trapped and fixed. Ms. Hughett recently applied for a grant to fix cats for free in Martin and Daviess County. Daviess County’s cats are spilling over into Martin County. Ms. Hughett gets a lot of calls from Daviess County residents asking for help with animals, even though Daviess County’s Humane Society has a budget of about $200,000. Ms. Hughett stated Daviess County Humane Society does not spay and neuter animals before they are released from the shelter, even though it is State law.

Councilman Albright asked if more money could be charged to out of County residents to fix animals. Ms. Hughett stated that is something to think about. Ms. Hughett stated local vet cost can range from $150-$250 and up, as the dog gets bigger the price increases. There were 877 animals fixed at the shelter last year. Martin County is the only county in the area to have a spay and neuter clinic at the facility. The Council thanked Josh and Courtney Hughett for all they do for the Martin County Humane Society.

**RE: ENCUMBRANCES**

Auditor Norris presented to the Council two additional encumbrances requested by the Highway Department for expenses incurred and invoiced for 2022 to be paid in 2023. **Highway** **1176:** Professional Services- $2,450.00 and Equipment Repair- $913.48 for a total in fund 1176 of $3,363.48; **Cumulative Bridge Fund 1135**: Bridge Inspection- $5,682.60 Bridge Payment- $7,783.81 for a total in fund 1135 of $13,466.41. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the encumbrances, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: ARPA COMMITTEE MEETING**

Auditor Norris asked to talk about ARPA committee because the committee has not met since March of 2022. Since Auditor Norris was not here at that time, she was unsure if the committee still needed to meet. President Dant asked who was on the committee. Councilman Greene responded that he was on the committee along with Councilman Albright, Commissioner Roush, Commissioner George, Commissioner Summers, former Councilwoman Bowling, former Councilwoman McFeaters, and former Economic Development Director Angie Risacher. President Dant asked if the committee appointments needed to be reviewed. Councilman Albright stated he did not believe the committee is needed at this point. Commissioner Roush was in attendance and stated he was under the impression spending was up to the Commissioners and not the committee. President Dant asked Auditor Norris to look into the requirements of the ARPA committee.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Motor Vehicle Highway

LOIT Special Distribution- Fund 1229 $50,144.74

A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the appropriation in fund 1229 for $50,144.74, seconded by Councilman Beaver. All in favor, motion passed.

Motor Vehicle Highway

Riverboat Revenue- Fund 7303

Software $7,000

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the appropriation in fund 7303 for $7,000, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion passed.

General Fund- 1000

Sheriff

Jail

Hire Bonus $1,000

Auditor Norris stated a check was written by the Sheriff from the commissary fund to the general fund to cover the $1,000 bonus. A motion was made by Councilman Beaver to approve the appropriation in fund 1000 for $1,000, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

Community Corrections

JCC Grant (Discretionary)- Fund 9123

Office Supplies $500

Food/Meals $1,000

School Giveaways $1,225

Contract Services $7,275

**Total for Fund 9123 $10,000**

A motion was made by Councilman Beaver to approve the appropriation in fund 9123 for $10,000, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

Motor Vehicle Highway

Restricted Highway Fund- 1173

Local Match 2022 $152,545.64

A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the appropriation in fund 1173 for $152,545.64, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: TRANSFER OF FUNDS REQUEST**

Community Corrections- $5,427.34

F**rom Fund**: 9132 Jail Treatment DO Grant 2021

**To Fund :** 9146 Jail Treatment 2023

A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the transfer of funds request as presented, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: JAIL UPDATES**

Sheriff Josh Greene stated the current inmate count is seventy-eight with forty-one of those being from Vigo County. Sheriff Greene stated Vigo County had pulled some inmates back and then ended up giving Martin County more inmates. There has been one dispatcher that has transferred over to the Jail and is currently in training. There are two interviews set up for open positions. Sheriff Greene asked the Council to continue the overtime at least for this month and most likely next month to get employees hired and trained. Sheriff Greene estimates the overtime for last month was under $3,000.

Councilman Gregory asked if trucks had been ordered. Sheriff Greene responded there were three F150s ordered in July and two F250s ordered in October from Sternberg’s in Jasper and all the trucks have yet to come in. President Dant asked how long the Department is keeping a truck in service. Sheriff Greene responded they were rotating the trucks out every other year, but with the increased cost of a new truck they have to work within the amount of money in the budget. Three trucks were ordered in July instead of the five that were due to be traded in. Sheriff Greene stated the rotation is now a three-year rotation. The F150 trade in amount given in July is $2,000 more than what was paid for the trucks two years prior. Sheriff Greene stated the trade in value given in July is still being honored.

The County does apply for the government discount on the trucks ordered. President Dant stated he had ordered trucks for his business late last year and two trucks have been delivered with two more being delivered shortly. The trucks are being sold to the person paying more money.

Sheriff Greene stated the F250 trucks could be used at the highway department after the Sheriff’s office goes through their life cycle of the truck. The government model trucks are the same trucks but have a 100,000 mile warranty instead of the 36,000 warranty. Councilman Beaver asked about purchasing a SUV instead of a truck. Sheriff Greene stated the trade in value is best on trucks. SUVs only get 25% of the value back at trade in which a truck trade in the dealer is paying money over the original purchase price for the trade in. Sheriff Greene would rather keep the trucks for five years than purchase an SUV. The trucks would be under warranty for five years and probably still have more value than a two year old SUV. President Dant pointed out that has held true recently, but as trucks are more available that may not be the case.

Courthouse will be closed on Monday February 20th, 2023 in observance of President’s Day.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:57 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gibson and seconded by Councilman Greene, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next regular Council meeting will be held Monday, March 6, 2023, at 6:00 pm.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Jordan Dant Adam Greene

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Warren D. Albright J. Keith Gibson

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Andrew Beaver Jim Hamby

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Monty Gregory

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

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor