

**County Council Meeting  
February 20, 2018**

**Present: Aaron Benton, Jack Kroeger, Blake Bunner, David Gogel, Steve Winsett, Matt Knepper, Todd Ruxer, Attorney Andrew Foster, Auditor Autumn Winkler**

Meeting was called to order by President Blake Bunner at 5:00 P.M.

**Minutes**

Knepper made a motion to approve the minutes from December 19<sup>th</sup>, December 28<sup>th</sup>, January 4<sup>th</sup> and January 16<sup>th</sup> as presented. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Ken Schaaf – Carter Fire District**

Schaaf explained that Carter Fire District applied for a \$2,000.00 grant from the Spencer County Community Foundation to purchase five pagers and chargers. The Spencer County Community Foundation has requested a signed agreement between Spencer County and Carter Fire District, because Carter Fire is a governmental agency of Spencer County. This must be completed in order to meet their distribution criteria. The agreement states that Carter Fire District is an agency of Spencer County Government which oversees the finances and activities of this volunteer fire department. Benton made a motion to approve signing the agreement. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Additional Appropriations**

**Cum Cap – Election Board**

**Election Equipment - \$1,000.00**

**Election Services - \$14,720.00**

Election Board member Jeff Lindsey stated that our previous Voter Registration Clerk programmed our voting machines, designed the ballots and performed the public tests required for elections and our new Voter Registration Clerk is not trained to do these tasks. All of the surrounding counties contract this out and we will need to do the same. The cost to contract these services out is \$14,720.00. The hope is to get training and bring this back in-house, but that is not a guarantee, we may need to contract these services out again in future years. The second request is for a lease to own voting machine. We currently have 71 voting machines with 1 backup and the board feels it would be good to have more than 1 backup. The cost to purchase a machine is \$3,900.00 and if we choose to purchase after this year the \$1,000.00 would come off of that purchase price. Kroeger made a motion to approve the full request of \$15,720.00. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Pre-trial Diversion**

**Program Contribution - \$5,000.00**

Wilkinson informed the board that a Big Brothers/Big Sisters mentoring program is trying to get started again in Spencer County and the startup cost is \$10,000.00. Wilkinson agreed to request \$5,000.00 to contribute to the startup and the remaining funding will be raised through fundraisers and other sources. Judge Dartt stated that local churches and organizations will hopefully be contributing as well. Gogel made a motion to approve the \$5,000.00 program contribution from Pre-trial Diversion. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Highway**

**LIT EDIT - \$2,250,000.00**

Highway Superintendent Dale Kenney requested \$2,250,000.00 for the 2018 paving projects. Benton made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$2,250,000.00. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Transfer**

**Highway**

Decrease: Overtime	1176-002-2119.00	\$2,420.00
Increase: Leadman	1176-001-1116.00	\$2,420.00

Kenney explained that this is just to correct the budget so both leadmen make the same amount. Auditor Winkler stated that at budget time the budget was figured on the lower salary instead of

the higher salary so additional funding is needed. Benton made a motion to approve the transfer. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Additional Appropriation**

**Commissioners**

**COJT - \$120,000.00**

This request is for the courthouse renovations and moving office space. Universal Design provided a cost estimate for the second courtroom, probation, assessor's office and small renovations in circuit court office and the \$120,000.00 should cover that with us hopefully coming in under. Judge Dartt stated that any portion of the expense that is used on the second courtroom can be reimbursed at 40% due to its use for IV-D cases. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$120,000.00 for courthouse renovations from the COIT fund. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**County General – Commissioners**

**PERF - \$48,376.00**

**Social Security - \$26,125.00**

**County General – Jail**

**Senior Dispatchers - \$219,490.00**

**Part-time Dispatchers - \$1,500.00**

**Radio Dispatchers - \$105,796.00**

**Dispatcher Overtime - \$12,668.00**

Auditor Winkler explained that this request is moving the dispatchers from the E-911 fund back into county general, because the 911 fund cannot sustain the payroll expenses and pay the other bills and lease payments needed. In previous years all of dispatch was being paid from county general until the state told us it was not good to just let the 911 fund build up we needed to be using and showing our need for those funds. At that time we moved some of dispatch from county general into the 911 fund then moved all of payroll to come from that fund. We have now depleted the fund and need to move them back to county general to build the fund back up. Gogel made a motion to approve all 6 line item requests moving dispatch back to county general. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**County General – Circuit Court**

**Maintenance Contract - \$5,000.00**

Judge Dartt stated that at budget time we cut the maintenance contract budget quite a bit and they found out later that the contract was going to be \$5,000.00 more than anticipated. They are requesting the additional funding needed for the maintenance contract. Knepper made a motion to approve the \$5,000.00 additional appropriation. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**County General – Coroner**

**Deputy - \$4,083.00**

Auditor Winkler explained that at budget time the coroner requested a lower amount for the deputy position than in previous years and he now says that was not correct and wants the position increased to last year's salary plus the 2% increase that all other employees received. This position is running the office while the coroner is out on medical leave. Benton made a motion to approve the \$4,083.00 for deputy salary. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Nathan Weber – Vantage Point**

The council requested to speak with Mr. Weber at the last meeting to ask some questions and discuss the broadband study. The broadband committee proposed doing a broadband study with Vantage Point to try and answer some questions about the desire for and cost of getting fiber internet. Weber explained that Vantage Point would provide a design and layout of the fiber infrastructure, do a market study and a broadband feasibility study to try and determine cost. The proposed study reads that the county would own the equipment and infrastructure, but that is not required. The information obtained in the study would be the same regardless of ownership. There are 3 proposed steps in the study, but if we don't wish to approve the full study at the beginning we can start the process with the market study first to determine the demand for service. In the market study they will contact Spencer County residents and have them complete a survey. This survey will ask residents about customer satisfaction with their current providers if available, customer demand for broadband services, current usage and demand, estimates of take rates and pricing sensitivity for broadband access. The findings from

the surveys will be compiled into a Market Analysis Report that can then be used in the Feasibility Study. If we choose to proceed after the market study the design and layout of the fiber infrastructure will be completed and a broadband feasibility study will be done. This information is needed to determine any type of cost. Many different types of internet were discussed and possible funding such as grants, but a study is needed to even consider applying for a grant. Broadband is continuously changing, but having a study done is a start. The study would provide the information needed to entice a company to consider building fiber infrastructure here. Bunner stated that if the income statement and return on investment looked appealing that would be true, but if they do not look appealing it would not attract someone.

#### **Rodney Nicholson – River City Tower Telecommunications**

Nicholson has been researching a new wireless network of internet called TelRad. A CPE antenna is placed at different locations and high speed internet can be carried into many rural areas. TelRad is some of the most expensive technology on the market, but is a licensed spectrum of 3.5 to 3.65. CPE antennas are ideally placed on water towers, school towers, etc. and signal is then sent tower to tower. Upgrades are done through software with little to no interruption to users. If a household has an internet package and determines it is not enough data, they contact the provider and have their data increased almost immediately. TelRad has to be connected to fiber at some starting point, but can then be transferred wirelessly to a large area. If one spot in the network goes down it will not take down the whole system, the system is setup to loop around and carry signal back the other direction. Nicholson stated that fiber is the best service available, but the cost is significant. The wireless service is a lot more affordable and Nicholson stated they are 30-60 days from launching their first drop. They are coming to Spencer County and are happy to work with any other providers also servicing the county. Nicholson presented a map of possible service areas and a few names of companies that currently use TelRad.

#### **Additional Appropriation**

##### **COIT – Commissioners**

##### **Broadband study - \$25,500.00**

Benton made a motion to approve the \$25,500.00 additional appropriation for the broadband study with Vantage Point. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved with Gogel and Winsett opposed. Winsett stated that Rodney Nicholson had answered more of his questions than anyone else with no charge for a study.

#### **Joy Zook & Susan Waterman – Animal Control**

Zook explained that she and Waterman will be stepping down from Animal Control in the near future. When the budget was completed last year they planned on completing 2018, but Waterman has had some health issues come up and Zook has no desire to do it alone; they are ready to retire. They will meet with their board and discuss what type of position they are seeking whether it is 1-full time position or 2-part time. This position will handle all administrative duties for Animal Control plus transporting animals to and from the vet. Zook and Waterman are currently using the Humane Society van for transports and that will no longer be available when they step down. We will need to discuss purchasing a vehicle as well as hiring an employee. They will return with a request after meeting with their board. Zook and Waterman have been volunteering their time at Animal Control for 5 years. Zook and Waterman were recognized with a standing ovation for their dedication and years of service. The county is very thankful for all they have done.

#### **Diane Litkenhus - CASA**

Litkenhus came to present information on GAL vs. CASA from 2010-2017 and the cost savings to the county. There has been a significant increase in juvenile CHINS cases thru the years and prior to the CASA program those cases were always handled by GAL attorneys that were paid by the county. CASA receives a state grant if the county matches the grant dollar for dollar equal to or above. The council has been equally matching that grant. Spencer County currently has over 70 CASA volunteers and there are 11 kids on the wait list. In 2017 CASA served 212 kids up from 153 served in 2016. Some cases opened and closed with no representation. They did not have a CASA volunteer and a GAL attorney was not appointed to them, so in 2018 GAL attorneys are being appointed to cases on the waiting list. In January there were two GAL attorneys appointed to cases because it is state mandate that they receive representation. We will begin to see GAL fees again in 2018 unless cases go down or we recruit more volunteers. CASA volunteered 3,757 hours in 2017.

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**Annual Appropriations**

**Annual Appropriations**

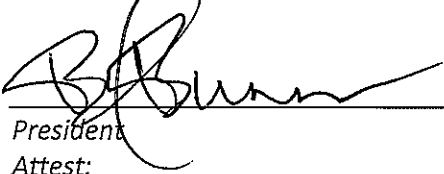
Auditor's Ineligible Deductions	\$10,000.00
Misdemeanant Cell Phone	\$13,834.00
Firearms Training	\$7,524.00
LEPC	\$7,984.00
EMA Hazmat	\$567.00
EMA Search and Rescue	\$5,531.00
Co. Law Enforcement Continuing Education	\$1,453.00
Health Clinic	\$45,741.00
Clerk Perpetuation	\$25,749.00
Accident Report	\$11,929.00
Clerk IV-D	\$10,343.00
Sex & Violent Offender	\$2,274.00
Medical Care for Inmate	\$9,976.00
Prisoner Reimbursement	\$7,521.00
COIT – Santa Claus Water Project	\$100,000.00
COIT – Luce Township Sewer Project	\$150,000.00
Jury Pay	\$3,553.00
County IV-D	\$40,001.00
County User Fee	\$58,501.00
Emergency Preparedness Grant	\$2,737.00
Photo ID	\$40.00
Prosecutor IV-D	\$68,857.00
Cum Cap – Website Upgrades	\$10,181.00
Sheriff Sales	\$4,306.00
Drug Free Community	\$11,425.00
Ebola Grant	\$1,384.00
Juvenile Electronic Monitoring	\$5,054.00

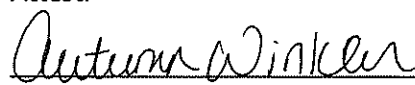
Benton made a motion to approve the annual appropriations in their entirety. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.



**1782 Notice**

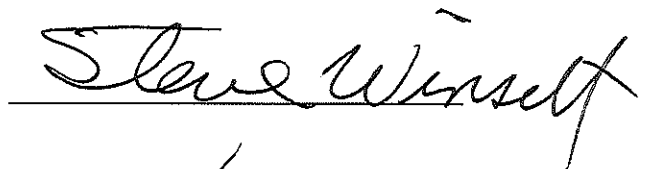
Kroeger explained the information provided on the 1782 notice and stated there are no adjustments needed to the 1782 notice this year.

Knepper made a motion to adjourn. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:25 P.M.

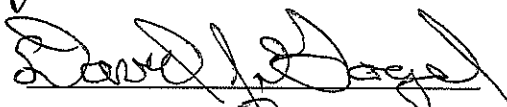
  
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President

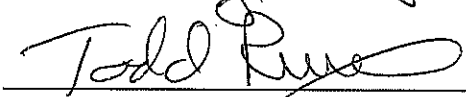
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Auditor, Autumn Winkler

  
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