

**County Council Meeting  
April 18, 2017**

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

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

**Minutes**

Benton made a motion to approve the minutes from March 21<sup>st</sup> as presented. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Additional Appropriations**

**Cum Cap – Sheriff**

**Jail Repairs - \$23,000.00**

McDurmon explained that they began the year with \$30,000.00 and the first bill of the year was for \$39,000.00 to replace the hot water heaters. When the hot water heaters were replaced it was decided that the water softeners needed repair which cost over \$10,000.00. The fire alarm panel at the jail is also in need of repair which will cost over \$11,000.00. The additional money is needed to cover the extra expenses and still try to maintain the \$30,000.00 needed for regular jail repairs throughout the year. Benton made a motion to approve the \$23,000.00 from Cum Cap. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Rainy Day – Hwy Dept.**

**2017 Paving Projects - \$573,614.00**

**LOIT – Hwy Dept.**

**2017 Paving Projects - \$633,273.00**

Hwy Superintendent Kenney came before the board to request \$573,614.00 from the Rainy Day fund and \$633,273.00 from the LOIT fund be appropriated for the 2017 paving projects. The money in Rainy Day is remaining CEDIT money from last year's projects and the money in the LOIT fund is a special distribution from the state that was restricted to use on roads. We will release 4 bid packets for paving projects. Gogel explained that the money in some of the highway funds has increased and he's pleased to see that we are using that money to do even more roads this year. Kroeger made a motion to approve the request from the Rainy Day fund and the LOIT fund for paving projects. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**County General – Circuit Court**

**Meals for Jurors - \$2,500.00**

**Juror Compensation - \$5,000.00**

Judge Dartt explained that we have already had one jury trial this year and anticipate having possibly two more. This is money to pay for all jurors called in, plus meals for the ones that serve. Winsett asked how long the judge anticipates a trial lasting and he stated normally around 3 days, but could be more or less. Some trials require 6 jurors and some require 12 depending on the case. This is money just in case we have trials, so we don't have jurors serve and then have to wait to pay them. Kroeger made a motion to approve the additional appropriation from county general of \$2,500.00 for juror meals and \$5,000.00 for juror compensation. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**County General – EMA**

**Program Radios - \$2,400.00**

Melton explained that the state mandated an upgrade in the 800 MHZ state-wide radio system. She completed grants totaling \$40,000.00 to cover the upgrade, but was only awarded \$20,175.00, so local emergency and fire departments contributed to complete the project. There were 12 radios that did not receive ID's and could not be programmed. Melton checked around and found a provider that would program the radio's for \$200.00 a piece, so we now have a bill of \$2,400.00 that needs to be paid to complete the P25 upgrade. Benton made a motion to approve the \$2,400.00 additional appropriation from County General. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.



**County General – Commissioners/ V.S.O**  
**Part –time Clerical Position - \$15,400.00**

Commissioner Brown came before the council to request funding for a part-time position for the Veteran's Service office. Brown expressed what a wonderful job the current V.S.O Jeffery Heathman is doing and the significant increase in veteran's served by Heathman. He is going out in the field and serving individuals that were not even aware they were eligible for benefits. Heathman expressed the need to the board of commissioners for a part-time clerical person to assist with phone calls and paper work for veterans and the commissioners are in favor of his request. This would not only be an individual to assist with office work, but to also learn the responsibilities of the position as a backup. The council asked Brown how this position could have increased so significantly over the past few years when they were told previously it did not require a full time position. Bunner asked Brown if they felt this should be a full time position and Brown stated he does not think Heathman wants that. Heathman has a great passion for veteran's and is putting in more hours a week than required to make sure they are serviced. Gogel stated that he has not received any complaints or calls about lack of service or the need for additional hours. All were in agreement that they needed more information about the proposed position, but also the increase in volume of calls and individuals served. Bunner asked that the commissioner's acquire more data. Kroeger stated that if they acquire more data and choose to come back they may want to discuss with the council where it could be funded from other than County General.

**Cum Cap – Coroner**  
**Equipment - \$4,600.00**

Coroner Robert Fuller was not in attendance but explained the request last month for new computers and a new paging system. Bunner stated that we led him to believe last month that we were in favor of this coming from Cum Cap. Benton made a motion to approve the \$4,600.00 from Cum Cap for new computers and a new paging system. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Transfers**  
**Circuit Court**

Decrease: Referee	1000-136-4143.00	\$2,000.00
Increase: GAL/CASA Services	1000-136-4141.00	\$2,000.00
Decrease: Referee	1000-136-4143.00	\$10,000.00
Increase: Interpreter	1000-136-4140.00	\$10,000.00

Judge Dartt explained that we have had over 10 cases so far this year that have required an interpreter, so additional funding is needed in that line. It does not look like the full amount budgeted for referee will be needed, so Dartt is requesting a transfer of \$10,000.00 from the referee account to the interpreter account. Dartt is also requesting \$2,000.00 be transferred to the GAL/CASA Services line to repay what was transferred last month to cover paying jurors. Gogel made a motion to approve the transfers requested. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Highway Dept.**

Decrease: Asst. Superintendent	1176-001-1117.00	\$26,198.13
Increase: Equipment Operators	1176-002-2112.00	\$26,198.13

Hwy Superintendent Kenney explained that he wanted to transfer the remaining balance in Asst. Superintendent to Equipment Operators to hire a full time operator. The Asst. Superintendent position will not be replaced; an equipment operator is needed on the road. Benton made a motion to approve the transfer from Asst. Superintendent to Equipment Operators. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Appointment – Lincoln Heritage Public Library**

A request was made to reappoint Faye Terry to the Lincoln Heritage Public Library board for a 4 year term. Kroeger made a motion to reappoint Terry for a 4 year term. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**New Business**

Kroeger stated that the Commissioner's made the decision at their meeting earlier to call an Executive Session with the Council and Redevelopment Commission to discuss the litigation with AK Steel. We should be receiving a bill from Ice Miller and will probably have a conference call with them during the meeting. Kroeger asked if the commissioners voted on the resolution regarding the TIF district and Brown stated they did not, they wanted to hold an executive session to discuss the litigation first.



Kroeger stated that he would like to apologize for being so passionate about the TIF district and knows that some felt he spoke too much during the meeting with the Redevelopment Commission, but he felt it was a good meeting and that he did not overstep what President Paul Brockman was allowing. After explaining the way a TIF district works it seemed that more people understand the process. We just got out of paying higher taxes for 20 years to bring business to the county and now we can reap the benefits of lower taxes. Many councilmen have received calls about how happy the taxpayers are with lower tax bills. If a TIF district is created or recreated and there is no increase in assessed value to look forward to then the taxpayers will have to pay for it.

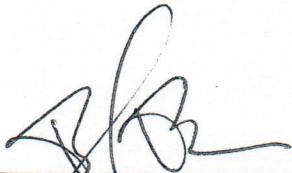
#### **Luce Sewer District**

Eleisha Shelton came to present the approved minutes from March and explained that they updated their bi-laws and incorporated a code of ethics.

#### **Circuit Breaker Report**

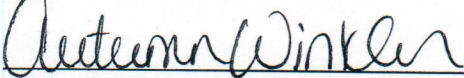
Benton mentioned the circuit breaker reports provided in the packet and stated that Spencer County lost \$71,000.00 due to circuit breaker caps versus Perry County losing \$2.3 million. That shows the efficiency of our county government and the benefit of our assessed values. Gogel stated how important our assessed value is and that we need to protect it. If there are times when we need to spend more taxpayer dollars on worthwhile projects we can do it thru income taxes, not property taxes. ~~Bunner stated there may be a time when a new TIF district is needed to bring business and all agreed they would be in favor of that to bring business.~~

Benton made a motion to adjourn. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:56 P.M.



President

Attest:



Auditor, Autumn Winkler

