County Council Meeting
May 16, 2017

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

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

Minutes
Bunner wanted to clarify the last sentence of the April 18th minutes. It states that Bunner is in favor of creating a TIF district to bring business to the county if needed, but his intent was to say that he would be willing to consider a TIF district for businesses that may want to move here, not that he would be in favor. There was no motion only discussion on this topic in the April 18th meeting and it was determined to strike that sentence from the minutes.
Gogel made a motion to approve the minutes from April 18th with the last line removed. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations
County General – Plan Commission
Publications - $450.00
Plan Commission Administrator, Kay Erwin explained that there have been meetings every month so far this year and there are more scheduled, so we will not have enough money in publications. She is not familiar with the budget yet with being new and doesn't want to transfer money from another line that she may end up needing. This should be enough money to get through the rest of the year for publications. Winsett stated that she may not have received the memo with being new, but the council requested that dept. heads try not to request additional out of county general and he would request that if she needs to request anymore she try to get it from Rainy Day or somewhere else. Gogel stated that in 2008-2009 things were pretty slow and there were not many meetings so the budget was cut, the increase in meetings is a good sign of growth and we probably need to bump the budget back up. Ruxer made a motion to approve to the $450.00 for publications. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

M&DH Enterprises, LLC
Automated Routing, Inc.
A form CF-1 was submitted from each company for council review. The form CF-1 shows that the companies are in compliance with the statement of benefits for real estate improvements and that they are growing their companies and hiring employees as stated. M&DH Enterprises estimated 36 employees on their SB-1 with salaries of $1,606,690.00 and their actual numbers are 83 employees with salaries of $3,792,571.93. Automated Routing estimated 120 employees on their SB-1 with salaries of $3,600,000.00 and their actual numbers are 128 employees with salaries of $4,771,581.43. These companies are doing a wonderful job and continue to grow. The council would like to express their thanks to everyone involved.

Southern Hills
A Southern Hills handout was included in all council packets from Executive Director E. Joseph Kimmel, Jr. explaining the counties contribution and requesting the Spring 2017 payment. Kimmel or someone from their board comes at budget time each year to address the counties contribution, this amount is already included in the 2017 budget. This is based off of a 1.038% growth quotient. The Spring 2017 payment is in the amount of $119,070.71.

Budget Hearings 2017
Benton made a motion to schedule the budget hearings for August 23rd, 24th, 25th. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Jeff Lindsey & Eleisha Shelton – Luce Sewer District
Lindsey and Shelton came before the council to explain the current standing for the district and to make a request. There are currently 632 grinder pumps in the ground, 384 have been connected with 248 left to go. The cost to connect from the home to the grinder is $1,000-$1,500.00 dollars, which is why some of the 248 have not connected. That is a substantial expense in a low income area. The district has been in contact with the Indiana Finance Authority discussing possible financial assistance for low income households to assist with

getting them connected. The IFA has offered the district a zero percent interest loan and the ability for the district to restructure its current IFA loan so they can be combined. The stipulation is that the district continues to pay the $178,000.00 annually until 2027. Currently the county is under obligation to contribute $150,000.00/year until 2024. The sewer district is requesting that the council consider paying 3 additional years of $150,000.00 payments in 2025-2027. The district will continue to pay the remaining $28,000.00 needed for the payments. If the financial assistance cannot be obtained there is a possibility of a rate increase for everyone. Gogel asked if there is a revenue projection reflecting more people connecting and Shelton stated that it should double. The current loan has the bonds paid off in 2021 with $10,000.00 interest only payments due each year until 2031, and then a $1,000,000.00 balloon payment would be due. The only way to reammortize this loan and get the additional funding for low income households is if the county is willing to continue to contribute. If the county does not agree to extend the payments, IFA will not give the district the loan. Benton asked how the district planned to pay the $1,000,000.00 balloon payment and Lindsey stated in 2031 they would have to look for financing. Gogel and Kroeger stated they feel it's too early to make a commitment like this and requested they come back with a revenue projection. Lindsey stated that this all kind of came together today and they felt it was a good time to get it on the table and find out what additional information the council needed. They will get more information for the June meeting and if a decision still cannot be reached at that time or if there are still additional questions, hopefully a decision can be made in July. Winsett stated he wants to know how many pumps have failed since the beginning and asked Shelton if she knew off the top of her head. Shelton stated she did not, but asked Winsett if he knew why they failed and Winsett stated yes we went and spoke with the Mayor of Hansen, Kentucky at the beginning. Shelton stated that there were many failures in the beginning due to an installer putting them in incorrectly and now they are having many reoccurrences in the same homes. Also, many failures happen in Hatfield and Shelton stated there is bad power there. Winsett stated that what is happening is exactly what the Mayor of Hansen, Kentucky said would happen. Shelton stated well my job is that we have this and we have to do what we have to do to move forward. Bunner stated that is correct we are in a current situation and we cannot go in and pull it all out now, so the entire board needs to unite and work together to make this a success. Bunner stated that we need to look at other options and Lindsey stated this was the one option offered to the district by IFA, they will check to see if there are any other options. The goal is to have the 248 connected by Fall of 2018 and there are penalties that can be imposed if they are not connected. The council suggested that the district work with Umbaugh and gather more information. This will be discussed again at the June meeting.

City of Rockport – Sherry Roeder

Roeder came before the board to explain the issues she is having with items being flushed down the sewer lines and causing damage. She has found a bed sheet, t-shirt, socks and lots of trash at the Fifth St. lift station that destroyed the cities pump. Roeder is confident these items are being flushed down the toilet at the county jail. The repairs at the Fifth St. lift station will be $10,000.00 to $12,000.00. The city is requesting the county pay for the repairs to the pump, but also pays to have an in-line grinder placed at the Fifth St. location. It is already equipped for an in-line grinder, but has not had one for many years. The old one was pulled for repairs years ago and the city didn't have the money to put it back. The cost to put in an in-line grinder is about $30,000.00, so the city is requesting approximately $40,000.00. This issue is happening in jails and prisons everywhere, not just here. Other facilities are using in-line grinders and bar screens to fix the problem, bar screens are more costly. The board asked Roeder if this trash could be coming from places other than the jail and she stated yes if it flows down the storm drain, but the trash she is finding at her plant is commissary trash. Kroeger stated that if some of the trash is coming from places other than the jail, he doesn't feel the county should have to pay for the whole thing but part of it, if any. Roeder stated that the city will have to maintain the grinder. Attorney Lindsey stated that he thought at the commissioner meeting it was discussed the county paying for ½ of the in-line grinder and Roeder stated that in between meetings the Mayor called and instructed her to request the full amount of the grinder and the cost to repair the pump. There is an obvious problem and the council recommends that the commissioner's work with Roeder on what percentage they feel is the counties responsibility and come to the council with a recommendation.

Janie McGinnis – AK Steel

McGinnis reported that on May 8th AK Steel filed their amended 16 pay 17 personal property return. There is a $113,000,000.00 difference on what they filed and are paying taxes on and their amended return, that's a reduction of about a 1/3. McGinnis stated she has been instructed to deny accepting the amended return. She obviously will receive it and file stamp it, *but there is paperwork she must complete to deny the amended return. AK Steel has already submitted their 17 pay 18 personal property return which right around the figure of their amended return. McGinnis is requesting direction on how to respond when denying the amended return. Winsett stated that he feels that direction should come from the council attorney. Foster asked McGinnis if she has been in contact with Ice Miller and she stated she has. McGinnis stated she is not requesting an additional yet, but wants the board to be aware there will be legal fees and audit fees to address this. There are two steps to this process, first we find out if we have to accept the amended return and if we do have to accept the amended return is the figure correct.*

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:15 P.M.

President

Steve Winsett

Attest:

Autumn Winkler

Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Todd Ruxer