

County Council Meeting
August 19, 2025

Present: Aaron Benton, David Gogel, Justin Grose, Susan Harris, David Fromme, Brian Greulich, Steve Haaff, Auditor Melissa L. Bunner, and Attorney Andrew Foster.

Wheel & Vehicle Tax Public Hearing

Indiana Code 6-3.5-4 authorizes the Spencer County Council to impose, by ordinance, a local option annual County Motor Vehicle Excise Surtax of not less than two percent (2%) or more than ten (10%), or not less than seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) or more than twenty five dollars (\$25.00) on each motor vehicle, subject to annual excise tax, registered in the county.

Indiana Code 6-3.5-5 authorizes the Spencer County Council to impose, by ordinance, a local option annual County Wheel Tax of not less than five dollars (\$5.00) or more than forty dollars (\$40.00) on each of six (6) classifications of motor vehicle, not subject to the excise tax, registered in the county.

The adoption of these taxes will help maintain the road system within the county, as well as make Spencer County eligible for various state grants used to help improve roads.

Beginning on January 1, 2026, all passenger vehicles, motorcycles, and trucks with a declared gross weight that does not exceed eleven thousand (11,000) pounds, registered in Spencer County, that are not subject to an excise tax, shall also be subject to an annual Excise Surtax of seven dollars and fifty cents (\$7.50) to be paid with the registration of said motor vehicle.

Beginning on January 1, 2026, all classes of motor vehicles statutorily subject to the wheel tax, shall be subject to an annual Wheel of five dollars (\$5.00) to be paid with the registration of said motor vehicle. This tax does not apply to all vehicles listed in Indiana Code 6-3.5-5-4.

Benton asked for comments from the Public. No Comments.
Benton asked for comments from the Council. No Comments

Greulich motioned to adjourn the meeting. Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 5:02 P.M.

County Council Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Benton at 5:04 P.M.

Minutes

Fromme made a motion to approve the minutes of July 15, 2025. Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Jane Stout with Spencer County Emergency Ambulance Service came to recognize Spencer County Personnel for outstanding actions. Todd Dunsworth came to present the awards. On May 14, 2025, Todd Dunsworth's wife went into cardiac arrest and the following first responders are being recognized for saving her life.

Sheriff Deputy Austin Hagan
Ed Hauenstein with EMS
Lori Downs with EMS
Jeff Harris with Ohio Township Fire Department
Tyler Danning with Luce Fire Territory

Additional Appropriation

| | Amount Requested | Approved |
|--|------------------|----------|
| Fund Name: 1000 COUNTY GENERAL / EMA 0361 | | |
| Capital Outlay: Equipment | \$3,000 | \$3,000 |
| Greulich motioned to approve. Harris seconded the motion. Motion carried. | | |

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Fund Name: 1000 COUNTY GENERAL / COIT | | |
| Other Services & Charges: EMA Radio Repair | \$4,200 | \$4,200 |
| Haaff made a motion to approve. Fromme seconded the motion. Motion carried. | | |

| | | |
|--|---------|---------|
| Fund Name: 1000 COUNTY GENERAL / SHERIFF 0005 | | |
| Other Services & Charges: Cell Phone | \$5,400 | \$5,400 |
| Grose made a motion to approve. Greulich seconded the motion. Motion carried. | | |

Fund Name: 1000 COUNTY GENERAL / JAIL 0380

| | | |
|---|----------|----------|
| Personal: Overtime | \$40,000 | \$40,000 |
| Other Services & Charges: Prescriptions | \$12,500 | \$12,500 |
| Other Services & Charges: Hospital | \$37,500 | \$37,500 |
| Other Services & Charges: Medis | \$62,000 | \$62,000 |

Haaff made a motion to approve. Fromme seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Fund Name: 2501 PRETRIAL DIVERSION

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|
| Other Services & Charges: Depositions | \$6,000 | \$6,000 |
|---------------------------------------|---------|---------|

Gogel made a motion to approve. Grose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Transfers

SPENCER COUNTY E911

| | Amount | Approved |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Increase Account: 1222-19000-0000 | | |
| Personal: Overtime | \$12,060.03 | \$12,060.03 |
| Decrease Account: 1222-11620-0000 | | |
| Personal: Dispatcher | \$12,060.03 | \$12,060.03 |

Haaff made a motion to approve. Greulich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SPENCER COUNTY E911

| | Amount | Approved |
|-----------------------------------|----------|----------|
| Increase Account: 1222-19000-0000 | | |
| Personal: Overtime | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Decrease Account: 1222-38110-0000 | | |
| Other Services & Charges | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |

Grose made a motion to approve. Fromme seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SPENCER COUNTY HIGHWAY

| | Amount | Approved |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Increase Account: 1176-19000-0533 | | |
| Personal: Overtime | \$5,339.86 | \$5,339.86 |
| Increase Account: 1176-19000-0531 | | |
| Personal: Overtime | \$10,000 | \$10,000 |
| Decrease Account: 1176-11600-0530 | | |
| Personal: Leadman | \$15,339.86 | \$15,339.86 |

Haaff made a motion to approve. Greulich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

SPENCER COUNTY CHILD SUPPORT

| | Amount | Approved |
|-------------------------------------|--------|----------|
| Increase Account: 1000-35125-0660 | | |
| Other Services & Charges: Utilities | \$550 | \$550 |
| Decrease Account: 1000-21100-0660 | | |
| Supplies: Office Supplies | \$400 | \$400 |
| Decrease Account: 1000-33200-0660 | | |
| Other Services & Charges: Printing | \$150 | \$150 |

Fromme made a motion to approve. Grose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Sheriff's Department / Sherri Heichelbech

Heichelbech is requesting an additional to cover Gas, Oil, and Lube (1000-22200-0005) in the amount of \$20,000.00. Being fully staffed with deputies has increased fuel consumption. This will pay for another tank of fuel at the County Garage. **Greulich motioned to approved to advertise. Fromme seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Heichelbech is requesting an additional to cover storm damage at the Jail (1000-36100-0380). This will repair four (4) cameras damaged from a lightning strike. The amount is \$5,245.00. **Haaff motioned to approved to advertise. Greulich seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Heichelbech discussed a Homeland Security Grant she would like to partner with EMA to apply for. This grant will cover High Threat Rifle Rated Body Armor (Rifle Vests) and Body-Worn Cameras (BWC). **Haaff motioned to approve applying for the grant. Greulich seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Heichelbech is requesting Opioid Funding for \$47,500 for the purchase of a Drug Incinerator and for the expansion of Drug Take Back Boxes.

Harris motioned to approve. Grose seconded the motion. Motion carried.

During the course of the budget review for the Dispatch Center, there were some expenses that are outdated and re-evaluated. If the cost reduction measures are implemented by year-end, then the projection is a combined savings of \$1,286.51 per month or \$15,438.12 annually.

Heichelbech presented an invitation to an Appreciation Luncheon for all staff on August 22, 2025 from 11:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. This will be held in the Sallyport area, weather permitting.

Wheel & Vehicle Tax

The municipal wheel tax and vehicle tax are local options available to all municipalities with a population of 5,000 and above. All wheel tax and vehicle taxes are collected through registration fees during the annual registration process by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles. Foster has presented Ordinance 2025-04 "The Spencer County Council An Ordinance Regarding Grants Involving Spencer County." **Haaff motioned to approve. Greulich seconded the motion. Motion carried.** This ordinance is adopted at first reading by unanimous vote.

Legal Report

No Report.

Old Business

No Report.

New Business

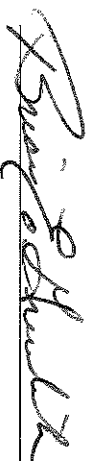
Community Corrections / Sylvia Holbrook

Holbrook is requesting approval for the revised budget of the Spencer County Community Corrections, Drug Court Grants, and Budgets for CY2026. **Harris motioned to approve. Grose seconded the motion. Motion carried.**

Senator Darrell Schmitt (Senate District 48) came to discuss Senate Enrolled Act 1. He provided information on the Referenda Provisions, Property Tax Control Provisions and Credits, and LIT Changes. He discussed the Estimated Net Levies for CY2026 to CY2028. He explained the seven (7) year budget plan and the three (3) main goals for now are driving decisions to local level, transparency, and simplicity.

Greulich made a motion to adjourn. Fromme seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 6:16 P.M.

President



Attest: Auditor, Melissa L. Burner

