

County Council Meeting
July 21, 2015

Present: Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Todd Ruxer, Aaron Benton, Jack Kroeger, Attorney John Wetherill, Auditor Autumn Winkler

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaetti at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes

Bunner made a motion to approve the minutes from June 16th with the addition of Aaron Benton's name at the top and per Winsett request more detailed information about the OCRA grant. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Public Hearing

Hoosier Energy Abatement-Chuck Martindale

Tom Utter with the LEDC was in attendance to speak in favor of the Hoosier Energy Solar Panel project and the many benefits it could bring to our area.

Steve Seibert, CEO of Southern Indiana Power spoke in favor of Hoosier Energy and the solar project also. They are one of the 18 member cooperatives of Hoosier Energy. There were 36 sites submitted from just south of Indy and down for this project. Southern Indiana Power submitted a few sites in Perry and Spencer County. Decisions were made based on traffic counts and visibility. They feel very thankful that one of their sites was chosen.

Hoosier Energy is trying to diversify and get away from being solely coal energy. The site chosen is a 14 acre tract in Carter Twp. It is predicted to take 3 months start to finish for this project. The budget for this project is around \$3,000,000.00. Hoosier Energy had their Property Tax Accountant figure an estimate of what the tax benefit would be for the county and the figures were \$2,700.00/yr real property and \$63,000.00/yr improvements. This would result in a tax increase of \$5,000-\$6,000.00/yr and after the completion of the abatement an \$8,000-\$9,000.00/yr. increase. Martindale presented a resolution to declare the land an Economic Revitalization Area and to request approval of the abatement. The abatement would be for a 10 year period starting at 100% and decreasing each year by 10%. Kroeger stated that this would be the first time in all of his years on the council that an abatement was granted when there were no employees at the company. This type of request would not normally be considered for that reason, but we are not required to provide any infrastructure for this business. Spaetti stated that any taxpayers that use Southern Indiana Power/Hoosier Energy would benefit from the savings that Hoosier Energy is receiving and that hopefully they will pass those savings on to their customers. Benton explained that this is also a great benefit to the county, due to a 2.7 million dollar increase to our assessed base and an additional 17 times the tax revenue. Kress made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-06, confirming the adoption of a declaratory resolution designating an economic revitalization area for Hoosier Energy. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn the public hearing. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved. Hearing was adjourned at 5:25 P.M.

Regular Meeting

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaetti at 5:26 P.M

Additional Appropriations

Law Enforcement Fund

Dale Police Dept. \$1500.00

Prosecutor Dan Wilkinson requested an additional appropriation for \$1500.00 from the Law Enforcement Fund to assist with the cost of a new K-9 for the Dale Police Dept. Kress made a motion to approve the \$1500.00 additional from the Law Enforcement Fund. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

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COIT

Health Insurance **\$300,000.00**

Auditor Winkler and the Board of Commissioners are requesting a \$300,000.00 additional appropriation from the COIT fund to pay health insurance expenses. All 2015 budgeted funds for health insurance have been depleted and there are no more dollars to pay this expense. Winkler explained that there is no more money to pay claims or administrative bills and that money should be coming in from reinsurance, but there is no way to know when or how much. Winsett stated that he recently spoke to a Warrick County Councilman and was told that they were in the same situation a few years ago and they made the decision it needed to be bid out. He stated that they pretty much forced their Board of Commissioners to bid it out by not giving them any additional money. That is not what he suggests we do, but he has been fighting with the commissioners to bid it out with no success. All council members were in agreement that changes need to be made, as the county cannot afford to continue on this path. Winsett stated that at a recent meeting with himself, Kroeger, Spaetti, and Logsdon the comment was made that with our loss ratio so high, no one would want to give us a bid. He has made some phone calls and has companies waiting to bid. Kroeger stated there are 2 issues here and this situation is that we have to have the funds needed to pay the bills, but moving forward we are going to have to work on a solution. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$300,000.00 additional from COIT for Health Insurance. Kress seconded the motion, motion approved with Winsett opposed. Winsett stated he will continue to vote no until they consent to bid out the insurance.

Health Dept. **\$5550.00**

Donna Etienne is requesting an additional appropriation of \$3550.00 for the part time clerk position. There was not enough money budgeted for this position and by year end they will come up short. A request for \$2000.00 was also requested for legal fees. There have been several issues this year that have resulted in legal fees and there are possibilities of more. Benton made a motion to approve the \$5550.00 requested. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Mike Johannes & John Bowen – Town of Santa Claus

Johannes and Bowen came to do a presentation about the Town of Santa Claus trails project. This project is a \$10,000,000.00 project with 80% currently funded by State and Federal grants. Construction for this project will begin in late Fall and completion is anticipated by 2017. The hope for this project is that it will become incorporated with the national set of trails across the country. An organization, Trails of Santa Claus, Inc., has been established to assist with soliciting funds to complete the project. It is believed that this trail system will provide a large increase in tourism. Spencer County is well known for its tourism and these trails will only add to that.

4 separate trails are included in this project:

1. Yellig Park to Christmas Lake Trail
2. Lincoln Discover to National Park Trail
3. Westside Connector
4. East Side Connector

Johannes and Bowen are requesting a partnership with Spencer County and seeking \$400,000.00 to do the necessary road completion for CR 1650. CR 1625 is being abandoned and CR 1650 is being extended for this project. The tourism season is mainly in the Spring/Summer months and they feel this will cause an increase in the off-season. Bowen and Johannes presented many statistics and a large amount of information regarding this project. Kroeger stated that even though they are the fiscal body, he felt that the commissioners needed to work out the \$400,000.00 through the highway budget. Bowen stated he believed that the commissioners were in favor of it, but wanted the council approval on it also. Kroeger said that if the commissioners want to include this in their highway budget that is their decision to make. Spaetti ask Bowen and Johannes when the money would be needed, if they were able to come up with any funding. Johannes stated it would not be needed until 2016.

New Business

Ordinance Proposals

Wetherill explained that after speaking with Spaetti and Kroeger, he had prepared an ordinance to freeze benefits and an ordinance to freeze hiring for the time being. He stated these ordinances are presented merely as a topic of discussion, not as a recommendation from anyone. This would not affect replacing an employee in the event of someone leaving, but only for new hires. Kroeger stated that these ordinances are a wakeup call for where we are and that we have to get a handle on cash flow going forward. The first place to start with getting a handle

on this is budgeting. Kroeger stated that at a minimum these ordinances should be considered in an effort to cut cost. If the council makes the decision to pass the ordinances, they could be put in effect before budget time hits at the end of August. Winsett stated, "Aren't we kinda putting the cart before the horse?" We need to know how much trouble we are really in before taking such drastic measures. Spaetti and Kroeger stated again, this is just up for discussion. Kroeger stated that we have long term commitments to pay out of COIT and that we cannot continuously use those funds for health insurance. Benton asked if the insurance committee has adopted to increase the deductible for health insurance. Winsett stated that the insurance committee has not met for 3 or 4 months. Kroeger said that after speaking with some of the council and commissioners, that he felt all were in agreement that the deductible change was needed. Bunner stated that since the insurance committee was formed they have not wanted to make the hard decisions needed to take action. The insurance committee needs to seriously look into what changes need to be made, whether it be bidding it out or just making policy changes. Winsett said he has been trying to get the committee to bid it out, but that has not happened and now the committee has stopped meeting. Kroeger made a motion that Attorney Wetherill writes a letter to the commissioners and Attorney Lindsey requesting a joint meeting, recommending that they reactivate the insurance committee and provide the council with viable options for drastic cost reduction. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 7:54 P.M.

Bill Spaetti
President

Attest:

Autumn Winkler
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Am. Behr

Steve Winsett


Dave Kress

Jack Ruxer

Todd Ruxer

County Council Meeting
August 18, 2015

Present: Steve Winsett, Aaron Benton, Blake Bunner, Jack Kroeger, Bill Spaetti, Dave Kress, Todd Ruxer, Attorney John Wetherill, Auditor Autumn Winkler

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaetti at 5:00 P.M.

Minutes

Benton made a motion to approve the July 21, 2015 minutes. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations

Cum Cap

Auditor/Treasurer/Assessor Server **\$12,191.25**

Eck Mundy presented a quote to the Auditor's office for the purchase of a new server. This server is a shared unit between the Auditor, Treasurer and Assessor office. They feel that with the age and storage of the old machine that it might be in the counties best interest to consider the purchase of a new machine, to ensure there is not a collapse or loss of data. Auditor Winkler and the commissioner's are requesting an additional appropriation to purchase a new server with additional ram speed from the Cumulative Capital Fund. Kroeger made a motion to approve the purchase of a new server from Cum Cap. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Transfers

Circuit Court

Decrease Account # 1000-136-4360.00 Maximus IV-D Invoices	\$600.00
Increase Account # 1000-136-4441.00 Furniture and Fixtures	\$600.00

Judge Dartt came before the council to request a transfer from the Maximum IV-D account to furniture and fixtures to purchase a new scanner. We are not currently under contract with Maximus which provided additional funds in that line that are not needed. The circuit court is working to update their equipment and wish to use these additional funds to assist with that. Kress made a motion to approve the \$600.00 transfer. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Salary Ordinance Amendment

Judge Dartt came before the council to request an amendment to the 2015 Salary Ordinance. Amendment 2015-07 would change the CASA director's hourly rate from \$16.73/hr. to \$18.43/hr. Judge Dartt explained that the CASA director rates are set by him and the state, due to the county not fully funding that program. Spencer County contributes a set dollar amount to the CASA program each year and the remainder of funding comes from the state and donations. The CASA directors have not had a pay increase since the program was started and Dartt wishes to get the director wages on the same level as court employees. There was much discussion about whether or not the CASA employees should be considered county employees or private contractors. It was determined that due to the employees being paid through payroll, it was best to consider them employees of the county and to list their wages on the Salary Ordinance. Kroeger made a motion to approve Amendment 2015-07 amending the hourly rate for CASA directors on the Salary Ordinance, but wants it noted that we as a county are not contributing any additional funds to this program. The entity has the funds to pay the additional expense themselves. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Old Business

Gogel spoke with the council about the Santa Claus Trail project and the \$400,000.00 they are requesting from the county to go towards this project. Gogel had the idea that the county could possibly take the \$100,000.00 annual payment that is made from COIT each year for the water project and divert that money to the trails project, if the water project is stable enough to not need the funds. This payment could be diverted effective immediately for a 4 year period and then payments to the water project would resume with an additional 4 years tacked on the end to make up for the trail project payments. Mike Johannes, a member of the Santa Claus board, was in attendance and stated that the water project could handle that payment being diverted

for a 4 year period. The water project is doing very well and that account is carrying a steady balance. Kroeger ask Gogel about the possibility of taking the payments from the CREDIT fund, due to the money requested being used for roads on the project. Gogel stated that the money requested is not being solely used for roads, it is just the match requested from the county. Bunner stated that his concern with giving the additional money is that if the water project is doing so well and can withstand the payments being diverted for 4 years, why are we still contributing? A municipality/government entity should run a fairly tight ship and not have excess funds lying around that are not needed. Johannes stated that in their defense, this project has gone better than anticipated. The council instructed Johannes to go back and report to Santa Claus the plan stated and the possibility of not even adding an additional 4 years to the end if those funds are not needed for the water project. He will come before the council again at a later date. The council will continue to discuss this after budget hearings, when we better know the financial state of the county.

New Business

Bunner met with Superintendent Mike Robinson, a South Spencer School Board member and a few other individuals about the LEC building, also known as the old middle school and high school. The school is looking into the possibility of getting rid of the building, due to the cost to maintain such a large old building. They feel it is necessary to tear down the oldest part of the building where a majority of the classrooms were and then sell the remaining newer portion. Suggestions were made about possible uses for the building and Bunner mentioned the possibility of the county being interested if they were to give us the property. We currently pay rent on three office spaces and lack of space is always a concern. Bunner stated he thought it might be something for the commissioners to look into. Kroeger stated we would need to look at a financial projection of what the expenses could be with this building. Bunner said it was just a brainstorming session and he wanted to pass along the information.

Insurance

Kroeger mentioned that he had spoke with Commissioner Gogel about some possible insurance changes that could be implemented and additional funds that can be used. Kroeger went on to list the possible changes:

-Additional Appropriation: Highway - \$100,000.00
Cum Bridge - \$14,000.00

- Spousal Carve Out
- Spousal Surcharge
- Raise Deductible
- Budget actual cost of insurance for each fund
- Raise Co-insurance
- Raise OOP Max

Our hope is that claims slow down and that we have a much better year this year, but the changes listed can be implemented if necessary. We will continue to keep an eye on insurance cost and decide what changes will go in effect January 1, 2016.

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

Bill Paett
President
Attest:

Autumn Winkler
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Steve Winsett

Jesse Kroeger
B. B.

Dave Kress
John B.

Todd Ruxer

County Council Meeting
Non Binding Reviews
September 15, 2015

Present: Aaron Benton, Jack Kroeger, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Todd Ruxer, Auditor Autumn Winkler, Attorney John Wetherill

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaetti at 4:30 P.M.

Non Binding Reviews

- 1. Carter Township** was within the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council commended them on this achievement.
- 2. Clay Township** was within the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council commended them on this achievement.
- 3. Grass Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 4. Hammond Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient, but did make note of a new Cum Fire Fund that was created.
- 5. Harrison Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 6. Huff Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 7. Jackson Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 8. Luce Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 9. Ohio Township** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 10. Rockport Civil Town** was within the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council commended them on this achievement.
- 11. Chrisney Civil Town** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 12. Dale Civil Town** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 13. Gentryville Civil Town** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 14. Grandview Civil Town** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 15. Santa Claus Civil Town** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 16. Richland Civil Town** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.
- 17. North Spencer County School Corporation** was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.

18. South Spencer County School Corporation was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.

19. Spencer County Public Library was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.

20. Lincoln Heritage Public Library was over the growth quotient in their proposed levy so the Council recommended they try to bring it within the 2.60% growth quotient.

**County Council Meeting
Binding Budget Reviews**

Carter Fire and Solid Waste Binding Budget Reviews were completed in August during the budget workshops.

Debbie Steinkamp was in attendance and asked the Council if an entity had the funds available to give a pay raise, could they do that? Spaetti stated that they prefer as in years past that all entities follow suit with the County Council decision. Bunner stated that speaking on behalf of the Council on Aging, they always followed the same rate of increase as the county, just out of respect for the county and the funds they contribute.

County General

The budget cuts were completed at the budget workshops in August. The decision was made to advertise at the higher rate as was done for 2015 and adjust to the desired levy after receiving the 1782 notice. The budget will be adopted at the October 20th meeting. There was much discussion about employee raises and due to the cost of health care, it is not anticipated a raise will be given. Spaetti ask for further discussion about the salary for the new position at the Highway Dept. that Cindy Painter will be filling. He has spoke with Commissioner's Logsdon and Seiler and would like Commissioner Gogel's opinion on what the salary should be for that position. Gogel stated the amount requested was what they had determined after having a workshop and discussing the duties that position would hold. The newly created position of Highway Administrator will include the duties of Road Clerk/Office Manager and also a large portion of the County Engineer duties. At this time, we do not have plans to hire a full time engineer, so those duties have been distributed throughout the Highway Dept. Bunner stated the highway department is an exemplary example of what all departments should strive to do by accomplishing more with fewer resources. There have been a large number of cuts in the Highway Department over the years and they are running on about 1/3 of the staff they had in years past. They are running efficiently with less and that's a great model for other depts. to follow.

The hope for the county budget is that insurance cost will slow down. However, if this does not happen, Kroeger stated that moving forward we have a few options to consider, such as raising taxes, do a hiring freeze, and if that doesn't help, cut positions.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:14 P.M.

Bill Spaetti
President
Attest:

Autumn Winkler
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

David Press

Autumn Winkler

Steve Winslett

Steve Winslett

Todd Ruxer

John Bunner

**County Council Meeting
September 15, 2015**

Present: Jack Kroeger, Aaron Benton, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, Dave Kress, Todd Ruxer, Auditor Autumn Winkler, Attorney John Wetherill

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Spaghetti at 5:15 P.M.

Minutes

Kroeger stated a correction is needed on the minutes from the August 18, 2015 meeting. In the last paragraph it needs to state that we will decide what changes will go in effect January 1, 2016. Ruxer made a motion to approve the minutes with the stated correction. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations

CREDIT \$300,000.00

Painter asked for an additional appropriation of \$300,000.00 to be used to complete the projects that have already been started. The last bid that was let out came in higher than expected and there is around \$25,000.00 worth of striping that needs completed also. Benton made a motion to approve the \$300,000.00 from CREDIT. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

County General

Pauper Attorney **\$30,000.00**

Judge Darrt was not present, but is requesting an additional appropriation of \$30,000.00 for Pauper Attorney Fees. Kress made a motion to approve the \$30,000.00 for Pauper Attorney. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved. Winsett was opposed, due to the Judge not being present.

Riverboat \$10,000.00

The Board of Commissioners requested an additional appropriation of \$10,000.00 to update job descriptions. Gogel explained that in 2012 they made a request to complete this task, but the job was never done. Bunner made a motion to approve the \$10,000.00 for job descriptions. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Transfers

Circuit Court

Decrease Account #1000-136-4360.00 Maximus IV-D **\$400.00**

Increase Account #1000-136-4441.00 Furniture/Fixtures

Judge Darrt was not present, but requested a transfer from Maximus IV-D to Furniture and Fixtures due to not having enough funding to pay the bill for the new scanner in the Probation Dept. Bunner made a motion to approve the transfer. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved. Winsett was opposed, due to the Judge not being present.

Highway

Decrease Account #1176-004-4371.00 Lease Rental **\$100,000.00**

Increase Account #1176-004-4443.00 Equipment

Painter made a request to transfer \$100,000.00 from Lease Rental to Equipment to be used for purchasing a piece of equipment rather than making payments and accruing interest.

Decrease Account #1176-002-2112.00 Equipment Operators \$20,000.00

Increase Account #1176-004-4362.00 Repair Trucks/Tractors

Painter made a request to transfer \$20,000.00 from Equipment Operators to Repair Trucks/Tractors to ensure they have enough money in repairs to finish the year.

Benton made a motion to approve both transfer requests from the Highway Dept. of \$100,000.00 and \$20,000.00. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriation – Solid Waste**\$50,000.00**

This is the first time Solid Waste has had to come before the County Council to request an additional appropriation. Due to a legislation change in 2011, it is now required for County Council to approve additional appropriations for the Solid Waste District. This is not an additional from county funds, just a legality to have County Council approval due to them being a binding unit. Steinkamp is requesting an additional appropriation of \$50,000.00 to do repairs and maintenance on buildings and equipment. Ruxer made a motion to approve the \$50,000.00 additional appropriation. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Legal Report

Wetherill reported that a few hours before the meeting he had received a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Santa Claus and the county. This MOU discusses the \$100,000.00 payments made from the county to the Town of Santa Claus and it being at their discretion if they choose to apply the funds to the trail project or the water project. Wetherill will review the memorandum and forward it to all council members.

Wetherill has been informed that Carol Waninger has resigned from the Board of Zoning Appeals. This is a council appointed position and needs to be put on the October agenda.

Old Business

Kroeger stated that he received a phone call and has the possibility of becoming the President of the County Council Association. Kroeger is unsure if he would take the position, but wanted to get his fellow council members approval before making any decisions. All are in favor of Kroeger becoming President if he chooses.

New Business

Benton presented the 2015 Farm Bureau Statistic Book to each council member. He also stated he had spoke with Ron Bacon about getting a magistrate for Spencer County and was informed that the first step is the judge filling out the necessary paperwork and submitting it to state.

Commissioner Gogel reported that Spencer County received the OCRA grant to tear down the old jail.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 5:58 P.M.

Bill Speth
President

Attest:

Autumn Winkler
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Steve Wensitt
BB

David Ruxer

David Kress

Jack Steinkamp Todd Ruxer