

**County Council Meeting  
October 20, 2015**

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

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

**Minutes**

Benton made a motion to approve the corrected minutes from August 18, 2015 and the Non-Binding/Binding Review minutes from September 15, 2015 as presented. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Additional Appropriations**

**COIT**

Health Insurance \$200,000.00

Gogel was in attendance representing the Board of Commissioners requesting an additional appropriation for Health Insurance funding. Kress made a motion to approve to the \$200,000.00 additional appropriation for Health Insurance. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved with Winsett opposed.

**Highway**

Health Insurance \$100,000.00

Painter was in attendance requesting an additional appropriation to assist with Health Insurance funding and funds to put a roof on the salt building. Due to the budget adoption meeting just ending, Painter asked the council if the 2016 budget was set in stone. Painter stated that the salary given to the Highway Administrator was not the commissioners requested salary. That position has taken over all the paperwork and duties of the previous County Engineer and the highway fund is in the best shape it's ever been. Painter feels the full requested amount should have been given. The council explained that the salary was set at that amount, due to it being a comparable salary to other office holders. Spaetti stated that if the commissioners did not approve of that salary, it could be revisited at a later date.

Gogel explained to the council that insurance claims for September were about half of what August claims were, so we are hopeful things are moving in the right direction. The commissioners voted at their meeting earlier in the day to make some insurance changes that will go in effect January 1, 2016.

The following changes will take place at that time:

**Working Spouse Rule** – this change will make spouses take other coverage, if it is available at their employer.

**Raise the deductible**- the county will raise the annual deductible, but the employee has the opportunity to lower their deductible by participating in the Annual Wellness Screening.

**Combine Health and Prescription Max OOP** –this will change the Max OOP from being 2 separate Maximum Out of Pocket amounts into one overall Maximum Out of Pocket amount.

Bunner made a motion to approve the \$100,000.00 additional appropriation for Health Insurance funding. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved with Winsett opposed.

Salt Building Roof \$29,000.00

Painter explained to the council the need for a roof on the salt building. This has been discussed for a few years, there is much difficulty in the winter months when they are trying to cover the salt with tarps and having to roll them back each time they need to load. Ruxer made a motion to approve the \$29,000.00 for the salt building roof. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**CUM CAP**

Jail Repairs \$20,000.00

McDurmon explained that there have been lots of jail repairs and outside vendors are needed to fix the large mechanical jobs. They are already in the negative for jail repairs and this money is needed to finish the year. Benton made a motion to approve the \$20,000.00 for jail repairs. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**County General**

Jailer Overtime \$12,000.00

McDurmon explained that there has been some turnover in the jail, an inmate trial, lots of transports, and medical watch, which all ends up using overtime funds. Benton made a motion to approve the \$12,000.00 for jailer overtime. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Health Dept.**

Immunization Grant \$68,418.00

No one from the Health Dept. was in attendance so additional appropriation was not granted.

**Transfers**

**Circuit Court**

Decrease 1000-136-4360.00 Maximus IV-D \$1283.00

Increase 1000-136-4140.00 Interpreter \$1283.00

Decrease 1000-136-4135.00 Bailiff Venued Cases \$250.00

Increase 1000-136-4140.00 Interpreter \$250.00

Judge Dartt made the request and spoke to the Council about the transfers.

Kroeger made a motion to approve the transfers. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Decrease 1000-136-4139.00 Pauper Documents \$700.00

Increase 1000-136-4111.00 Judge \$700.00

Decrease 1000-136-4136.00 Grand Jurors \$250.00

Increase 1000-136-4111.00 Judge \$250.00

Decrease 1000-136-4134.00 Court Reporter Venued Cases \$250.00

Increase 1000-136-4111.00 Judge \$250.00

Decrease 1000-136-4131.00 Special Judges \$50.00

Increase 1000-136-4111.00 Judge \$50.00

Judge Dartt made the request and spoke to the Council about the transfers. Auditor Winkler explained that these transfers were needed due to the state informing us of changes made to when contributions are due. This required us to pay an additional quarterly payment this year and ran us short on funds. Kroeger made a motion to approve the transfers for Judge's salary. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Sheriff**

Decrease 1000-132-4113.10 Senior Jailer \$107,343.70

Increase 1000-132-4113.00 Jailer \$107,343.70

Sheriff McDurmon and Auditor Winkler explained that when the budget was set it included more Senior Jailers and due to turnover there are actually more regular jailers. The transfer is needed to correct the accounts that the employees are being paid from. Kress made a motion to approve the transfer. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Legal Report**

Wetherill presented Ordinance 2015-08 to implement a \$50.00 fee to apply for the Heritage Barn Deduction. This is a new property tax deduction and the fee is being implemented in most counties across the state. A heritage barn is a barn that has to be a certain number of years old and cannot be used for anything productive. Kroeger made a motion to approve Ordinance 2015-08. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:53 P.M.

Bill Spaeth  
President

Attest:  
Autumn Winkler  
Autumn Winkler, Auditor

[Signature]

David Kress

Steve Winkler

John P. Kroeger

Todd Ruxer

[Signature]

**County Council Meeting  
Budget Adoption  
October 20, 2015**

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

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

Kroeger explained that the numbers shown are the budget, levy, and rate that was submitted to the DLGF, but changes can be made after we receive our 1782 notice. There is a 10 day window to make changes.

	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adopted Levy</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
<b>General</b>	7,247,207.00	7,500,000.00	0.5968
<b>Reassessment</b>	125,550.00	300,000.00	0.0239
<b>Highway</b>	2,825,348.00	0	0
<b>Local Road &amp; Street</b>	200,000.00	0	0
<b>Cumulative Bridge</b>	699,021.00	1,478,395.00	0.1000
<b>Health</b>	258,507.00	300,000.00	0.0239
<b>County 4-H</b>	0	70,963.00	0.0056
<b>Cumulative Capital Development</b>	230,500.00	221,759.00	0.0150
<b>Plat Book Update</b>	3,800.00		
<b>Probation User Fee</b>	1,900.00		
<b>E911</b>	577,037.00		
<b>Local Health Maintenance Grant</b>	33,139.00		
<b>Pre-Trial Diversion</b>	50,974.00		
<b>Tobacco Settlement Local Health</b>	16,722.00		
<b>Cornerstone Perp</b>	10,500.00		
<b>Law Enforcement Fund</b>	6,500.00		

Sharon Dugas, County Recorder, was in attendance and asked the council why she has to take everything except salaries out of her perpetuation fund. Dugas stated that she does not request much and does not feel that it's right or legal to make her take all other expenses from that fund. Kroeger explained that this is discussed at state meetings and many counties are having their recorders use their perpetuation funds. Dugas stated that she could be like some counties and just wipe out the fund so the money is not there for her to use on office expenses. The council commended her for a job well done and thanked her for doing her part to help the county. She is helping the taxpayers of Spencer County by taking some weight off of county general.

Dean Knepper, Veteran Service Officer, asked the council to reconsider changing his position to part-time. Knepper feels it is a disservice to our veterans not being here full time. The council explained to Knepper that they budgeted enough funds to work 28 hours a week. If the VSO chooses to work 5 days a week, that is allowed, it just would not be for 5 full time days. Spaetti explained that they felt we should try this for a year. The council has spoken with some local veterans and of those spoken to, none thought it would be a problem. Bunner explained that as a council they have to make decisions based on the need and what is the right decision for the county. It is hard to make these decisions, but they can't keep positions full time just to benefit the person. There has to be a need to justify the position.

Kress made a motion to approve the listed budgets, levies and rates. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

	<b>Adopted Budget</b>	<b>Adopted Levy</b>	<b>Tax Rate</b>
<b>Solid Waste District</b>	830,726.00	379,600.00	0.0302
<b>Carter Fire District</b>	208,500.00	114,000.00	0.1007

Ruxer made a motion to approve the budgets, levies and rates for Solid Waste District and Carter Fire District. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn the Budget Adoption meeting. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 P.M.

Bill Spaeth  
President

Attest:  
Autumn Winkler  
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Josh E. Kress  
[Signature]

Steve Winkler

[Signature]

David Kress

Todd Rux

**County Council Meeting  
November 17, 2015**

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

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

**Minutes**

Minutes were presented from the September 15<sup>th</sup>, October 20<sup>th</sup> Budget Adoption, and October 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Ruxer made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 15<sup>th</sup> meeting. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved. Bunner made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup> Budget Adoption meeting. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved. Bunner made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Additional Appropriations**

**County General**

**Jailer Overtime** **\$10,000.00**

Request was made by Sheriff Jim McDurmon and he explained that due to employee turnover and employee leave time being used at year end, they felt sure they would run short on OT money. Kress made a motion to approve the \$10,000.00 additional appropriation for Jailer Overtime. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Inmate Meals** **\$7,000.00**

Sheriff McDurmon made the request and stated they would not have enough money to complete the year, but that a new Head Cook has been hired and they feel the expense for inmate meals will go down, due to less use of readymade items. Bunner made a motion to approve the \$7,000.00 additional appropriation for inmate meals. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Legal Services** **\$500.00**

Attorney John Wetherill was in attendance for the Plan Commission requesting additional funds for legal expenses. Planning and Zoning has had more legal issues than anticipated and additional funds are required to finish the year. Benton made a motion to approve the \$500.00 additional appropriation for legal services. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Inmate Housing** **\$22,500.00**

Additional funds are needed for juvenile housing at Vincennes and this is the estimate of what the bill for December will be. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$22,500.00 additional appropriation for Inmate Housing. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Courthouse Security**

**County User Fee** **\$85,000.00**

**Jury Pay** **\$32,000.00**

**County IVD Incentive** **\$11,280.00**

**Clerk IVD Incentive** **\$10,000.00**

**Pre-Trial Diversion** **\$7,000.00**

**Law Enforcement Fund** **\$3,000.00**

Judge Dartt came before the council requesting an additional appropriation to fund a full-time Security Officer, 2 part-time Security Officers, and a Deputy Bailiff/Secretary. Courthouse Security is something that has been discussed for a few years and Judge Dartt feels it is time to get this started. Dartt explained that various departments have pledged to contribute funds to begin the process. The Sheriff and Judge Dartt are working together on this plan and both have funds available to contribute along with the Clerk and Prosecutor. Courthouse security was discussed at budget time and Dartt has come up with the above listed funds as a 1 year patch to kick start the program. This will be a long term expense and the council will have to determine how it will be funded after the one year is up. Dartt explained that we are almost the only county in the state that does not have courthouse security. Dartt then explained the uses of the funds listed. Sheriff McDurmon spoke up in agreement of getting courthouse security started. It was discussed that a committee needs to be created to discuss the best plan for the county and ways to fund it. Kroeger stated that we need to research all of our funding options and that there is even a tax that can be put in place to help fund it, called a public safety tax. Judge Dartt informed the council that something will take place in January 2016, it has been discussed for many years and they aren't waiting any longer. It does not have to be the long term plan, but

some action will take place. We need to get clarification on exactly what the requested funds can be used for, because there is a little bit of a gray area and we do not want to use them improperly. Benton asked Judge Dartt what is his first step in January to get this started. Dartt explained the first step would be to get a metal detector setup and being used. We need to start a committee and get a game plan. Judge Dartt presented statues that he believes supports the use of the listed funds for courthouse security. Bunner stated that he feels having a full-time bailiff as a presence in the courthouse that can be used in court or other areas as needed would be a good January fix. It was determined that a meeting would be scheduled in December with Judge Dartt, Sheriff McDurmon, and any council/commissioners that could be present to determine what plan of action we will take. Spaetti then asked if action needs to be taken on the Deputy Bailiff/Secretary position and Dartt informed him it did. Dartt stated that his office is very busy and that he will not go backwards on employees. He has come up with a plan to fund this position out of the Jury Pay fund and the Court IVD Incentive fund, so the burden of the position does not fall on County General. This is not a new position, but there are no longer funds available in Probation User Fees to fund this position. The person that was doing the probation secretary position is now coming out of the secretary line in county general and the position from Jury Pay and Court IVD Incentive will be a position compiled of new job duties. This position will handle all child support related court cases and will now do jury selection duties and all involvement with the jurors. That is why it is acceptable to pay this position out of the Jury Pay and Court IVD Incentive funds. Spaetti asked Dartt what happens when those funds are depleted and Dartt stated they will build back up. Benton asked Dartt if he has a plan to fund the position the following year and he stated yes that someone will go back into the Probation User Fee fund. The court system is working on building that fund back up. Dartt has restructured how they collect the probation user fees and plans on it building up so an employee can go back in it. Spaetti asked Dartt if he needs funds approved tonight for that position and Dartt stated that he does. Kroeger stated he can't imagine appropriating money from the 2016 budget, when the budget has not even been approved by the state yet. The only thing that can be done is an additional appropriation for the remainder of 2015 and Judge Dartt can come back in 2016 for the rest. It was determined that the council would approve enough to cover 1 month of salary. Benton made a motion to approve \$5,000.00 from the Jury Pay Fund and \$600.00 from the County IVD Incentive for a total of \$5,600.00 for replacement of an employee. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

#### **Transfers**

##### **Circuit Court**

Decrease: 1000-136-4242.00 Computer Supplies	\$527.68
Increase: 1000-136-4451.00 Law Books	\$527.68
Decrease: 1000-136-4131.00 Special Judges	\$200.00
Increase: 1000-136-4363.00 Computer Warranty, etc.	\$200.00
Decrease: 1000-136-4137.00 Petit Jurors	\$500.00
Increase: 1000-136-4363.00 Computer Warranty, etc.	\$500.00
Decrease: 1000-136-4138.00 Witness Fees	\$250.00
Increase: 1000-136-4363.00 Computer Warranty, etc.	\$250.00

Kress made a motion to approve all listed transfers. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

##### **Sheriff**

Decrease: 1000-105-4114.03 Senior Deputy	\$11,026.15
Increase: 1000-105-4114.04 Deputy Sheriff	\$11,026.15
Decrease: 1000-105-4118.00 Office Manager	\$1,250.00
Increase: 1000-105-4119.50 Part-time Help	\$1,250.00

Benton made a motion to approve the requested transfers. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

##### **E-911**

Decrease: 1222-000-4115.00 Senior Dispatcher	\$25,000.00
Increase: 1222-000-4116.00 Dispatchers	\$25,000.00

Bunner made a motion to approve the transfers for E-911. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

### **Additional Appropriations**

#### **Immunization Grant**

**\$68,418.00**

Kim Hay from the Spencer County Health Dept. came before the council to explain the details of the immunization grant they received. This grant is to be used to compensate the employees for additional hours worked over and above the standard 35 hour work week. Hay explained that they already work many additional hours, but this would compensate them for it instead of earning comp time. They cannot complete their jobs in a 35 hour week. Bunner stated that compensatory time can cause problems and he feels it should not happen in the county. Hay told the council the state established the rate of pay listed for each employee. It was determined that the rates listed would be used to cover the first 5 hours worked in a week above 35 hours, but after that all employees would be paid at an overtime rate. Any hours worked by an employee over 40 hours would have to be paid as overtime. Hay explained that since we received the grant this year, we will more than likely not receive it the following year. Kroeger asked Hay if this grant is used to aide in immunizing more children, what happens next year when the funding is gone? Hay stated that this grant is not geared toward children, but more so for adults, and it is used to assist in more advertising and purchasing equipment. Spaetti asked Hay if there will be more hours of service for individuals, due to this grant and Hay stated no, this will be used for them to work on paperwork. Spaetti stated that to approve this grant they needed to see how it would benefit the people and Hay stated they will not turn anyone away, but they must come during regular business hours 8-4. Bunner asked Hay if they had considered hiring someone PRN to come in and assist with paperwork, Hay stated that is not something they wished to do. They prefer to do the work themselves. After much discussion about overtime pay, it was determined that there would be a limit of 5 additional hours per week, this will prevent overtime. Winsett asked if they understand that if the grant is not awarded next year that the additional pay will be gone, Hay stated they are aware of that. Bunner asked if there will be any extended business hours and was told no it would still be 8-4. Bunner asked do you accept individuals until 4 and Hay stated no they stop taking them at 3 to give themselves time to finish paperwork and that will probably not change. Winsett made a motion to approve the immunization grant and for the employees to work no more than 40 hours per week. Spaetti seconded the motion, motion was approved.

#### **Sharon Dugas – Office Wiring**

Dugas came to request permission to have the wiring redone in her office. She stated it's a wiring nightmare and a safety concern. She asked what fund should be used to pay for this work. Dugas presented a quote from the same vendor that re-wired the Auditor's Office. The council informed Dugas the work can be done from the Cumulative Capital Fund out of Courthouse Maintenance, if the commissioners approve the work being done.

#### **Melissa Brockman – 2016 Budget**

Brockman came before the council to present the 2016 Annual Budget. Brockman explained that the budget is mostly the same as 2015, but highlighted a few new expenses such as, listings in the state travel guide, in-room guides, and continued work on the tourism promotion grant. The council noticed an increase in the budget for wages and Brockman explained that the budget reflects up to a 4% increase in wages. The Tourism Commission does an employee review to determine how much of an increase each employee will receive. Winsett asked Brockman how the council can approve a budget with a 4% increase, when the county employees received no increase in wages. Bunner explained that Winsett and himself are on the board for the Spencer County Council on Aging and that they mirror whatever the county does on wages, due to receiving county dollars and not wanting to do anything to get in the bad graces of the county and to show their appreciation for those funds. Brockman explained that all those issues are taken into consideration when determining the actual increase received. Benton made a motion to approve the 2016 budget. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

#### **Spencer County Catalyst Group**

Members of the Catalyst Group explained that Spencer County is 1 of 6 finalists for the Hometown Collaboration Initiative, 5 will be chosen. There will be a site visit on November 19<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 pm for Spencer County to present things we are doing well and not so well. The Catalyst Group is requesting that as many elected officials as possible and any other interested individuals attend to show the full support of Spencer County for this project.

**Legal Report**

Wetherill explained that there is an opening on the Board of Zoning Appeals and stated that Charlie Waninger requested appointment. Spaetti spoke with Waninger and asked if he would be interested in the appointment and he expressed he would. Benton made a motion to appoint Charlie Waninger to the Board of Zoning Appeals. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Wetherill informed the council that Hoosier Energy had sent a letter stating they did not want to proceed with obtaining a property tax abatement. They are proceeding with a different type of financing, which makes them ineligible to file for that deduction.

Wetherill presented Ordinance 2015-11 for council approval, which states that no additional compensation may be received by an employee over and above their approved salary ordinance amount unless the approved salary amount is lowered by the amount of the additional compensation. The only time additional compensation is approved is in the event that compensation comes from grants or other sources as payment for additional hours worked. Bunner made a motion to suspend the rules and approve the ordinance on first reading. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Mike Robinson – South Spencer School Corporation**

Interim Superintendent Robinson came before the council to explain the school corporation's interest in collaborating with the county on starting a health clinic. He wanted to make sure the council was aware that the school corporation was looking into this and to express their interest in the county being a part of it. After more information is gathered Robinson will report back to discuss this further with the county.

**New Business**

Kroeger explained that Attorney Kevin Patmore was in attendance, but had to leave early and wanted to address the council on rumors that were circulating. There was a rumor going around from county employees that they were not receiving raises for 2016, but that the county was contributing \$400,000.00 to the Town of Santa Claus for a bike trail. That is not an accurate statement; the county is fulfilling a previous commitment to the Town of Santa Claus to assist in funding their water project. There has been previous discussion that the town could use those funds towards another project if they were not needed for the water project, but that no additional funding would come from the county.

Kress made a motion to adjourn. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.  
Meeting was adjourned at 7:45 P.M.

Bill Spaetti  
President

Attest:

Autumn Winkler  
Autumn Winkler, Auditor

Dave Kress

Todd Ruxer

Ann Bunner

Steve Winslett

Jack Kroeger  
JB

**County Council Meeting  
December 15, 2015**

**Present: Jack Kroeger, Aaron Benton, Blake Bunner, Bill Spaetti, Steve Winsett, 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**

No minutes were presented.

**Transfers**

**Circuit Court**

**County General**

Decrease 1000-136-4360.00 Maximus	\$349.42
Increase 1000-136-4451.00 Law Books	\$349.42
Decrease 1000-136-4311.00 Psychiatric Services	\$302.42
Increase 1000-136-4451.00 Law Books	\$302.42
Decrease 1000-136-4311.00 Psychiatric Services	\$687.58
Increase 1000-136-4141.00 GAL/CASA Services	\$687.58

Kroeger made a motion to approve all requested transfers. Ruxer seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Courthouse Security**

Spaetti explained that an informational meeting was held in December to discuss courthouse security and begin a plan of action. Judge Dartt stated he felt it was a good meeting and that his plan is that some type of security will begin in January. The exact plan and forms of funding have not yet been nailed down, but Dartt intends to present a proposal at the January meeting. Dartt explained that starting out we will probably use employees part-time to cover the shifts and fund this from the County User Fee fund.

**Legal Report**

Wetherill presented Resolution 2015-10 approving expenditures from AK Steel Settlement Funds to Ice Miller, LLP and Lindsey Law Office. Attorney Lindsey explained the details of the resolution and informed the council that we are still waiting on a decision from the Indiana Tax Court regarding this issue. The board of commissioners and redevelopment commission has already approved resolutions for these expenses. Kress made a motion to approve Resolution 2015-10. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Redevelopment Appointment**

Lindsey explained that 2 Redevelopment Commission seats were due to expire at year end and is requesting reappointment of Mike Schriefer and Gene Steinkamp. They are scheduled to have a re-organization meeting on January 4<sup>th</sup> and the reappointments must be done before that meeting. Bunner made a motion to reappoint Schriefer and Steinkamp. Kress seconded the motion, motion was approved.

**Old Business**

**Budget**

Spaetti informed the council that himself, Kroeger, and Commissioner Gogel came in and worked on budget rates and levies. During that time, they were made aware of some County General CD's that were coming up on their maturity date and discussed the possibility of cashing in those CD's. After discussion, the decision was made to instruct Treasurer Harris to cash in the CD's when they expire and deposit the funds into County General.

Kroeger then explained that the county is following the budget process done last year of adjusting our rates and levies on the 1782 notice to determine the final budget. Last year we received our 1782 notice at the beginning of December and were able to make rate and levy adjustments before year end. This year due to how we fell when the budget was turned in, we will not receive our 1782 notice until the beginning of January. We did not want to wait that long to figure our adjustments, so Robert Norris at the DLGF was contacted and was able to calculate the amount that our levy could be. The levy amount we were given for budget year 2016 is \$7,422,907.00, which gives us a tax rate of 0.5192. This levy and rate is a total of all the

DLGF reviewed funds. The funds included in this are: General, Reassessment, Highway, Local Road & Street, Cumulative Bridge, Health, County 4-H, and Cumulative Capital Development. The purpose of adjusting the rates and levies is to reallocate any dollars that are not needed within those funds to the County General fund to increase its levy amount. There were only 2 funds that we felt had enough excess levies to move to County General. Those funds were the Reassessment Fund and the Cumulative Bridge Fund. It was determined that we could lower the Reassessment levy amount to \$125,000.00, which changes the tax rate to 0.00874. The other adjustment is lowering the Cumulative Bridge Fund rate to 0.035, lowering their levy amount to \$500,428.00. After these adjustments, the County General levy will be \$6,204,756.00. Our operating balance is roughly 1.6 million and the goal each year is to have about half the year's budget in your operating balance to get you through the first six months of the year. We only have about 25% of our budget in our cash balance. It is anticipated that our assessed value will increase in 2017 when AK Steel goes in effect, which should help increase our levy amounts. We will continue to be conservative and if necessary explore options to increase our levy.

#### **Radio Interference**

Gogel reported that the radio interference was a digital interference from someone else's system and has now been located and stopped.

#### **New Business**

Ruxer got new chairs donated to the county from Commonwealth Engineers. All were in appreciation of the new chairs and thanks to Ruxer for taking action to find some.

Bunner asked the council what day and time we were scheduling the re-organization meeting for 2016. After much discussion, it was determined the re-organization meeting would be scheduled for January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 A.M. Benton made a motion to approve January 5<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 for the re-organization meeting. Bunner seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ruxer made a motion to adjourn. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved. Meeting was adjourned at 6:05 P.M.

Bill Spaecke  
President

Attest:

Autumn Winkler  
Auditor, Autumn Winkler

Dave Gress

Todd Ruxer

Ann Benton

Steve Wensett

Josh Kruger

BB