

County Council Meeting
July 18, 2017

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

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

Minutes

Winsett made a motion to defer the approval of the June 20th minutes until the August meeting, due to just receiving them before the meeting. Gogel seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Additional Appropriations

COIT - Commissioners

Pump and Grinder repair - \$23,000.00

Commissioner Brown explained that this was the additional appropriation request for the issue discussed at the previous meeting where a bed sheet and trash from the jail destroyed one of the cities pumps on their sewer system. The request is to pay for half of the pump repair and half of the cost to get a grinder placed at the Fifth St. lift station. There was a grinder at the lift station previously that got damaged and was never replaced. Benton stated that if the city had repaired the grinder and put it back this damage could have been prevented, he doesn't feel the county is responsible for this. Brown and Lindsey explained to the board that this is a compromise with the city and if they city wanted to they could state that they will not accept jail trash through the system without the county installing their own grinder on site and maintaining it themselves. This would be a very large expense to the county. Kroeger made a motion to approve the \$23,000.00 additional appropriation out of the COIT fund. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved with Benton opposed.

Radio Repairs -\$5,000.00

The commissioner's are requesting an additional appropriation from COIT to pay two invoices received for work done on radios in Dale and St. Meinrad. These repairs were requested by the fire departments and dispatch. Gogel asked if these are due to lightning strikes and Auditor Winkler stated to her understanding they are not. Gogel made a motion to approve the \$5,000.00 and requested that if there are any future invoices we request details on hours and rates. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Cum Cap – Election Board

Election Equipment - \$41,000.00

Clerk Sara Arnold came before the council with Gina Pennington and Jeff Lindsey of the Election Board to request the purchase of E-poll pads. With the advancements in technology these pads will not only be much more secure, but also very user friendly for election workers. Purchasing the pads will decrease the amount of wages paid for an election due to less workers needed. A few poll workers have tried the E-poll pads and were very pleased with the functionality and ease of using them. Mike Miller with MicroVote came to give a presentation on the pads and answer any questions. The pads will replace the poll books and make checking in voters a much faster and more accurate process. Voters will be able to scan their driver's license and all their information will come up, they verify and sign all through the pad. If a voter comes to the wrong precinct to vote it will also allow the poll worker to look up the voter in the system and tell them what poll to go to instead of having to call the Voter Registration office and have someone look them up. Benton asked what the life expectancy is and Miller stated that with them being Apple products and only being used twice a year if updated they should last a long time. We will order 18 poll pads, which is one for each polling location and two backup pads in case of emergency. When each pad is setup all other applications and programs will be locked out except for the programs being used for the election, so poll workers will not be able to minimize the program and play games or surf the web. The actual cost listed on the quote is \$40,270.00 and starting in 2019 there will be a little less than \$4,000.00/year maintenance cost. Benton made a motion to approve \$40,270.00 out of Cum Cap for electronic poll books. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Ambulance Chassis - \$45,120.00

Stout came before the council to explain the need for an ambulance remount and there is currently a 10 month waiting list. We try to always budget our remounts and spread them out, but if we wait till next year to start the process and they are 10 months out we are looking at 2019 before we receive our remount. The truck has 251,000 miles and almost 10,500 hours on it, so things are starting to go wrong. They have a truck chassis in stock and if we purchase the chassis portion now they will go ahead and put us on the list. Then we will pay the balance of the remount when the ambulance is complete. The chassis itself is \$45,119.00 with a total remount cost of \$146,830.00. So we would be responsible for the \$45,119.00 at time of purchase and pay \$101,711.00 at completion. Stout stated that they would contact local banks and get rate quotes for the remaining \$101,711.00 balance to pay over 3 years like we have been doing previously. We try to have no more than two payments going at a time on ambulance remounts and Stout stated that we will be paying one off in 2018 and payments will not begin on the new remount until 2019. Kroeger made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$45,120.00 out of Cum Cap. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Law Enforcement – Prosecutor**Recording Equipment - \$500.00**

Prosecutor Wilkinson explained that this request is for audio/video recording equipment to be used in criminal cases. The equipment would be kept at the Prosecutor's office, but would be available to any law enforcement agency that needed to use it. Gogel made a motion to approve the \$500.00 for recording equipment out of the Law Enforcement Fund. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

County General – Sheriff**Overtime - \$8,000.00****Insurance - \$5,000.00**

McDurmon is requesting additional funding for overtime for courthouse security. When the full-time courthouse security officer is off work the sheriff has to cover his hours with another deputy which normally seems to be overtime hours for that deputy. There is also additional time worked each day by the security officer, because they are required to come in earlier and stay later than regular courthouse employees. Gogel made a motion to approve the \$8,000.00 for overtime out of County General. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

McDurmon explained that additional funding is needed for the inmate catastrophic insurance which is due in December. There is not enough in the budget to cover what we will owe, because at budget time there was not enough requested. This insurance cost is based off the number of inmates and we are currently at 68 with full capacity being 72. Benton made a motion to approve the \$5,000.00 for inmate catastrophic insurance. Kroeger seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Transfers**Highway**

Decrease: Cleaning Services	1176-001-1363.00	\$1520.00
Increase: Project Manager	1176-001-1115.00	\$1520.00

Kenney stated that John Gelarden will be needed for some additional hours this paving season and he requests we transfer \$1520.00 to fund those additional hours. Kroeger made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1520.00. Benton seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Clerk

Decrease: Postage	1000-101-4321.00	\$1000.00
Increase: Training	1000-101-4114.00	\$1000.00

Arnold explained to the council that she has an employee leaving and requests a transfer to pay for training a new employee. Kroeger made a motion to approve the transfer of \$1,000.00. Gogel seconded the motion, motion was approved.

Tina Gehlhausen – CASA

Gehlhausen came before the board just to give an update on how the program is doing. There are currently 63 volunteers serving 133 children with 26 on a waiting list. They are actively seeking new volunteers and starting new training classes all the time. We have more volunteers than many of our surrounding counties.

Gehlhausen presented a list of funding sources for 2016:

State CASA Funds - \$16,181.47

County Funds - \$15,000.00

Foundations - \$10,500.00

Community Service Organizations - \$4,625.00

Corporations - \$4,960.00

Individuals - \$6,805.00

Fundraising Events - \$30,823.00

Product Sales - \$1,515.00

United Way - \$214.75

Churches/Religious Organizations - \$9,812.23

Grants - \$3,000.00

Total: \$103,436.45

Gehlhausen presented charts of comparative data for similarly situated counties demographically and nearby counties geographically and showed that we are serving higher numbers with less budget than many other counties.

Old Business

AK Steel

Auditor Winkler informed the council that AK Steel has not paid any real or personal property taxes for 2017. The spring installment total for AK Steel is \$2,330,749.15 and there is now a 10% penalty accrued also. Not receiving these tax dollars can create a shortfall for various units. If the taxes are not paid for 3 installments the property will go on tax sale, but that won't be until fall of 2018. Assessor Jane McGinnis was in attendance to speak with the council about AK Steel and provide some figures based on their assessment appeals and potential appeals. Attorney Jeff Lindsey was in attendance and informed the council that Assessor McGinnis came before the commissioners earlier in the day and was granted permission to work with Ice Miller on the appeals and hire any necessary appraisers and assessors to argue the appeal. A letter has been drafted by Ice Miller that will be sent to AK Steel attorneys addressing that they are trying to appeal assessments that were prohibited in the settlement agreement and the neglect to pay the spring taxes. AK Steel has 8 parcels, 6 real and 2 personal property, they are appealing one real parcel. They have filed significantly lower values on their personal property return also. Allen Thompson, the corporate tax manager, for AK Steel met with McGinnis earlier in the year to discuss the real parcel assessment and inform her that they would be filing an amended personal property return for 16 pay 17. McGinnis informed Thompson that the counties position on the amended return would be to not allow an amendment on 16 pay 17 due to the settlement agreement signed by all parties. If this is litigated and it's determined that they can file an amended return then it's a matter of questioning their figures. The real estate parcel they are appealing is the parcel that the plant sits on which for 16 pay 17 was assessed at approximately 90 million. For 17 pay 18 it was assessed at 88 million due to changes in Ag land etc., but they are appealing that it should be lowered to 45.8 million. To further cause confusion they filed an appeal form with a 1/1/17 date, but used values from 2016. The deadline to appeal 16 pay 17 was August 22nd of last year, so we are saying it's too late to appeal those values. Kroeger stated he feels we need to contact them and try to sit down and explain the predicament this puts us in. Gogel agreed that just trying to communicate with them on a more personal level could make a difference. Kroeger stated we can also look into Tax Anticipation Warrants if needed. The first step in sending the letter to AK Steel and we will see how it progresses from there.

New Business

LTRSD President – Jay Kempf

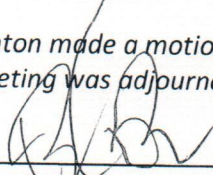
Kempf came before the council to address a news article from a previous council meeting regarding LTRSD and confusion on requests for additional funding for LTRSD. Kempf informed the council that neither he nor any of the board members authorized the attorney and superintendent to come and request an additional \$450,000.00 and he apologizes for the council being under the impression that this was the case. Kempf also addressed statements made in the article that were not correct and stated that he was not contacted by the press for a statement or asked any questions regarding the article before print. Kempf expressed his thanks

for the work the council does to assist LTRSD and welcomes any questions or comments the county or press may have regarding the district.

2018 Budget

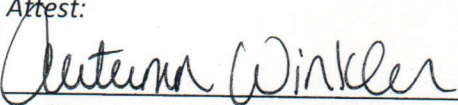
Kroeger prepared the proposed 2018 budget and stated the figures that will be submitted for review. This will be discussed more at budget workshops when we review and adjust all the county budgets.

Benton made a motion to adjourn. Knepper seconded the motion, motion was approved.
Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M.



President

Attest:



Auditor, Autumn Winkler

