

CASS COUNTY COUNCIL
MAY 20, 2016

The Cass County Council met at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioner Hearing Room. Present were George Stebbins, Stacey Donato, Brian Reed, Tracy Williamson, Phil Rains, Steve Kain, Attorney Jeff Stanton and Auditor Vaneen Ide. Absent from the meeting was Grover Bishop.

Council President George Stebbins opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

MINUTES

Brian Reed made a motion to approve the minutes as presented, Tracy Williamson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Noah Schafer appeared with a request for an additional for the Prosecutor's Office fund 2529 in the amount of \$33,500.00. Brian Reed made a motion to approve the request for \$33,500.00 to the Prosecutor's fund 2529, Tracy Williamson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Sheryl Pherson was unable to attend the Council meeting to represent the Public Defender's request for an additional appropriation. George Stebbins presented the request to the Council for the amount of \$40,000.00 The Public Defenders have been recouping some of their expenditures through the State and have the funds to allow this additional request. Tracy Williamson made a motion to allow the request for an additional appropriation in the amount of \$40,000.00, Phil Rains seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

SPECIAL LOIT DISTRIBUTION

The Highway Department will receive additional funding from the State of Indiana. Jeff Smith informed the Council that his department is currently working on an asset management plan that will be required to receive matching grant

monies. Steve Kain made a motion to place 75% of the funds in the amount of \$914,914.66 into Fund 1229 and the remaining 25% in the amount of \$304,971.55 into Rainy Day Fund, Stacey Donato seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

ABATEMENTS

Christy Householder appeared before the Council with a request to appear at the June meeting to address the abatements that have been received. Christy informed the Council that Left Bank Properties had requested abatement last year. Their construction was not completed before the assessment date, so the resolution created for their abatement will need to be amended so it will start in the correct year.

Christy also reminded the Council of the State of Indiana's Office of Community and Rural Affairs open house for the two sites at the Agribusiness Park in Clymers on May 27, from 10 a.m. until noon.

BUDGET HEARING DATES

The following dates have been assigned for budget hearings:

August 12 – Budget Workshop at 3:30 p.m.

August 19 – First Reading of the County budget

September 16 – Second Reading of the County Budget/First Reading of the Binding Budgets/Review of Non-Binding Budgets/School Boards

October 21 – Second Reading of the Binding Budgets

Brian Reed made a motion to approve the budget hearing dates as presented, Tracy Williamson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

SUPPORT LETTER FOR 400 SOUTH PROJECT

A letter in favor was submitted to Jeff Smith for submission to the State for funding for the 400 South project signed by members of the Council.

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Arin Shaver appeared before the Council with an amended ordinance for fees for the Planning Department. Arin had appeared before the Commissioners previously with this amended ordinance, which the Commissioners approved and sent forth a positive recommendation to the Council.

The Planning Department is requesting \$50.00 for a Remodeling Fee for Structural Changes & Finish to Unfinished Changes. A request for \$250.00 for an Administration Fee for Unsafe Property Inspections was also requested. Stacey Donato made a motion to approve the amended Ordinance to include the new fees, Tracey Williamson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 4 yeas and 2 nays from Steve Kain and Phil Rains.

CASS COUNTY RESOURCE NETWORK

Mike Fincher, Eel Township Trustee, appeared before the Commissioners and presented information to the Council about the Cass County Resource Network. The mission of the Cass County Resource Network is partners working together to better serve the community through effective use of community assets, empowering families, coordinating services and maximizing resources to improve lives.

The meeting occurs on the third Thursday of every month at Calvary Presbyterian Church, from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. in Bigler Hall. Everyone is welcome.

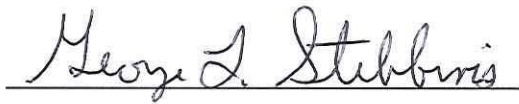
TWELVE MILE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Tim Cowell, who resides at 6637 E. St Rd. 16, Twelve Mile, appeared before the Council. Tim had appeared in April before the Council, in regards to the aging fleet of fire trucks that the Twelve Mile Fire Department owns. The Fire Department is requesting a loan from Public Safety Funds in the amount of \$100,000.00 to help with the purchase of a newer vehicle for the Fire Department. The Adams Township Trustee will have to present this to the Township Board for their approval. The Council Attorney, Jeff Stanton will need to draw up papers to address the loan of \$100,000.00 to assist with the purchase of a newer vehicle for the Twelve Mile Fire Department.

Phil Rains made a motion for the Council Attorney, Jeff Stanton, to prepare paperwork for a loan from the Public Safety Fund in the amount of \$100,000.00 for the Twelve Mile Fire Department to be paid through Adams Township, funds will be repaid from their Cum Fire Fund, Brian Reed seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS & ADJOURN

There were no public comments. Stacey Donato made a motion to adjourn, Tracy Williamson seconded.



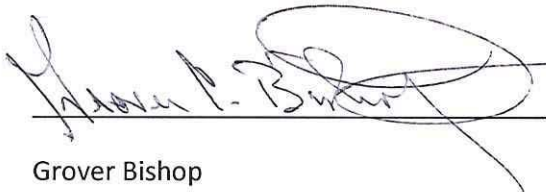
George Stebbins, President

Stacey Donato, Vice President

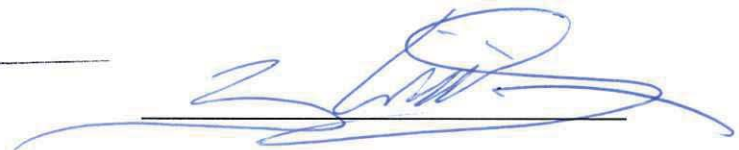
Phillip Rains



Steve Kain



Grover Bishop



Tracy Williamson

Brian Reed

ATTEST: 

Vaneen M. Ide, Auditor