Est

Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

March 7, 2024

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session on Thursday, March 7, 2024, in the Commissioners’ Room at the Courthouse located at 129 Main Street, Shoals, Indiana. Councilmen attending: Jordan Dant, Adam Greene, Warren Albright, Keith Gibson, Monty Gregory, and Jim Hamby. Councilman Andrew Beaver was absent. Also attending was Auditor Michelle Norris.

President Jordan Dant called the meeting to order with the Pledge to the Flag at 6:00 pm.

**RE: MINUTES**

The minutes from the regular meeting held February 5, 2024 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Hamby, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: SHOALS PUBLIC LIBRARY BOND**

 Shoals Public Library Director Sylvia Albaugh and Attorney David Lett brought to the Council a resolution for signatures approving the Shoals Public Library’s issuance of bonds. Attorney Lett stated he and Director Albaugh previously appeared before the Council at the February meeting to inform them of the bond and the resolution. Attorney Lett stated according to the timeline of the bond issuance this Council meeting is when the library is required to ask the Council to approve the resolution allowing the library to issue bonds. Attorney Lett stated the amount of bonds are not to exceed $660,000 with the expectation being that the bond will be paid back using current library tax levy fund earnings. The County is not expected to be held liable for any bond payments. Attorney Lett stated the reason the resolution must come before the County Council for approval is because more than 50% of the patrons of the Shoals Public Library are outside the Town of Shoals.

 Director Albaugh stated the total project cost is about one million dollars. The library only anticipates the bonds to be $490,000, with a $500,000 OCRA grant being received. The library has the ability to pay up to $660,000. Attorney Lett stated by law and financial status, the library is eligible to get up to $660,000 in bonding. President Dant asked if contingencies were built into the total cost of the project. Director Albaugh stated contingencies were built in. Councilman Hamby asked if the parking lot was part of this project. Director Albaugh stated it is a separate project to be done after the renovation.

 President Dant asked if the project would be going out to public bid for plan spec. Attorney Lett stated it will go to bid, but he does not know when that will be happening. Director Albaugh stated the project is currently with the State Historic Preservation for review and Rural Development will also need to review and once it passes those two reviews it will be ready to go to bid. Attorney Lett stated the grant was given by OCRA and USDA will be buying the bonds. The payback will be over 40 years with an interest rate at 3.5% or less. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the resolution approving the Shoals Public Library’s issuance of bonds, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: PROBATION OFFICER**

 Chief Probation Officer, Stephanie Helton, stated she had come before the Council last year to ask for a new probation officer or case manager, which were both denied at that time. The Council asked her to come back in 2024 to ask again. CPO Helton stated the case numbers have increased even more so, with five times the reports being due to the Court. The juvenile referrals have tripled and those all require interviews and reports. President Dant asked what is driving the increase. CPO Helton stated the State has informed them that prosecutors across the State have seen a 40% increase in their caseloads, so it would make sense that Probation’s case load is higher. Courts have been harder on drug charges and repeat offenders. CPO Helton stated there has been an increase in very high risk, high risk, and moderate risk offenders versus low risk, which does not take as much supervision. CPO Helton stated the average caseload across the State is between 80-100. Martin County has one officer who has just under 200 cases right now. CPO Helton stated Martin County Probation is comprised of herself and one other probation officer. CPO Helton stated chief probation officers typically do not carry caseloads, they assist with pre-trial programs, pre-sentence investigations, assessments for pre-trials and those types of things. CPO Helton stated she has a full caseload of adults and more than a caseload of juveniles, does all the referrals for juveniles, does all the pre-trials and pre-dispositional reports, and has additional responsibilities.

 CPO Helton stated it was proposed in the Fall, at a minimum, an additional case manager who could assist with multiple reports and monitoring. Councilman Gregory asked if this case manager would be an hourly or salaried position. CPO Helton stated it was figured hourly, with the first option being a salary of 28 hours per week and no benefits for a total yearly salary of $34,944. A second option would be 21 hours per week with a yearly salary of $26,208. The Council asked CPO Helton to bring to the next Council meeting the number of probation cases for the last three years. The Council asked CPO Helton to bring back a new presentation to the Council regarding the request. CPO Helton and Auditor Norris were asked to look at the budget and where the salary would be paid from.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

**General Fund- Fund 1000**

Coroner- 1000.007

 ISCA Dues- Deputy $75

 Sheriff- 1000.005

 Hire Bonus $1,000

 Referral Bonus $1,000

 Jail- 1000.380

 PT Jail Treatment Coordinator $7,500

 Hire Bonus $1,000

 Referral Bonus $1,000

**TOTAL FOR GENERAL FUND $11,575**

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the appropriations for the general fund in the amount of $11,575, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**Accident Report- Fund 1101**

 Accident Expenses $4,000

A motion was made by Councilman Hamby to approve the appropriation for the accident report fund in the amount of $4,000, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**Firearms Training- Fund 1156**

Firearms $15,000

A motion was made by Councilman Hamby to approve the appropriation for the firearms training fund in the amount of $15,000, seconded by Councilman Gibson. All in favor, motion passed.

**K9- Fund 4012**

Supplies $2,500

 Misc Expenses $2,500

**TOTAL FOR K-9 FUND $5,000**

A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve the appropriations for the K-9 fund in the amount of $5,000, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**Sheriff CRU- Fund 4014**

Expenses $300

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the appropriation for the Sheriff CRU fund in the amount of $300, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**Sheriff Reserve Deputy Donations**

 **Fund 4102**

Sheriff Expense $3,000

A motion was made by Councilman Gibson to approve the appropriation for the sheriff reserve deputy donations fund in the amount of $3,000, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

**Sheriff Donation- Ballistic Vest**

 **Fund 4104**

Sheriff Expense $750

A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve the appropriation for the sheriff donation- ballistic vest fund in the amount of $750, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**Sheriff’s Salary Donation Fund**

 **Fund 4106**

Chief Deputy Salary $134.21

A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the appropriation for the sheriff’s salary donation fund in the amount of $134.21, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**TIF Capital Project-WG- Fund 4500**

Professional Services $76,500

 Loan to Town of Shoals $100,000

**TOTAL FOR FUND 4500 $176,500**

A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the appropriations for the TIF capital project -WG- fund in the amount of $176,500, seconded by Councilman Albright. All in favor, motion passed.

**Jail Booking Fee- Fund 4920**

Inmate Expenses $19,000

A motion was made by Councilman Greene to approve the appropriation for the jail booking fee fund in the amount of $19,000, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**ARPA American Rescue Plan Act**

 **Fund 8951**

Supplies $72,007.32

 Miscellaneous Expense $72,007.32

 Capital Expense $32,457.15

**TOTAL FOR FUND 8951** **$176,471.79**

After discussion it was determined by the Council more information was needed as to the plan for the ARPA funding. A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve $15,000 be appropriated to supplies and $15,000 appropriated to miscellaneous expense, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

**Traffic Safety Enforcement- Fund 9118**

Deputy Salary $10,000

A motion was made by Councilman Hamby to approve the appropriation for the traffic safety enforcement fund in the amount of $10,000, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: CONFLICT OF INTEREST STATEMENTS**

 Auditor Norris stated a yearly conflict of interest disclosure statement needs to be filled out by any elected official or board appointed person who has a derived profit or interest in a company which the County may use for services. It was determined that Councilman Greene was the only person on the Council who needed to fill out a statement.

**RE: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

 Joe Lannan stated he believed the County was working with SIDC to develop a comprehensive plan for the County. Mr. Lannan stated the plan was last done 15 years ago. Mr. Lannan stated the City of Loogootee has applied for a planning grant through the Community Foundation and should hear if that was approved relatively soon.

Mr. Lannan spoke with Michelle Carrico and Greg Jones at SIDC and they were supportive of the County, City of Loogootee, and potentially the school corporation, working together and doing concurrent planning activities. It would not change Martin County’s funding or consultant, but when an environmental consultant was hired or an income study was performed, the schools, Martin County, City of Loogootee, Shoals, or Burns City or anyone else doing planning activities could use the same consultants. Mr. Lannan stated if the City of Loogootee receives funding to do a comprehensive plan, or if any other entity in Martin County receives funding, that consultants could be shared to save money.

**RE: EXECUTIVE SESSION**

 Attorney David Lett stated the Commissioners would like to schedule a joint executive session with the Council to discuss pension issues. The Council determined that they could attend an executive session on Wednesday, March 13th at 6:00 pm.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:20 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gregory and seconded by Councilman Greene, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next regular Council meeting will be held Monday, April 1, 2024, at 6:00 pm.

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 Jordan Dant Adam Greene

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Warren D. Albright J. Keith Gibson

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Andrew Beaver Jim Hamby

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Monty Gregory

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor