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Martin

County

THE MARTIN COUNTY COUNCIL

REGULAR MEETING

April 1, 2024

MINUTES

The Martin County Council convened in regular session on Monday, April 1, 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 turned in his resignation from the Council effective March 22, 2024 due to work schedule. 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 March 7, 2024 were approved with a motion made by Councilman Gregory, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: AMBULANCE UPDATES**

Ambulance Director Jeramey Osborn presented to the Council an update regarding the Ambulance Service. Director Osborn stated run totals for 2024 to date are 416. Last year at this time the run total was 286. Total dollars collected so far in 2024 is $101,939.15. Last year at this time the amount collected was $48,963.57. Director Osborn stated in January there were 62 transports and in February there were 127 transports. Reimbursement rates of various payers and billing were discussed.

President Dant asked Director Osborn what other counties own ambulance services. Director Osborn responded Daviess County does because the county owns the hospital which owns the ambulance, Dubois is a joint partnership with the county and the hospital. Crawford, Spencer, and Pike Counties own their own services.

Director Osborn presented a spending plan for the use of APRA funds for the remainder of the year. Falcon eye driving monitoring for two ambulances- $2,693.92, IV pump with 3 channels- $20,670.40, ventilator-$19,051.90, Techni mount cardiac mount-$3,040, Lucas 3 (mechanical CPR machine)- $17,566.01, medication vending safe- $14,491, tires for two ambulances- $2,080. The quoted total for these expenses is $79,593.23.

**RE: ADDITIONAL AMBULANCE POSITIONS**

Director Osborn stated the Commissioner approved two additional full-time positions at their last meeting and he would like to request approval from the Council as well. Director Osborn stated the reason for the positions is because he has staff that only want to work 36 hours a week and originally it was planned the staff would work 48-hour weeks and would incur overtime. Working 36-hour weeks would save on overtime. Director Osborn stated if the service is going to continue transports, another crew becomes active every time a truck it sent out. These two new positions will be basic positions, not paramedic positions. Councilman Hamby asked how many medics are on staff now. Director Osborn responded there are four medics on staff with two being full-time and one who works one day a week and another who works as needed. Councilman Hamby asked if transports had to be turned down if there is not a paramedic available. Director Osborn states he must turn them down if there is no paramedic available but he tries to do the runs himself if possible.

President Dant stated the salaries have already been budgeted for 2024, what does adding two positions do to the budget. Director Osborn stated they will be saving on overtime. There are funds available in the part-time paramedic line because at the time there were two part-time paramedics, now there is only one. President Dant asked the total number of staff employed for the ambulance service. Director Osborn stated the basic positions are full right now but they could use a couple of full-time paramedics. Councilman Hamby stated there are four paramedics in the budget and a line for part-time paramedics. Director Osborn stated he is counted as one of the full-time paramedics so he has one other full-time paramedic. Director Osborn stated he has four full-time basic EMTs and three part-time basic EMT employees. Director Osborn stated two of those part-time EMTs are the two he is asking to move the full-time. Councilman Hamby stated as far as the budget goes, the service is under the budgeted number of employees.

Councilman Greene asked Director Osborn if he foresees the basic EMTs who are training to become paramedics staying with the service. Director Osborn stated there are two EMTs who have been with the service since almost the beginning who will be graduating paramedic school in December. There are two drivers who have just graduated basic schooling. President Dant stated there is $71,000 left in overtime, there will be some overtime needed but presumably not as much as originally anticipated. There is $61,000 left in standby. President Dant asked if some of that money could be used for the two new positions along with any money left in current salary lines which has not been used.

Councilman Hamby stated insurance will also need to be covered for the additional employees. Councilman Hamby stated there is money in the budget to cover the positions. Councilman Gregory stated overtime needs to be watched and the budget monitored. President Dant stated the County made a commitment to the ambulance service and he believes they need to continue to see it through and it is important to the County.

Councilman Hamby asked how the ambulances were holding up. Director Osborn stated they are doing good. Director Osborn stated ARPA money was saved last year by finding purchases lower than the original estimates. Director Osborn stated the Commissioners allowed him to use the savings for maintenance on the trucks and now the trucks are seeming to be doing well. All three trucks went through service again last week.

**RE: AMMEDNED SALARY AND WAGE ORDINANCES**

Auditor Michelle Norris presented salary and wage ordinance amendments for Council approval. The first was for the two additional full-time EMT basic ambulance positions out of the EDIT fund. The wage range is from $17.00-$25.00 for each position. The Council decided the effective date for the positions to be the start of the last pay period, which was March 24, 2024. A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to accept salary and wage ordinance amendment 2024-10, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

The second salary and wage ordinance amendment was for the traffic safety enforcement fund 9118, deputy salaries $22.50-$41.13 and soil and water coordinator trainer salary $17.73-$18.62 from the general fund. Auditor Norris stated these should have been included with the discussions at the last Council meeting. Auditor Norris stated these are retro effective to January 1, 2024. Auditor Norris stated the traffic safety enforcement salaries are funded by a grant which pays time and a half. A motion was made by Councilman Albright to approve the salary and wage ordinance amendment for the traffic safety enforcement deputy salaries and the soil and water coordinator trainer, seconded by Councilman Greene. All in favor, motion passed.

The third salary and wage ordinance amendment, 2024-08, effective March 10, 2024, part-time jail treatment coordinator $15.00-$15.75; misdemeanant fund 1175- part-time maintenance amended salary $1,250 and part-time cook $1,250; Sheriff’s salary donation fund 4106- Chief deputy salary range $22.85-$27.42 to use the approximately $134 left in this donation fund. President Dant stated these were also discussed at last month’s Council meeting. A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve salary and wage ordinance amendment 2024-08, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: MID STATE CORRIDOR**

Mr. Jason McCoy came before the Council to speak regarding the mid-state corridor. Mr. McCoy asked each Council member their opinion on the mid-state corridor. The consensus was to upgrade Highway 231 with no new terrain. President Dant stated the expected time savings with a new terrain mid-state corridor from the middle of Jasper to I69 North of Crane would be negligible. Mr. McCoy stated at this point the only people who can stop the mid-state corridor are the property owners along the proposed route. Mr. McCoy stated the developers need 75% of the property owners to agree to sell their land before due process can be invoked.

**RE: ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

**General Fund- Fund 1000**

Treasurer- 1000.003

Postage $400

Office Supplies $400

Copy Machine Maintenance $300

A motion was made by Councilman Hamby to approve the additional appropriations for the Treasurer, seconded by Councilman Gregory. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: SUPPORT OF HOUSING FUNDING REQUEST**

Mr. Joe Lannan along with Hope Flores, CEO of the Community Foundation Partnership of Martin and Lawrence Counties, came before the Council to present information regarding housing funding the Community Foundation hopes to apply for. Mr. Lannan stated there is a shortage of housing in Martin County. Mr. Lannan stated there is a microchip manufacturing plant breaking ground at Crane and additional housing will be needed for those employees. Mr. Lannan stated the Community Foundation has the opportunity to apply for a large gift from Lilly Endowment. There is currently a request for proposal open which is due April 30th.

The Community Foundation realizes there is a shortage of housing within every income level and type of home and a shortage of early childhood care. Mr. Lannan stated housing and early childhood care are high priority topics within the State of Indiana and are also high priority on the Lilly Endowment’s gift giving. The Foundation plans to write a concept paper to Lilly Endowment stating these are issues in Martin County and will give the data to support the issues. The paper will give the demand statistics for housing and childcare. The Foundation is hoping to get an invitation from Lilly Endowment to submit a full proposal.

Mr. Lannan stated in order to submit a concept paper, Community Foundation Partnership is open to engage with all stakeholders in Martin County to let them know what they are thinking and would like all parties to come alongside as partners. The Community Foundation asks the Council to sign a letter of support which states the Council realizes there is a housing shortage and there is not a level one child care facility in the County. Martin County is in demand of seeing development in those areas. The letter also states Martin County is eligible for other grants including READi 2.0 and OCRA grants.

Mr. Lannan stated Martin County is one of two communities in the State receiving priority points for Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority (IHCDA) which are funds made available for workforce housing and rental space. Mr. Lannan stated in the next two years, the City of Loogootee, the Town of Shoals, and all of Martin County are going to be highly eligible for funding opportunities. Mr. Lannan stated the Community Foundation has seen these needs and has the opportunity to apply for up to five million dollars to address housing and early childcare and education development.

Mr. Lannan stated he and the Community Foundation are asking the Council to support the Community Foundation and agree to aid in conversation and ordinances or procedures necessary to fulfill requirements outlined by a project that potential to be funded. Mr. Lannan stated they are not asking for financial support from the Council, but rather legislative support. Mr. Lannan stated they are also asking a Council member to sit on the housing task force. The Council requested a revision to the resolution presented. The resolution originally stated the Council president would make the appointment to the housing task force, but asked that it be changed to the Council will appoint a member to the task force. A motion was made by Councilman Gregory to approve the resolution authorizing application submission for the Community Foundation pending the revision to line item one, removing the word president, seconded by Councilman Hamby. All in favor, motion passed.

**RE: EXTENSION UPDATES**

Purdue Extension Director, Dena Held stated there were thirteen in attendance for the UAV program held recently. The Matter of Balance program will start this Wednesday at 10:00 am, which is an eight-week program focusing on reducing risk falls primarily for senior citizens, but can be attended by all ages. The Martin County Children’s Mental Health fair is coming up April 18th and additional vendors are still needed. The 4-H youth performing arts program will also be held that night on April 18th. 4-H club membership is up to 241 including volunteers.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:19 pm with a motion made by Councilman Gibson and seconded by Councilman Gregory, all were in favor and the motion passed. The next regular Council meeting will be held Monday, May 6, 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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Monty Gregory Jim Hamby

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

Michelle Norris, Martin County Auditor