

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL TUESDAY MAY 11, 2021

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Hovey House on Tuesday, May 11th, 2021 at 9:00am. The following members were present at said meeting: Heather Allyn, Stefani Miller, Tom Schneider, Marilyn Brenton, Dave Pearce, Brandon Deig, Aaron Wilson; County Attorney Joe Harrison; and Auditor, Maegen Greenwell.

H. Allyn called the Posey County Council meeting to order at 9:00am with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Council was led an opening prayer.

MINUTES

B. Deig made a motion to approve the April Council meeting minutes; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

S. Miller made a motion to approve the April Treasurer's Report; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the April Clerk's report; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Kay Kilgore, Posey County Clerk, stated the new voting equipment has arrived and will be ready to use in the next election.

GREENPLAINS ABATEMENT REQUEST

Mike Beckers, with Green Plains, addressed the Council regarding an abatement request on an upcoming project at the Mt. Vernon Plan. Mr. Beckers introduced Devon Mogler, director of governmental affairs, to explain the proposed project. Mr. Mogler stated this is a 68.8-million-dollar project that includes 56.3 million dollars in new equipment that will allow for the installation of a high protein separation system that will aid in the increased usability of the co-product and in turn increase the value of the corn that is being purchased from local farmers. Mr. Mogler stated currently at the Mt. Vernon plant they employ 52 employees with an average hourly rate of \$28.18 with 37 employees living in Posey County. Mr. Mogler stated with this project they estimate hiring 14 new employees.

Mrs. Allyn asked if Green Plains has any incentive programs for employees to live in Posey County. Mr. Mogler stated they do not.

Mr. Beckers stated the construction and installation phase will be bid out to local contractors who are knowledgeable about this plant and who have done work at this plant site before. Mr. Beckers stated they are estimating another 40 people of plant site for construction and installation.

Mrs. Allyn stated the Council will now score the application.

Mrs. Allyn asked if this is a personal property request for the equipment only, no real property is involved? Mr. Beckers stated correct.

Mr. Wilson asked how long Green Plains had been operating under the current name. Mr. Beckers stated since the fall of 2016.

Mr. Mogler stated the goal is for the project to begin this summer, and be complete in the first quarter of 2022.

T. Schneider made a motion to grant a seven-year abatement on personal property to Green Plains; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Mrs. Allyn stated this is the declaratory resolution, and the Council will hear the confirmatory resolution, after the public commenting portion of the June meeting.

Mrs. Allyn asked that a project map be sent to the Auditor to be included in the resolution.

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT

H. Allyn stated that per regulations with the American Rescue Plan, the County must appoint a committee to decide how the funds will be utilized. Mrs. Allyn stated the Commissioners have appointed Carl Schmitz and the Council will need to appoint two or three Council members.

M. Brenton made a motion to appoint Aaron Wilson, Stefani Miller and Heather Allyn to the American Rescue Plan Committee; D. Pearce seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

POSEYVILLE LIBRARY

H. Allyn stated she recently attended an Alexandrian Public Library Board meeting to discuss information regarding the Poseyville Library and Robinson Township issue. Mrs. Allyn reminded the Council that Robinson Township currently funnels tax dollars to Alexandrian Public Library and there have been a request to move those funds to the Poseyville Library since the school district that Robinson Township is in, uses the Poseyville Library. Mrs. Allyn stated this would be a gain of about \$114,000.00 for Poseyville Library and a loss of \$170,000.00 for Alexandrian and the tax rate for Robinson Township would go down. Mrs. Allyn explained per State statute, the Alexandrian Public Library Board is the body that would make that decision. Mrs. Allyn stated those living in those areas should reach out to the respective library boards to voice their opinions on this matter.

D. Pearce stated he has had some push back on the side of the Alexandrian Public Library on this issue.

SHERIFF RETIREMENT CHANGE DISCUSSION

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, addressed the possibility of changing the retirement funds with the Council. Sheriff Latham introduced Stan Brown with One America who is the financial consulting firm that aids with the Sheriff's Office's retirement plans. Sheriff Latham stated the retirement is currently funded at 133%.

Sheriff Latham outlined the following options:

Option 1:

Currently, employees are paying 6% of their paycheck into retirement.

Proposing to decrease that to 3%.

Impact: Difference of \$664.00 of what the County would have to make up.

Option 2:

Currently: Figured on the average of the highest five years.

Proposing: Figuring on the average of the highest three years.

Impact: Difference of \$103,989.00

Option 1 and 2:

Impact: an increase of \$1,100.00 for the County's contribution.

Sheriff Latham stated the contribution for this year to date is \$163,586.00, and this does not include funds that come from civil processing fees.

Sheriff Latham stated in 2020, the total contribution was \$130,500.00; 2019 was \$211,415.00; and 2018 was \$188,629.00.

H. Allyn asked what the benefit to the employee would be.

Sheriff Latham stated the employee would see roughly \$80.00 to \$104.00 more per paycheck.

Sheriff Latham also informed the Council that recently the Merit Board recently voted to approve the investment plan for the retirement fund.

Sheriff Latham stated they currently use 5/3 Bank as the investor and trustee, and they will be moving to German America who will be the banking side and also the investment side of the plan. Sheriff Latham stated German America services several other local Sheriff Office's.

A. Wilson made a motion to approve this change; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Sheriff Latham informed the Council of another option to the plan that could be changed at no cost to the County. Sheriff Latham stated currently, the County doesn't have a drop option. Sheriff Latham is proposing a three-year drop be added to the plan. Sheriff Latham explained that when someone decides to retire, that pension is locked in, and the funds that would be deposited into your pension go into a different account and when you retire, then you get those funds. Sheriff Latham stated this is an incentive for the employee to give a retirement date and then reach the age of retirement, they can begin to collect those funds. Mr. Brown explained that the drop option is essentially giving an end date to the contribution.

H. Allyn asked if there were any penalties for agreeing to the drop and then leaving earlier than expected. Mr. Brown stated no.

A. Wilson his earlier motion to include adding a three year drop option; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

POSEYVILLE REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Dwayne Ackerman, President of the Poseyville Regional Sewer District, and Marty Wessler, with Wessler Engineering addressed the Council regarding the schedule of events that will be taking place with this project in the coming months.

Mr. Wessler stated he has been in contact with the Indiana Finance Authority, and has learned that part of the American Rescue Plan was to allocate funds to the Indiana Finance Authority to allow them to offer grants to various sewer projects. Mr. Wessler stated IFA is in the process of setting up matching grant programs to be awarded this summer. Mr. Wessler stated for the County to keep sewer utility bills under \$85.00 per household, the project would have to borrow just under four million dollars. Mr. Wessler stated the current cost of the project is estimated at 17 million dollars.

Mr. Wessler outlined the following timeline:

Approval to advertise for bids at the June 10th board meeting

Opening bids on July 8th

Issue notice of award within thirty days

End of August loan closing

Notice to proceed from board September 9th

Mr. Wessler stated that due to increased cost of material, the grant amount will be to be increased and additional funding secured. Mr. Wessler stated IFA has stated they would be willing to attend the June Council meeting to explain. Mr. Wessler stated they will not know the true cost of construction until after they have received bids. Mr. Wessler stated they would be back at the July Council meetings to discuss those cost.

Mrs. Allyn stated it was discussed about a 4-million-dollar loan, but where would the rest of the funds come from? Mr. Wessler stated from the State and the State is hoping the County will be willing to contribute funds also. Mrs. Allyn asked if there was a concrete number from the State?

A. Wilson stated they have been told up to nine, depending on construction cost. Mrs. Allyn stated the paperwork states the increase is due to increase in project scope. Mrs. Allyn asked if that was due to a larger project area or is this reaching into a potential new construction area. Mr. Wessler stated there were additional customers that were not in the preliminary report that are now connected.

Mr. Wilson stated the County talks about shovel ready sites, and this is as close to a shovel ready site as the County has.

S. Miller asked what other funding options are available besides the American Rescue Plan? A. Wilson stated the State is granting roughly 7 to 9 million for this project and a 40-year loan at 0% interest.

Mr. Ackerman stated the matching funds needed to match the IFA grant funds, can be used from the American Rescue Plan. Mr. Ackerman stated for every additional million dollars that has been included in the loan, it will raise the monthly bill roughly \$8.00 per household.

H. Allyn asked when the Sewer District would be self-sufficient? A. Wilson stated basically they need more customers, but finishing the Wadesville station will take some pressure off of the Harbor Town site.

Mrs. Allyn asked what the cost would be to run the needed lines to the North side of the Highway 62 at the Harbor Town area. Mr. Ackerman stated at this time, those numbers are not known.

TIF MANAGEMENT REPORT

H. Allyn stated per IC Code, she must acknowledge that Council received the TIF management report. Mrs. Allyn informed Council that they would have revived this via email.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Cheryl Reich, with the Posey County Health Department, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$32,063 for the vehicle line of their grant fund. Mrs. Reich stated these funds are needed to purchase a vehicle to replace a wrecked truck. Mrs. Reich stated the department sought permission from the State for this transaction as well.

T. Schneider made a motion to approve this request; D. Pearce seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Thomas Clowers, Posey County Prosecutor, is requesting two additional appropriations; one in the amount of \$15,000.00 for the part-time line in the Infraction Deferral fund. Mr. Clowers

stated these funds are needed to pay the part-time deputy prosecutor for work done on a trial that began in 2020 but due to COVID, is still proceeding. The second request is for \$2,000.00 in the Holly's House line of the Infraction Deferral fund. Mr. Clowers stated these funds will be used for a donation to the Holly's House program.

D. Pearce made a motion to approve both request; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Jason Knowles, Posey County Dispatch Director, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$6,323.00 in the training line of the Dispatch Fund. Mr. Knowles stated this is needed for training of new employees. Mr. Knowles stated he is fully staffed.

D. Pearce made a motion to approve this request; S. Miller seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Circuit Judge, Craig Goedde, is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the petit juror line. Judge Goedde stated these funds are needed due to the backlog of jury trials due to COVID in the year 2020. Judge Goedde stated the Court system is trying to get caught up.

M. Brenton made a motion to approve this request; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

TRANSFER REQEUST

The Posey County Highway Department is requesting a transfer of \$350,000.00 into their sub fund 1173 in the Heavy Equipment Operator line.

T. Schneider made a motion to approve this request; D. Pearce seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, gave the following inmate housing report:

33 Vanderburgh Inmates

69 Posey County Inmates

5 DOC Inmates

107 Total

\$34,195.00 is being billed to Vanderburgh

Donnie Martin, with the Posey County Health Department, stated May 15th is the second COVID-19 Vaccine clinic will be held at Marrs School from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Mr. Martin stated as of June 30th, 2021 the County's contract with Deaconess is complete and vaccines will not be given at the Deaconess Clinic in town. Mr. Martin stated the vaccines will then be given at both the Mt. Vernon Health Department site and the Poseyville Clinic site.

Posey County Dispatch Director, Jason Knowles, stated several members of the Council, and himself, met with VEI three weeks ago, and came up with a plan to add an antenna to the Middle Mt. Vernon Road tower, in hope of correcting current issues. Mr. Knowles stated he has been in contact with the needed parties to accomplish this, Mr. Knowles stated then all the radios would need to be re-programed.

Mr. Knowles stated the recording issues he was having have been resolved.

Jenna Richardt, with the Posey County Economic Development, informed the Council she has several projects in the works with several different companies that are interested in Posey County.

Posey County EMS Director, Chris Neaveill, informed Council he has one open position that he is trying to fill.

S. Miller spoke on behalf of the Solid Waste Board regarding the loan that is typically needed for this department. Mrs. Miller stated that loan will not be needed this year.

Posey County Auditor, Maegen Greenwell, stated the meetings are now being live-streamed on the Posey County Government website.

B. Deig stated this is National Police Week and he thanked those serving Posey County.

No further business was discussed.

D. Pearce made a motion to adjourn; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Heather Allyn, President

Stefani Miller
Stefani Miller, Vice President

Brandon Deig
Brandon Deig

Marilyn Brenton
Marilyn Brenton

Dave Pearce
Dave Pearce

Thomas Schneider
Thomas Schneider

Aaron Wilson
Aaron Wilson

ATTEST: Margen S. Greenwell
Posey County Auditor