

**POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL, JOINT
MEETING, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021.**

The Board of Commissioners and the Posey County Council met in a Joint Meeting at the Hovey House, 330 Walnut Street, in Mt. Vernon on Tuesday, December 21, 2021.

Council members in attendance; Heather Allyn, Tom Schneider, Marylyn Brenton, Aaron Wilson, Stefani Miller, Brandon Deig, and Dave Pearce. Commissioners in attendance; Bill Collins, Bryan Schorr, and Randy Thornburg. Auditor Maegen Greenwell and Commissioner Attorney Joe Harrison were in attendance.

BAKER TILLY

H. Allyn stated Brian Colton was available via Zoom to discuss the options the County has regarding paying extra toward the Jail Bonds. Mr. Colton discussed the options with the Council and Commissioners, and no action was taken.

BROADBAND

Jeremy Elrod, with Morley, addressed the Commissioners and Council members regarding the status of the Mainstream Broadband project. Mr. Elrod stated construction should begin sometime in the first quarter of 2022. Mr. Elrod stated currently, Mainstream is working with Centerpoint to gain needed access to Centerpoint property.

Zach Stevens, with Mainstream, addressed the Commissioners regarding the ongoing project. Mr. Stevens stated construction would start in the first quarter of 2022, and first served customers will connect in the third quarter of 2022. Mr. Stevens stated residents could go to the Posey County landing page of the Mainstream website to inquire about current and future sites.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Jenna Richardt, with Posey County Economic Development, presented the Commissioners and Council members with a potential County logo. Mrs. Richardt stated this was a collaboration with herself, her organization, students from both County school districts, and Commissioner Carl Schmitz. Mrs. Richardt is asking the County to adopt the logo and use it as they see fit. B. Schorr made a motion to adopt the presented logo as the official logo of Posey County; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 10-0.

24 HOUR CARE STAFFING ISSUES

Chris Neaveill, Posey County EMS Director, addressed the Commissioners and Council members regarding the ongoing staffing issues that his department is seeing.

Mr. Neaveill stated the most common things he is hearing for not accepting positions are the financial aspect and the County not paying for the full 24 hours. Mr. Neaveill stated this is also a nationwide employment issue.

B. Collins asked if the proposal is to pay a full 24-hour shift.

Mr. Neaveill stated his advisory board does not want to make that decision, as that will have a large financial burden and increase the payroll. Mr. Neaveill stated the recommendation is paying a set dollar amount for sleep time, and if they are called on a run, they will be paid their regular pay. Mr. Neaveill stated this is a variation of what is currently being done.

M. Brenton asked if the department's part-time employees are picking up shifts more than last year? Mr. Neaveill stated yes, that has increased.

B. Schorr asked what the process is when an application is turned in. Mr. Neaveill stated he, along with his team leads, reviews applications. B. Schorr asked if there was an opportunity for more recruitment. Mr. Neaveill stated he would look into that.

B. Collins made a motion to table this conversation for a more in-depth; B. Schorr seconded.

T. Schneider asked for a listing of positions with last year's overtime amounts, but not necessarily names, just positions. Mr. Neaveill stated he could provide that.

The motion carried with a vote of 10-0.

ARPA FUNDS

H. Allyn stated the ARPA Fund committee had not met recently, but the County needs to act on the quote provided for the Lucas devices, as it will expire soon. Mrs. Allyn stated the cost is \$133,821.00 for the nine devices. Mrs. Allyn stated these fall under the ARPA Funds due to the ongoing COVID risk. Mrs. Allyn stated these are being requested by the fire departments to go into those stations.

B. Collins asked what has been approved so far for ARPA Funds. H. Allyn stated broadband was allotted at \$1,000,000.00 and \$2,000,000.00 for sewer. Mrs. Allyn stated the total ARPA dollars available is roughly 4.9 million. Mrs. Greenwell stated that Morley would also be paid from those funds. Mrs. Allyn stated there would also be a federal audit that would have to be paid from this.

S. Miller made a motion to approve the purchase of 9 Lucas devices with ARPA funds to be paid in 2022; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 10-0.

JAIL/DEPUTY SALARY DISCUSSION

H. Allyn stated the Commissioners and Council would be discussing the staffing issue that has been facing the jail.

H. Allyn asked what the total number of employees for the jail is currently. Sheriff Latham stated fully staffed, there are 15 jail officers, including Jail Commander and Assistant Jail Commander. Sheriff Latham stated as of today; they are down three.

H. Allyn stated in the five budget cycles that she has been on Council, County employees have seen \$4,000.00 in raises; however, on the matrix, the increase was not near that amount.

Council members and Commissioners discussed the options available and the current climate.

H. Allyn asked what the thoughts would be on increasing each matrix line by a specific dollar amount but having a starting amount for new employees.

A. Wilson made a motion to increase each matrix line by \$3,000.00 and keep the matrix; D. Pearce seconded. The vote was taken with a roll call vote as follows:

B. Deig: aye

A. Wilson: aye

D. Pearce: aye

S. Miller: aye

T. Schneider: nay

H. Allyn: nay

The motion carried with a vote of 4-2. M. Brenton had left the meeting.

No further joint business was discussed, and the meeting adjourned.

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL:


Heather Allyn



POSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONER:


Bill Collins