

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL, TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 2023

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Hovey House on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at 9 am. The following members were present at the said meeting: Heather Allyn, Aaron Wilson, Dave Dausman, Zach George, Brandon Deig, Tom Schneider, County Attorney Josh Clayborn, and Auditor Maegen Greenwell.

H. Allyn called the Posey County Council meeting to order at 9 am with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Posey County Prosecutor, Thomas Clowers, led the Council in prayer.

MINUTES

Z. George made a motion to approve the minutes from February 22, 2023; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Posey County Treasurer, Vicki Peerman, stated that the interest discussed in prior meetings has come in.

A. Wilson made a motion to approve the February Treasurer's report; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

B. Deig made a motion to approve the February Clerk's report; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

LEARNING CENTER REQUEST

Barry Cox, residing at 45 Park Ridge Drive, Mount Vernon, Indiana 47620, stated that he had addressed a letter to the Posey County Council to express the Cox Group's strong support for the Children's Learning Center. Mr. Cox stated that he urges the Council to consider providing some level of funding and resources to this institution. Mr. Cox stated that the Posey County Children's Learning Center had provided essential educational services to young children in our community since the early 1990s. Mr. Cox stated that GAF had contributed \$25,000 to the Children's Learning Center, and WSI had contributed \$100,000. Mr. Cox stated that he encourages the Posey County Council to contribute or make a plan to support the Children's Learning Center with a stipend of \$25,000 per year.

The Board President of the Children's Learning Center, Andy Weintraut, stated that the Children's Learning Center was created due to large employers stating that we didn't have adequate childcare as a factor for not coming to our community. Mr. Weintraut stated that the Children's Learning Center was created to address businesses and the growth of the Posey County Community.

Mr. Weintraut stated that The Posey County Learning Center partnered with Building Blocks of Indiana in 2003. Mr. Weintraut stated that during a recent meeting with the head of Building Blocks of Indiana, it was discovered that the Children's Learning Center is the only state-certified facility that lives off tuition alone that is partnered with Building Blocks of Indiana. Mr. Weintraut stated that in the meeting, it was discovered that most childcare places are supported by local government, local businesses, and tuition.

Mr. Weintraut stated that the Children's Learning Center has hired a new director that will begin in April. Mr. Weintraut stated that the Learning Center plans on partnering with the USI Early Childcare Development Program and the MSD of Mount Vernon. Mr. Weintraut invited the council members to tour the Children's Learning Center.

Jake McGinnis, Board Member of the Children's Learning Center, parent of children that attend the Learning Center, and Resident of Posey County, stated that the Children's Learning Center is not-for-profit childcare. Mr. McGinnis stated that the Board of the Children's Learning Center has completely changed in the last year. Mr. McGinnis stated that he would like to reiterate Mr. Cox and Mr. Weintraut's comments.

Steve McGruder, a 25-year resident of Posey County and Board Member of the Children's Learning Center, stated that his three children benefitted from the resources at the Children's Learning Center. Mr. McGruder stated that it concerns him that younger families may not have the ability to utilize the Children's Learning Center. Mr. McGruder stated that he would like to reiterate Mr. Cox and Mr. Weintraut's comments.

AREA PLAN COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

President of the Areas Plan Board, Mark Seib, stated that Area Plan is requesting funding for the comprehensive plan. Mr. Seib stated that the last comprehensive plan for Area Plan was done in 2008. Mr. Seib stated that Area Plan did apply for a grant, but the State stated that Posey County did not qualify for the grant. Mr. Seib stated that Area Plan has gone through numerous phases for the comprehensive plan. Mr. Seib stated that the request for bids to conduct the comprehensive plan was sent out to 13 agencies and received a proposal back from three. Mr. Seib stated that the Area Plan Commission Board decided to move forward with American Structure Point doing the Comprehensive Plan. Mr. Seib stated that the cost for American Structure Point to do this is \$82,885. Mr. Seib stated that between the top two picks, there was a difference of \$4,585, with American Structure Point being more. Mr. Seib stated that American Structure Point had included the cost of engineering work in their bid while the other did not. Mr. Seib stated that the up-to-date comprehensive plan for the county is so important because the Area Plan and BZA use the comprehensive plan to dictate whether the applications that are received meet the requirements of the plan; the comprehensive plan also allows the county to score higher on a grant application.

Area Plan Administrative Assistant, Becky Wolfe, read the following letter to the Council Members:

To Posey County Council,

On behalf of Posey County Economic Development efforts and Evansville Regional Economic Partnership, I would like to provide the opportunity to speak on the importance of moving forward with funding and completion of an updated 2023/24 Comprehensive Plan for Posey County, Poseyville & Cynthiana. As you may be aware, American Structure Point presented the final draft of the Mt. Vernon Comprehensive plan at the Area Plan meeting this past Thursday and the commission unanimously voted to move the plan towards adoption. This document is a great example of what we need for the county; in addition, utilizing the same firm allows for cohesion across the county, including its largest city. Based upon what was identified in Mt. Vernon's Comprehensive Plan, the RDA has already allocated \$2M in READI funds for Mt. Vernon projects.

Posey County last completed its comprehensive plan in 2008. Over the past 15 years, the world, nation, state, region, and county have all significantly changed. The way people prioritize their professional and personal lives has switched. The pandemic has allowed people to work from anywhere in the world, and people no longer view place of work as the number one objective when choosing where to live.

In my role as your economic development leader, it is imperative to understand the value of "quality of place" vs. attraction of jobs. With that being said- we have not stopped trying to recruit business and will not stop. However, in the next 2-5 years, we are working towards the completion of two plants that will bring 450 additional jobs.

Posey County has a responsibility to better understand the current state of our economy and how we may better position ourselves towards the quality of place. Creating a new comprehensive plan that will focus on housing, parks, trails, infrastructure expansion, renewables, broadband, and other amenities is vital to the future success of this county. In order to apply for grant funding at the state and federal levels, there has to be an understanding of attainable projects with critical pathway strategies to execute on. In today's world, grants require detailed execution with long-term sustainability in addition to matching dollars for high scores. A new comprehensive plan should be developed for this purpose. It is vital for the county to have a document that allows them to be proactive in their growth opportunities. It allows the council to consider budgeting dollars each year that allow you to execute projects and move the needle in a positive direction.

I thank you for your time and consideration of this funding. In hopes you allocate funding for this plan, I am excited to work through the strategies and identify growth opportunities for this county and our region that will strengthen Posey County's success.

Jenna Richardt

Chief Regional Economic Development Officer, Senior Vice President

The council gave a blessing that a motion would be made in the next meeting following the additional for \$88,000 being advertised out of EDIT funds. Mr. Seib stated that they are asking for an additional \$5,000 that would possibly not be used. Mr. Seib stated that the Area Plan Committee plans on making an updated Comprehensive Plan every three years to lessen the costs by keeping the plan up to date. Mr. Seib stated that this would take roughly eleven months to complete.

SHERIFF DEPUTY/JAIL OFFICER SALARY

D. Dausman stated that he is in favor of waiting for the salary study to come back at the end of April before the Council decides on the pay increase for the Sheriff's Office and Jail. T. Schneider stated that he agrees that the decision for the increase should wait until the salary study returns. H. Allyn stated that she believes waiting on the salary study is a better financially responsible thing for the County to do.

Posey County Sheriff, Tom Latham, stated that the jail is down three jail officers, and they are about to terminate another. Sheriff Latham stated that 95% of the Jail Officers had been employed by the county for less than two years. Sheriff Latham stated that he is requested the base jail officer salary to be \$43,000.

H. Allyn suggested that the Council could raise all of the salaries to the entry-level salary and table the shift differential and special assignment stipend until the salary study comes back as a Band-Aid for the problem. H. Allyn stated that it would be an increase for all of the deputies except for the detectives and the chief deputy.

A. Wilson stated that there are corporate partners in Posey County that need to step up. H. Allyn stated that there are some corporate companies that are contributing. A. Wilson stated that he believes the numbers that were advertised are justifiable and that he would be ready to vote yes today. Sheriff Latham stated that the county is down six deputies. T. Schneider stated that he believes that the salary study will help decide what the correct levels should be. Sheriff Latham stated that it was discovered at the Sheriff's Association Conference that every single Sheriff in the room was dealing with the same problems.

Z. George stated that he believes the salary numbers are correct, but he believes that it is best for the County to wait until the salary study returns to make a decision based on the shift differential and degree incentives.

T. Schneider made a motion to table the salary increase discussion for the Sheriff's Department and Jail until the May 9, 2023, meeting; Z. George seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

D. Dausman suggested that we set up a meeting on May 2, 2023, for the purpose of making a decision in regard to the salaries before the May 9, 2023, meeting. H. Allyn stated that the meeting has to be public and the salary has to be advertised 48 hours prior.

EMS DISCUSSION

Posey County EMS Director, Paul Micheletti, stated that in June of 2022, there were 30 shifts totaling 720 hours that employees needed to cover due to full-time employees taking personal time, vacation, sick time, military leave, bereavement, and FMLA. Mr. Micheletti stated that he wants his full-time employees that are working more than 40 hours a week to be paid their full-time rate for the entirety of the extra shift that they are working and not paying them sleep time. Mr. Micheletti stated that he believes that this will be an incentive for the full-time employees to work an extra 24-hour shift instead of signing up to cover half of a shift. Mr. Micheletti stated that this will not affect the overtime cost to the County due to the County already paying that money to the employee because the employees are covering only 12-hour shifts; by covering 12-hour shifts, it would take 2 employees to cover the 24-hour shift. Mr. Micheletti stated that when a Paramedic does work an extra 24-hour shift, the employees take a \$7.55 cut in pay for that 24-hour period to work the extra shift. Mr. Micheletti stated that he would like to pay the full-time employees 24 hours for 24 hours for any shift worked after the employee works their 40-hour week. H. Allyn stated that the council plans to wait to make any salary adjustments until after the salary study returns. Mr. Micheletti stated that he insinuated the wrong information in the previous meeting. Mr. Micheletti stated that he is requesting that employees be paid time and a half for the entire extra shift that they work and not pay the employee sleep time. Mr. Micheletti stated that there are 2 shifts that work 48 hours in a week and 1 shift that works 72 hours a week, and the shift that works the 72 hours rotates. Mr. Micheletti stated that he is asking for the full-time employees to be paid hour for hour for only extra shifts that are worked after 40 hours.

H. Allyn suggested that the council put together a select few council members to work with Paul and look into what he has suggested. The members of the committee will be Heather Allyn, Brandon Deig, and Zach George.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Posey County E911 Director, Jamie Bradford, is requesting an additional appropriation of \$100.00 into the repairs and maintenance line of the County General fund. A. Wilson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$100.00 into the repairs and maintenance line in the County General fund; Z. George seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County EMS Director, Paul Micheletti, is requesting the following additional appropriations:
\$2,488.35 into the Repair of Vehicle line of the County General fund
\$7,000.00 into the Supplies line of the EMS Maintenance fund
\$1,087.52 into the Training line of the County General fund
H. Allyn questioned Mr. Micheletti on whether EMS was over on what was budgeted in 2023 for the EMS Maintenance fund. Mr. Micheletti stated that he believes there is around \$70,000 balance in the EMS Maintenance fund. H. Allyn stated that \$75,000 was already appropriated and the Powerload Cot should be purchased out of what was already appropriated, and that there does not need to be an additional \$7,000 appropriated. A. Wilson made a motion to approve the request for \$2,488.35 into the Repair of Vehicle line of the County General fund and \$1,087.52 into the Training line of the County General fund; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County Prosecutor, Thomas Clowers, is requesting an additional appropriation of \$1,000.00 into the Investigation Costs line of the Infraction Deferral fund. Mr. Clowers stated that the Investigation Costs line was recently created due to unforeseen expenses that came up at the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Clower's stated that Deaconess Hospital has started charging for blood draws. T. Schneider made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$1,000.00 into the Investigation Costs line of the Infraction Deferral fund; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County EMA Administrative Assistant, Carrie Thompson, is requesting an additional appropriation of \$200.00 into the Overtime line of the County General fund. Mrs. Thompson stated that FEMA has stated in the event of a disaster that causes EMA to get overtime, the county has to be able to show that there is budgeted money in an overtime line in order to be reimbursed. A. Wilson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$200 into the Overtime line of the County General fund; Z. George seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County Highway Superintendent, Steve Schenk, is requesting an additional appropriation of \$8,000 into the Contractual Services line of the Motor Vehicle Highway fund. Mr. Schenk stated that the county received money from German Township Water District as a result of a lawsuit between the county and German Township Water District. The settlement totaled \$8,000. A. Wilson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$8,000 into the Contractual Services line of the Motor Vehicle Highway fund; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

Posey County Health Department Administrator, Donnie Martin, is requesting an additional appropriation of \$20,000 into the Personal Health line of the Health Board fund. Mr. Martin stated that the money was received from the state for administering vaccinations. Mr. Martin stated that the money was an 85/15 grant and the amount we received was our split. A. Wilson made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$20,000 into the Personal Health line of the Health Board fund; Z. George seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham gave the following inmate housing update:

30 Vanderburgh
11 DOC
96 Posey County
137 total

Sheriff Latham stated that in February, the jail made a profit of \$29,475 by housing Vanderburgh inmates.

Posey County EMS Director, Paul Micheletti, stated that the new Paramedic that was hired is almost complete with her orientation and will start full-time next week. Mr. Micheletti stated that a full-time EMT will be taking military leave in order to go to Paramedic school; the military is paying for the employee to go to school; however, he will be gone for 4 months.

Mr. Micheletti stated that in February, EMS had 332 requests for service, 186 transports, and \$102,319 in revenue.

Posey County E911 Director, Jamie Bradford, stated that the radio audit has been completed. Mrs. Bradford stated that she plans on having a meeting this Friday to have the company that completed the radio study go over the results for any council member that would like to attend.

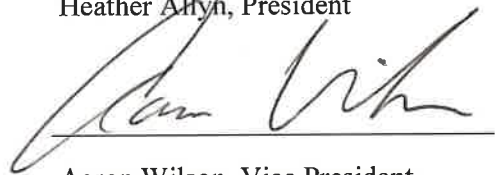
Posey County Health Department Administrator, Donnie Martin, stated that everything is going well and that the Health Department has shots and tests available. Mr. Martin stated that the school liaison program is going and helping the schools out. Mr. Martin stated that he is planning to approach the Health Board in regard to the Children's Learning Center Head Start Program that Andy Weintraut had discussed earlier in the meeting to see if the Health Department would be able to help. Mr. Martin stated that the Health Department is planning to do lead testing at all the schools.

A new Economic Development Employee, Patrick Henke, introduced himself to the council members.

Posey County Commissioner, Bryan Schorr, ask that people pray for Earl, who is normally at the meetings, as he is having some health issues.

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

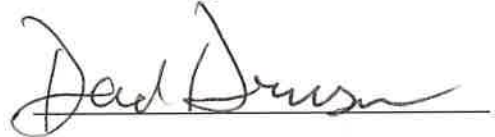
Heather Allyn, President



Aaron Wilson, Vice President



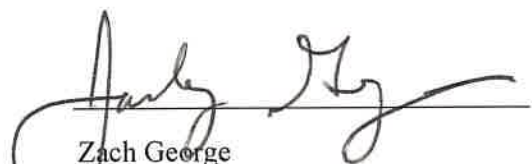
Brandon Deig



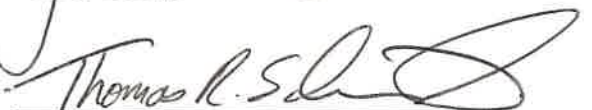
Dave Dausman



Jerry Chastain



Zach George



Thomas Schneider

ATTEST:

