

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Hovey House on Tuesday, September 12, 2023, at 9 a.m. The following members were present at the said meeting: Heather Allyn, Aaron Wilson, Brandon Deig, Dave Dausman, Jerry Chastain, Tom Schneider, Zach George, County Attorney Josh Clayborn, and Auditor Maegen Greenwell.

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

Sheriff Latham led the Council in prayer.

MINUTES

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the minutes from August 8, 2023; Z. George seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

A. Wilson made a motion to approve the minutes from the August Department Head Budget review meeting; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

TREASURER'S REPORT

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the August Treasurer's report; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

H. Allyn stated that fall taxes are due November 13.

CLERK'S REPORT

A. Wilson made a motion to approve the July Clerk's report; Z. George seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

LOCAL INCOME TAX DISCUSSION

H. Allyn stated that for the budget year 2024, Posey County is budgeting over what the "typical" new money figure is for the County. Mrs. Allyn stated that the local income tax would have to be increased by November in order for it to take place in January of the following year. Mrs. Allyn stated that if the increase is decided in January, the increase would not take effect until October.

Mrs. Allyn stated that the funds generated from increasing the income tax could either go to emergency services, the jail or as an increase to what the County currently collects as safety tax and would then be divided between the entities within the County that receive the local income tax currently. Mrs. Allyn questioned the Council on whether the discussion should be discussed today and, if so, what area the Council would want the funds to go to or if the Council would prefer that the discussion be postponed until after the budget is finalized. Z. George questioned if Posey County would receive all the money if the public safety option were chosen. County Attorney Josh Clayborn stated that Public Safety would include money going to Posey County, Mount Vernon, Cynthiana, Griffin, New Harmony, and Poseyville. Mr. Clayborn stated that the Correctional LIT and EMS LIT would stay fully with Posey County. Mr. Clayborn stated that if the discussion is tabled, the deadline for changes made in effect in January would be missed without a special meeting.

T. Schneider stated that looking at a tax that generates revenue for a specific reason in county government is a disservice to the community. Mr. Schneider stated that the public safety tax is below the maximum levy, and Posey County is able to adjust the public safety tax largely. T. Schneider stated that the net increase on Sheriff, EMS, and E-911 is about \$460,000. T. Schneider stated that he believes a 0.1% increase in the public safety tax would absorb a large amount of the salary increases. Z. George stated that he does not disagree with T. Schneider; however, Posey County has lost employees to the other entities, and by raising the public safety tax, those entities would still have the opportunity to convince the employees of Posey County to switch employers. Mr. Clayborn stated that according to state law, the townships have an opportunity to petition Posey County for a portion of the public safety tax. T. Schneider made a motion to advertise an increase of 0.2% in the public safety tax; J. Chastain seconded. The motion failed with a vote of 1-6, with T. Schneider voting in favor of.

H. Allyn suggested that Posey County increase 0.1% for Public Safety Tax and 0.1% for EMS Lit. H. Allyn stated that increasing the EMS Lit tax makes more sense because EMS services all of Posey County. T. Schneider suggested transitioning employees who can be paid from the LIT fund out of the County General and into the LIT funds to be paid. Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell stated that a 0.1% increase in EMS LIT tax would not cover the EMS Budget. Z. George made a motion to advertise a 0.1% increase in EMS LIT tax and a 0.1% increase in Public Safety tax; A. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUESTS

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell is requesting an additional appropriation of \$20,000 into the Contractual Services line of the Auditors Ineligible Deductions Fund. Mrs. Greenwell stated that SBS Portals will be indexing and digitizing all documents in a portal that will be accessible through a link on the county website. Mrs. Greenwell stated that \$9,000 will be used to scan the documents, \$3,000 will be the annual charge, and there are other smaller charges. Mrs. Greenwell stated that she plans on paying the annual charge out of this line every year. B. Deig made a motion to approve this request; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell is requesting an additional appropriation of \$40,065 into the Contractual Services line of County General. Mrs. Greenwell stated that this is to cover the expenses for the salary study. A. Wilson made a motion to approve this request; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Sheriff Latham is requesting an additional appropriation of \$500.00 donation into the repairs and maintenance line of the Sheriff Reserve fund. Z. George made a motion to approve; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0. Sheriff Latham stated these funds are from a donation from the fair.

Posey County Highway Superintendent Steve Schenk is requesting an additional appropriation of \$1,000,000 into the contractual services line of the Highway Edit fund. Mr. Schenk stated that this amount is to pay a loan back to the state that was used to fix roads. T. Schneider made a motion to approve this request; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Carrie Thompson, representing Posey County E911, is requesting the following additional:

\$25,000.00 into the equipment line of the E-911 Fund. Mrs. Thompson stated that this is for battery backups for the dispatch consoles.

\$32,000 into the overtime line of the E-911 Fund. Mrs. Thompson stated that there had been an average of \$3,109.57 per payroll, and this should get Dispatch through the remainder of the year with a cushion.

Z. George made a motion to approve the following additional; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti is requesting the following additional appropriations:

\$500.00 donation from the Posey County Fair into the training line of the EMS County General fund. B. Deig made a motion to approve the request; D. Dausman seconded. The motion was carried with a vote of 7-0.

\$25,000.00 into the fuel line of the EMS County General fund. Mr. Micheletti stated that there is an average of \$5,430 in fuel per month. Mr. Micheletti stated that this should get EMS through the remainder of the year. H. Allyn stated that she does not remember ever having to do an additional into the gasoline line. B. Deig questioned the number of miles driven per month. Mr. Micheletti stated that he is unsure but can get those numbers. B. Deig questioned what the gas line was originally budgeted. Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell stated that the line was originally budgeted at \$45,000 in 2023. Z. George questioned if it was normal to spend fifty percent of the budget in additional. Mr. Micheletti stated that the locked rate for gasoline prices for Posey County is either \$2.49 or \$2.47. H. Allyn stated that the total expenditure in the EMS fuel line for 2022 was \$43,400. H. Allyn stated that \$45,000 was budgeted for 2023. D. Dausman questioned what the internal checks and balances were. Mr. Micheletti stated that there is an app that has the amount of fuel that each truck puts in when fueling up. Mr. Micheletti stated that the app requires the employee to enter the odometer number, the amount of fuel put in, and the date. Mr. Micheletti stated that he has not seen anything out of the ordinary in the reports. B. Deig questioned if the amounts of runs into Evansville have increased. P. Micheletti stated that he would have to check into that, but he is certain that the revenue from transport has increased. H. Allyn questioned if this was for the four ambulances only. Mr. Micheletti stated that this was from the four ambulances and his Tahoe. J. Chastain questioned if Posey County EMS is exempt from filing Indiana Fuel Tax. Mr. Micheletti stated that nothing has to be sent in. Mr. Micheletti stated that all fuel tanks are secured with locks. Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell stated that the average fuel cost per year since 2020 is \$36,000. H. Allyn questioned when Mr. Micheletti started with Posey County EMS. Mr. Micheletti stated he started on May 16, 2022. H. Allyn stated that it was a shorter drive for the previous EMS director because he lived in Posey County. Mr. Micheletti stated that he has narcotics and drives around a lot more than the previous director, but there is no way that the increase is due to his drive. Mr. Micheletti stated that there are no security cameras at the tanks. J. Chastain asked Paul to write down the mileage today of the vehicles and take the mileage of the vehicles on the day of the next meeting as well

so it can get compared. J. Chastain made a motion to approve the above request; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

TRANSFER REQUEST

Posey County Highway Superintendent Steve Schenk is requesting the following transfers: \$19,000 from the Salt line in the Highway Fund to the Overtime line in the Highway fund \$40,000 from the Salt line in the Highway Fund to the Light Equipment Operators line in the Highway fund

A. Wilson made a motion to approve the transfer requests; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell, speaking on behalf of Posey County Superior Court Judge Travis Clowers, is requesting transfer of \$10,000 from the law books line in the Superior Court County General fund to the guardian ad litem fees line in the Superior Court County General fund due to the increased pauper rate. A. Wilson made a motion to approve the transfer request; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

REIMBURSEMENT

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti is requesting the reimbursement amount of \$1,169.69 be appropriated into the repair of the vehicle line in the EMS County General Fund. B. Deig made a motion to approve the reimbursement appropriation; D. Dausman seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

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

36 Vanderburgh

27 DOC

110 Posey County

173 total

\$43,012.50 was taken from Vanderburgh County in July

\$37,762.50 was taken from Vanderburgh County in August

Sheriff Latham stated that pertaining to the Indiana Department of Corrections and the Indiana Sheriff's Association, the Executive Board has met with the Indiana Department of Corrections Commissioner, and Posey County is not the only County that is dealing with the overpopulation of State Inmates. Sheriff Latham stated that Posey County is required to house the State Inmates. Sheriff Latham stated that the state is being charged the same amount per inmate as Vanderburgh County. H. Allyn questioned what a reasonable headcount for inmates in the jail. Sheriff Latham stated that the number that the jail is currently at is maximizing the capabilities of the current staff.

Posey County Highway Superintendent Steve Schenk, stated that the highway has two employees ready to take the CDL driving test. Mr. Schenk stated that the number of places to take the driving test is very limited, and they are not close to Posey County. Mr. Schenk stated that since the last Council meeting, the Highway has lost four employees. Mr. Schenk stated that three out of those four employees left for higher-paying jobs. Mr. Schenk stated that he has found two new employees but still has two openings for the Poseyville Garage. Mr. Schenk stated that there have not been any applications for the jobs.

Posey County EMS Director, Paul Micheletti, gave the following update:

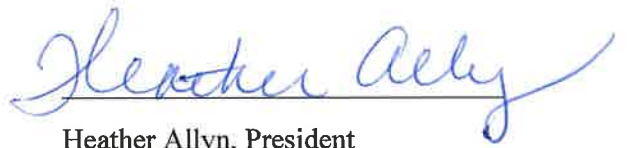
249 Request

200 Transports

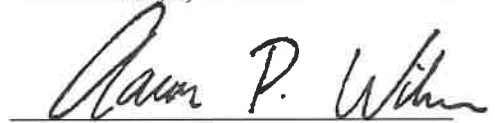
\$112,437.34 was collected in August.

Mr. Micheletti stated that EMS is down two EMT's and one paramedic. Mr. Micheletti stated that interviews are being conducted later this week. Mr. Micheletti stated that the Crossroad remounts should be completed and returned within two to three weeks. Mr. Micheletti stated that EMS is in the process of replacing three EKG monitors.

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



Heather Allyn, President



Aaron Wilson, Vice President



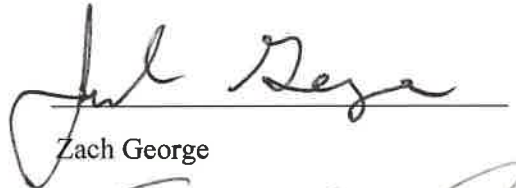
Brandon Deig



Dave Dausman



Jerry Chastain



Zach George



Thomas Schneider

ATTEST:

