

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Hovey House on Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at 10:20 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 10 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the January 9, 2024, Council meeting minutes as presented; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

Z. George made a motion to approve the December Clerk's Report; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

END-OF-YEAR REPORTS

H. Allyn stated that the Commissary and Highway end-of-year reports have been turned in to the Board.

EMS GRANT DISCUSSION

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti addressed the Council regarding a grant that was awarded and then denied by the State. Mr. Micheletti stated the original grant was for \$370,000.00 for the Community Paramedic program. Mr. Micheletti stated that the secondary grant from the CDC was applied for and granted to help offset the salary increases that were granted to the paramedics. Mr. Micheletti stated that an additional grant for \$143,208.00 was given the go-ahead, and the County received a letter stating it would be awarded. Mr. Micheletti stated in October of 2023, the Department was told to hold off on spending the funds from that secondary grant until further notice. Mr. Micheletti stated two weeks ago that he was informed that the County would not receive the \$143,208.00 from the CDC. Mr. Micheletti stated he is working with the State to see if the County would qualify for \$50,000.00 to supplement the original grant.

Mr. Micheletti stated he has spoken with the Auditor's office to compare notes on how long the program is sustainable with the current funding from the original grant, which was determined to be sustainable through 2024.

Mr. Micheletti informed the Council that he is working with the Commissioners to put in place a tuition reimbursement program. Mr. Micheletti stated the reimbursement will happen once the schooling is complete, and the necessary licenses are obtained. Mr. Micheletti stated that the employment commitment will be three years.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti is requesting the following two additional appropriations:
\$500.00 to the training line of County General from a donation
\$1000.00 to the donation line of County General from a donation

T. Schneider made a motion to approve these two requests; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham is requesting the following additional appropriations:

\$50,000.00 to the equipment line of the K9 fund from a donation

\$500.00 to the repair and maintenance line of the K9 fund from a donation

\$200.00 to the repair and maintenance line of the Reserve Deputy fund from a donation

A. Wilson made a motion to approve these requests; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

\$20,000.00 into the retirement line of LIT Public Safety from leftover salary funds in 1170 for the year 2023.

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

Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell is requesting the following additional appropriations:

\$262,678.90 into the utility line of the American Rescue Plan Act Fund for expenses for Mainstream.

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

\$100,00.00 into the Mulberry Bridge Replacement line of County General for expenses for the replacement of the bridge.

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

Posey County EMA Director Carrie Thompson is requesting the following additional appropriation requests:

\$1537.50 into the public emergency warning system line of County General for additional expenses for the Code Red Alert system.

\$12,000.00 into the EMA Director Salary line of County General for changes made to the salary.

J. Chastain made a motion to approve these requests; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Soil and Water is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$3,650.00 into the District Technician line of County General for a salary increase. J. Chastain made a motion to approve this request; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

Posey County Prosecutor is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$2,212.36 into the contractual service line of the State Forfeiture fund from funds gained from a federal forfeiture case. A. Wilson made a motion to approve this request; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

SHERIFF FUND ALLOCATIONS

Fund 1172:

\$7456.76-Equipment

\$2950.47-Maintenance and Repairs

\$2500.00- Operating Supplies and Fees

\$3,000.00-Uniforms

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

Fund 1175:

\$80,532.80- Equipment

Fund 4900:

\$19,596.33- Equipment

\$175,000.00-Repair and Maintenance

\$50,000.00- Operating Supplies

Fund 4905:

\$500.00- Uniforms

\$1500.00-Operating Supplies

\$500.00- Training

\$2,500.00-Repair and Maintenance

\$2459.77- Equipment

A. Wilson made a motion to approve these allocations; J. Chastain seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 7-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham gave the following housing updates:

37 Vanderburgh County Inmates

34 DOC

90 Posey County Inmates

161 total

\$41,572.50

100% staffed in the jail.

Kristin Lowry with Purdue Extension addressed the Council regarding the State and Federal Government increasing their mileage rate from .50 to .67. Mrs. Lowry stated that her office had completed its move and invited the Council members to stop by and see their new office space.

Posey County Area Plan President Mark Seib informed the Council that the Area Plan board had posted the open director's position and received three applicants that they found qualified for the position. Mr. Seib stated they conducted interviews and offered the position to one applicant. Mr. Seib stated that, as previously discussed with the Council, he is back to them to request the salary for this position be higher due to the applicant's qualifications and experience. Mr. Seib stated the applicant informed the board that he could not take the position for less than \$80,000.00.

H. Allyn stated that if the Council is going to entertain the idea of increasing the salary to \$80,000.00, then she would rather see the position readvertised at that amount to see if the quality of the applicant would increase. Mrs. Allyn asked about the possibility of having the current office staff trained by the individual who held training for the Council and Commissioners several weeks ago.

Mr. Seib asked if the Council would not raise the salary to the needed amount for this individual, would they consider increasing it from the \$55,000.00 that was initially granted to advertise.

A. Wilson stated that the applicant who is considered for the position must be pro-growth. Mr. Wilson stated that Posey County is the County in southwest Indiana that has not grown over the last twenty years.

Greg Newman, Posey County Commissioner, addressed the Council regarding this issue. Mr. Newman stated that he is also on Area Plan and sat on the hiring committee interviewing the individual in question. Mr. Newman stated that during the interview process, the committee stressed to the applicants the need to change the current culture of the department.

T. Schneider asked what the salary range for the director was on the recent salary study that was conducted. Mrs. Allyn stated the external range for this position was \$49,700 to \$66,271, with the mid-point at \$55,226.

D. Dausman asked if anyone had considered the fact that there are two universities that have engineering programs that are in close proximity to Posey County. Mr. Dausman stated it would be beneficial to look at the graduates coming from these areas also. Mr. Seib stated he checked with IU and Purdue before the search began. Mr. Dausman stated both USI and UE have civil engineering programs.

Mr. Newman asked if the Council would consider increasing the starting salary for this position in order for the board to re-post the job.

A. Wilson asked if the County could reach out to the City of Mt. Vernon to ask for a contribution to this salary, considering that most of the complaints originate from the City.

T. Schneider made a motion to increase the advertised salary to \$60,000.00; D. Dausman seconded. The vote was taken via the following roll call:

D. Dausman: aye

Z. George: nay

T. Schneider: aye

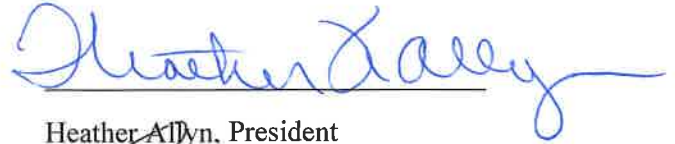
A. Wilson: nay

J. Chastain: aye

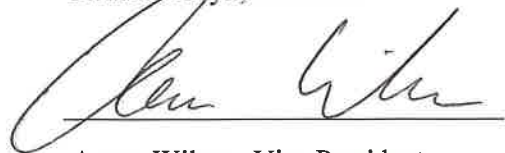
B. Deig: aye

The motion carried with a vote of 4-2

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



Heather Allyn, President



Aaron Wilson, Vice President



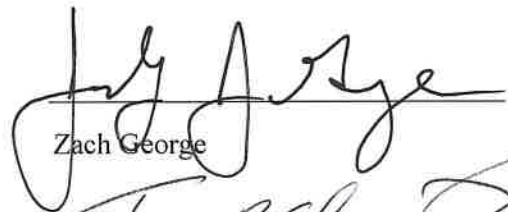
Brandon Deig



Dave Dausman



Jerry Chastain



Zach George



Thomas Schneider

ATTEST: 