

POSEY COUNTY COUNCIL, TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2024

The Posey County Council met in regular session at the Hovey House on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The following members were present at the said meeting: Heather Allyn, Aaron Wilson, Brandon Deig, Dave Dausman, Jerry Chastain, Tom Schneider, County Attorney Josh Claybourn, and Auditor Maegen Greenwell. Council member Zach George was absent.

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

Deacon Mark McDonald led the Council in prayer.

H. Allyn recognized the time and effort put into the eclipse festivities in Mt. Vernon, Poseyville, and New Harmony.

MINUTES

T. Schneider made a motion to approve the March 12, 2024, Council minutes; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

CLERK'S REPORT

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

TREASURER'S REPORT

J. Chastain made a motion to approve the March Treasurer's report; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT COMP TIME DISCUSSION

Posey County Health Board Chairman Dr. Kyle Rapp addressed the Council regarding maxed-out compensation time in the Health Department. Dr. Rapp informed the Council that the department has the ability to pay comp time from their current grant funds and is seeking permission to pay comp time for two employees who are either maxed out or close to maxing out.

Dr. Rapp stated his office was informed that comp time is capped at 240 hours, and anything over is paid out. H. Allyn stated as long as the department is following the handbook and not paying out until 240 is reached, there is no issue. Posey County Auditor Maegen Greenwell stated that the Auditor's office has reviewed the grant documents, and this is an allowable use of the grant funds.

AREA PLAN TRAINING DISCUSSION

Posey County Area Plan Board President Mark Seib introduced the new Area Plan Director, Jerry Cottner, to the Council.

Mr. Seib stated he would like to request the Council help fund training for the Area Plan office, as discussed previously. Mr. Seib stated he has requested price quotes from two companies that will travel to the office and help train the new staff. Mr. Seib stated he is estimating this will cost roughly \$30,000.00. H. Allyn asked if this would include training for the board. Mr. Seib stated that the State of Indiana provides training for the board.

AREA PLAN INTERIM DIRECTOR

Posey County Area Plan Board President Mark Seib is requesting the Council amend the interim director's salary to reflect what the job posting was advertised at \$55,000.00, which would be a \$4.04 per hour increase to what he has been paid, and for that to be retro activated back to January 1, 2024. H. Allyn asked how long Mr. Ripple would be staying on to help the new director. Mr. Seib stated the official last day will be April 15, 2024.

D. Dausman made a motion to approve this request; B. Deig seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

JAIL STAFF DISCUSSION

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham addressed the Council regarding the ongoing discussion regarding the jail staffing issues.

Sheriff Latham provided the Council with a drawing of the current layout of the areas that have been discussed as needing attention. Sheriff Latham highlighted that this includes the control tower that must be manned at all times. Sheriff Latham stated that currently, they have three jailers per shift; if one jailer is in booking and in charge of the four single-person cells, the safe housing unit, and observation rooms, one jailer is in the control tower, this leaves one jailer on the floor, addressing the remaining inmates.

D. Dausman asked how many jail staff are working today. Sheriff Latham stated three jailers, one jail commander and the assistant jail commander.

Sheriff Latham discussed the medical area of the jail, stating this also is the area where inmates attend virtual court, which will happen, typically three times a day and requires the attention of one jailer. Sheriff Latham stated that anytime the nurse is with an inmate, they must be accompanied by a jailer.

The Council discussed the ongoing issues with the plumbing. D. Dausman stated that he has spoken with several individuals regarding the possibility of a grinder pump, but due to the existing plumbing, he does not think this will be beneficial. A. Wilson asked if there are any consequences for the inmates when they flush inappropriate items. Sheriff Latham stated they could be segregated or written up, but there are negatives to those punishments.

H. Allyn asked when the Community Corrections jailers were operating in the jail, what roles they served, and what shifts they covered. Sheriff Latham stated the shifts were the same, and those jailers were serving the same roles as the jail officers. Sheriff Latham stated that he doesn't remember a time that the Community Corrections jailers were fully staffed. Jail Commander Mark Pharr stated that air maintenance and plumbing maintenance add to the ongoing issues, along with safety. J. Chastain asked what the realistic number would be for adding jailers. Sheriff Latham stated that with six new jailers, they could add one to each of the four shifts and have two that are relief jailers.

A. Wilson asked if anyone had considered not taking Vanderburgh County inmates. Sheriff Latham stated yes; however, that would not change the study's findings, seeing as the staffing study is based on the jail's layout, not the number of inmates.

A. Wilson made a motion to create four new jail officer positions effective April 9, 2024; B. Deig seconded. A roll call vote was held:

B. Deig: aye

J. Chastain: nay

A. Wilson: aye

T. Schneider: nay

D. Dausman: nay

The motion failed to pass.

J. Chastain made a motion to create two new jail officer positions effective April 9, 2024; T. Schneider seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION REQUEST

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham is requesting an additional appropriation in the amount of \$100.00 into the repairs and maintenance line of the Sheriff Reserve Fund. T. Schneider made a motion to approve this request; A. Wilson seconded. The motion carried with a vote of 6-0.

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Posey County Sheriff Tom Latham gave the following housing updates:

30 Vanderburgh County Inmates

42 DOC

78 Posey County Inmates

150 total

\$35,925.00 was taken in from Vanderburgh for March.

Carrie Thompson, Posey County EMA Director, addressed the Council regarding the recent storms throughout the County. Mrs. Thompson invited the Council to stay after the meeting to hear information from the Indiana Department of Homeland Security regarding assistance for Posey County from the recent storms.

Posey County EMS Director Paul Micheletti gave the following update:

236 Requests

189 Runs

\$82,006.68 taken in.

Mr. Micheletti stated that he recently sent the Council an email regarding the request to change an open EMT position to a Paramedic position and create an additional paramedic position. Mr. Micheletti stated that he believes this will save the County in overtime. H. Allyn stated that she would reach out and speak with Mr. Micheletti regarding this prior to the next meeting.

Mr. Micheletti stated that both backup ambulances are on the road, and he has one front-line ambulance in the shop.

Posey County E911 Director Jamie Bradford addressed the Council regarding the ongoing tower construction. Mrs. Bradford stated that construction is slated to begin this week, weather pending. Mrs. Bradford stated regarding the ongoing radio issues, she is setting up a demonstration for an application called Tango Tango, in hopes this will be a solution to the ongoing issues.

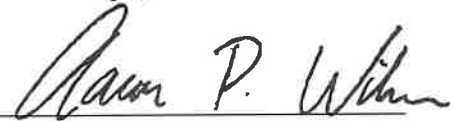
H. Allyn thanked Mrs. Bradford for reaching out to area companies to secure donations and always working to secure grants for her department.

H. Allyn reviewed the proposed budget schedule for the upcoming months with the Council.

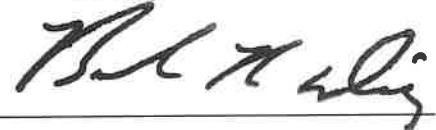
No further business was discussed, and the meeting was adjourned.



Heather Allyn, President



Aaron Wilson, Vice President

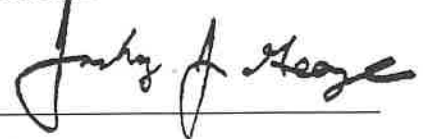


Brandon Deig

Dave Dausman



Jerry Chastain



Zach George

Thomas R. Schneider

Thomas Schneider

ATTEST: *Maegen L. Greenwell*

Attest: Maegen L. Greenwell