

COUNCIL MINUTES - APRIL 3, 2006**MATTER OF MINUTES**

A motion by Robert Wilder to approve the minutes of the March meeting was seconded by Don VanWye and carried.

MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

A motion by Robert Wilder to approve the surveyor's request for \$2,200 to purchase a boat was seconded by David Yarde and carried.

HAVA legislation mandates that Clerk Jackie Rowan must notify 9,699 voters of changes in polling places. Standard mail would cost 39 cents, but The Mail Group has been chosen to perform the task at a lesser rate. Although the cost is less an additional appropriation of \$3,000 is still required to cover the cost. A motion by Robert Wilder to approve the appropriation was seconded by Janet Ordway and carried.

MATTER OF COLLECTION OF FINES

Clerk Rowan explained that she has been approached by representatives from two collection agencies wishing to represent the county in collection of traffic tickets and various fines. Both agencies are bonded and offer similar services. Following discussion it was determined that the clerk should pursue the issue. Attorney McCanna stated that he could see no problem in using a collection service, and that he would like to review the contracts prior to the signing of any agreements.

MATTER OF PRETRIAL DIVERSION

Prosecutor Clara Mary Winebrenner described equipment she plans to purchase for various law enforcement agencies within the county by using a large amount of money accumulated in the Pretrial Diversion Fund. One yearly salary for the prosecutor's office is paid from the fund, which boasts a balance of about \$450,000. The prosecutor further explained that monies held in the fund are collected from first offense misdemeanor cases. These are persons allowed to pay a fine in lieu of going to court.

A listing of intended expenses was presented which included new items added the prior items deemed worthy by the former prosecutor. Although the prosecutor must make a request to the council to spend the monies, there is no state approval required. The prosecutor requested to spend a total of \$75,426.46. This would include IMAGE surveillance equipment at \$15,665, a Sirchie Fingerprint tool at \$14,000 a retinal scanner at \$7,000 as well as additional monies to support a seminar for continuing education for interrogation and construction of an interrogation room.

A motion by David Yarde to approve the expense for equipment, seminar and possible construction was seconded by Janet Ordway and carried

MATTER OF EARLY INTERVENTION PLAN

Director of Family and Children Services Mary Southern presented the 2006 Early Intervention and IV-E Waiver Plan for approval by the council. The plan has been used successfully over the past few years to insure that, troubled children will be cared for within the

confines of their own home or foster homes instead of being institutionalized. When Family and Children Services intervenes to help children in this manner it is far less costly and better for the child to be maintained in the atmosphere of his home. When this is not possible a foster home may be selected still at a lesser cost than a facility created to detain children.

A motion by Keith Crow to approve the plan was seconded by Don VanWye and carried.

MATTER OF TRANSFERS

A motion by Janet Ordway to approve the transfer of \$775.00 in equipment repair to equipment within the Tobacco Settlement Fund was seconded by Larry Moughler and carried.

The auditor received a request for transfer via email from emergency services director Paul Freeburn. As it was unclear which fund the request was to cover, a motion by Janet Ordway to table the request until the May meeting was seconded by Larry Moughler and carried.

MATTER OF APPOINTMENT

A motion by Robert Wilder to appoint Terry Rayle to the DeKalb County Alcoholic Beverage Board was seconded by Keith Crow and carried.

MATTER OF PAYROLL RATES

A motion by Robert Wilder to authorize President Smaltz to sign the confirmation of county payroll deduction rates for CAGIT and CEDIT was seconded by Keith Crow and carried.

MATTER OF SUNNY MEADOWS

Commissioner Kaufman addressed concerns for necessary improvements at Sunny Meadows farm. The corn picker used to open the fields is very old, and much of the other farm equipment is obsolete. The milking machines have parts that must be replaced. If a machine should go bad, milking the herd of about 62 cows would become difficult and take far more time. Although there is some profit on the farm side, all of these issues must be addressed. There is also a problem with the Somatic Cell Count in the herd, and it has become very high over the last few weeks despite attempts to control problems through the use of a new device to pinpoint problem cows and testing to determine the source. The farm home occupied by the herdsman and his family is in desperate need of repairs.

Following discussion and comments about the grade of milk and acceptability should it drop to B grade, Commissioner Ort commented on the conservative efforts of administrator Kim Pierson and the care of the residents. It was agreed that once a farm has fallen behind in maintenance of equipment, it is difficult or impossible to catch up, and the time to close the farm operation may be fast approaching. The possibility of cash renting the acreage and purchasing meat and milk to continue operating the home was briefly mentioned.

MATTER OF CENTRAL DISPATCH

Councilman Smaltz called for old and new business and commented on the central dispatch effort. Again Councilman Smaltz stated that the program is definitely not a cost saving measure, but he feels it is a necessary.

Janet Ordway stated that she thought the county should proceed with the plan. Councilman Smaltz agreed, and asked the commissioners for an opinion and recommendations for funding.

Attorney McCanna recommended bonding as probably the only source other than 911 surcharge monies. The 83-cent monthly fee imposed on telephone customers could be raised considerably, but the monies would not accrue as rapidly.

The possibility of legislation for a time limit for counties to move to one PSAP for emergency response was mentioned. The question was raised as to whether the county should engage Mike Claytor to investigate the amount necessary and the time element to repay such bonding.

Councilman Wilder suggested that not only the building, equipment, and training, but the cost to maintain the facility should be taken into consideration, as well as to study the issue of how much to raise the 911 surcharge fees.

It was the consensus of the council to approve investigation for the financing.

Councilman Wilder further stated that consideration should be given to how the county has come to this point of inefficiencies in emergencies where some residents pay twice for dispatching services.

Attorney McCanna will try to obtain a working percentage of the necessary costs.

MATTER OF AUBURN TIF DISTRICT

Councilman Smaltz asked the auditor if there was anything further to discuss concerning the Auburn TIF district, and whether the newspaper had appropriately explained the matter. The auditor stated that there were some discrepancies, however the explanation was about as good as it could be under the circumstances. It should be understood that any attempt to explain would be difficult for most to understand, given that the TIF Rule is extremely complicated. The auditor herself did not make any of the decisions as to the method of correction. In fact the auditor is never given a choice, but expected to follow all usual and customary procedures as provided by the State Board of Accounts, Department of Local Government Finance and state auditor's office. Although the Auburn taxpayer might think a refund should be due, the largest taxpayer within the district, the Auburn Foundry actually would have been the entity to suffer the greatest loss had it not been for the bankruptcy. Subsequently when the final correction is made through the adjustment to the tax rates in 2007 what would be a very small amount for individual taxpayers may in fact seem much larger due to the one-time increase in the homestead standard deduction and percentage used to calculate the tax statements in 2007. For 2007 the homestead standard deduction will raise from \$35,000 to \$45,000. For 2006 only, the percentage calculated on the covered acreage will increase to 28%. In either case the homestead rates will cause inequalities compared to the 2005 calculations.

MATTER OF REGIONAL MARKETING PARTNERSHIP

Attorney McCanna asked to be assured of a position on the May council agenda for the introduction of persons speaking with regard to a Northeast Indiana Regional Marketing Partnership. The council agreed that the auditor should place the speaker on the agenda.

MATTER OF ADJOURNMENT

A motion by Keith Crow to adjourn the meeting was seconded by Robert Wilder and carried.

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget; now, therefore:

Sec.1. BE IT ORDAINED (RESOLVED) by the County Council of DeKalb County, Indiana, that for the expenses of the said municipal corporation the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated out of the funds named and for the purposes specified, subject to laws governing the same:

		AMOUNT REQUESTED	AMOUNT APPROVED	VOTE AYE NAY	
<u>ADDITIONALS</u>					
<u>COUNTY GENERAL (0100)</u>					
<u>Surveyor (6)</u>					
Equipment (4443)	Rw/Dy	\$ 2,200.00	<u>2,200</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Voter Registration (22)</u>					
Postage (3322)	Rw/So	\$ 3,000.00	<u>3,000</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
<u>PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION</u>					
<u>(0910)</u>					
Non-Budgeted Expenditures (99.5000)	Dy/So	\$ 32,489.37	<u>32,489.37</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>0</u>
		Total Request	<u>75,426.40</u>		

Monday 415

April 3, 2006
TRANSFERS

Monday

COUNTY GENERAL (0100)

TOBACCO SETTLEMENT
(0520)

From: Equipment Repair
(99.3362)

To: Equipment (99.4443) *Jo/Lm*

\$ 775.00

775.00

7 0

ADOPTED THIS 3RD DAY OF APRIL, 2006

NAY

AYE

B. Smalley

Robert A. Smith

David L. Yare

Donald E. L. W.

James Ordway

Larry M. M. M.

Keith A. Brown

ATTEST:

Sharon G. Hayes

Sharon G. Hayes
County Auditor