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Gibson County Council  
Regular Session  
June 11th, 2013  
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The Gibson County Council met in regular session on June 11th, 2013, at 9:00 AM at the North Annex Meeting Room.

Members Present: President Jeremy Overton, Vice-President Craig Pflug, Councilwoman LeAnn Smith, Councilman's Bill McConnell, Tony Wolfe, George Ankenbrand, Derek McGraw and Marilyn Mason, 1<sup>st</sup> deputy filling in for Sherri Smith, Gibson County Auditor

The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited and led by Jeremy Overton.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes from May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 meeting have been read and approved by the Council.

**Department Reports:**

EMS – Director Dan Alvey gave report on May Write-offs – Council believed this figure was lower. He agreed and stated a decrease in runs and an increase in Medicare reimbursements. Emergency Management Personnel are taking their National Registry in July.

EMS is asking the Council for additional money to cover Overtime for the Owensville Ambulance Base. The Health Care Act is limiting part time hours, in our case, to 24 hours a week. Commissioners assured coverage of this Ambulance base and approved this expenditure in June. Vacations and Schooling are also contributing to the lack of available personnel. Commissioner Bledsoe suggested utilizing personnel in the EMS office to help cover the shortage. Director Alvey stated that the Owensville Ambulance Service has relied on the services of the Fire Department to help them out a lot, especially for a team or at times if a 3<sup>rd</sup> person is required in the back, all Fire Departments have been called upon. After a lengthy conversation, it was determined that there is always an ambulance available for a call throughout the County, length of response time may vary. **Councilman Pflug stated that the Council needs to be prepared at a future meeting to allocate money for overtime.**

Clyde Scott addressed the Council. He had a petition to keep the Owensville Ambulance Base open and presented it to the Council.

**President Overton stated that the EMS, the Gibson County Commissioners, and the Gibson County Council want to make it clear, that they are not shutting down the Ambulance Base in Owensville, Montgomery Township.**

Councilman Tony Wolfe asked if adjoining County Ambulance Services responded to our calls when asked. Director Alvey stated only if all County Ambulances are out on calls would they be called.

Councilman McConnell and Commissioner Bottoms both expressed their concerns and possible solutions to the problem.

President Overton stated that even if EMS adds another full time employee, that doesn't mean every shift, will be covered. He also said that the bulk of the Council, signed off on a recommendation to the Commissioners before the last Union Negotiations, to do away with the

clause that states they have to call down a list of names for overtime, but instead get the person in there at the best cost to the County. That recommendation didn't get done. He did not know the circumstances around it. He wants to revisit that issue with the Union and he stated Commissioner Bottoms could use his relationship there with the Union to be able to help out. He also stated that the people of Owensville need to know that less than 10 times have you been short for a crew on the Ambulance, he wanted this stated so that it will not continue to be blown out of proportion.

Councilman McConnell stated that the new health laws are going to force a lot of changes. Already the Counties around us are making moves, and until we can get into that budget and see what these tax caps have done to us, we better not be making any promises to anybody other than the fact that we are going to do the best job that we know how.

President Overton said that they will do what needs to be done to help Director Alvey when his overtime fund runs out of money toward the end of the year. During the Budget talks they will also take into consideration an increase in personnel.

Sheriff Ballard – presented his report on gun permits and fees being collected and placed in Sheriff's Pension Plan.

#### **Old Business:**

There was no old business discussed.

#### **New Business:**

Health Department – Cheri Sweeney and Diane Hornby addressed the Council. They have an \$8.00 Vaccine that will increase to \$20 after the first of the year. Health Dept. Employees will also be required to attend Training on Insurance Billing to begin filing insurance claims on the computer. They are currently waiting for an administrator to be hired and undergo training at the same time. Some area Physician's offices have already undergone the training and are receiving the \$20 fee. This Program does not affect uninsured or Medicaid children. This training will allow the Health Department to bill Insurance Companies and to allow the Health Dept. to bill like a Doctor's office. The State has put up \$15,000 toward the software. They also asked if the Administrator's position could be filled as soon as possible as they are concerned about missing out on the training and when the training would be offered again.

Heath Dept. – Appropriation for Fund # 8107 - \$18,280.00 – This is a cost reimbursement Grant Bio-Terrorism/Preparedness Grant. Councilman Wolfe stated that the Council/County is not paying for this it is a grant. Councilman Wolfe made a motion to approve the Grant, seconded by Councilman Pflug. Motion carried 7-0.

Jennifer Tuley submitted her resignation on May 31<sup>st</sup>. A new administrator will be paid at 90% of base. Unbeknown to the Council, She had taken on this part time position. She will be paid \$17 an hour from June 1<sup>st</sup> till June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013. She is also paid out of bio-terrorism fund and can continue to be paid out of this fund if the Health Board chooses. Councilman Pflug made a motion to pay Jennifer Tuley \$17 an hour from June 1<sup>st</sup> till June 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013, seconded by

Councilwoman Smith. Motion carried 7-0. There will be a new part time line created to pay Ms. Tuley; money will be transferred from the Administrator's Salary line. Motion carried 7-0.

Councilman Pflug made a motion to approve 90% of base for the new Administrator, seconded by Councilman McGraw. Motion carried 7-0. Cheri Sweeney will contact the Health Board with regard to the decisions made at this meeting.

Sheriff Ballard – 5 Personnel Requests – He is asking Council's permission to fill existing positions for a Full Time Communication Officer, a Community Corrections Field Officer, two full time Corrections Officers, one full time Deputy Sheriff. Most of these new hires will come in at 90% of base. Employees are moving up and moving on. The new Policy with regard to three eight hour shifts per week for part time employees will affect Overtime, and it is difficult to find people to work. All department heads are required to come to the Council to approve all new hires to keep tabs on staffing. Councilman Ankenbrand asked if these were Sheriff Pension Plan positions, Sheriff Ballard responded that they are PERF positions. Councilman Pflug made a motion to approve filling all of these positions, seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carried 7-0.

Owensville Carnegie Library – Appoint Rose Nellis to Trustees – Angela Willis has resigned from Board to accept employment on the staff of the Library. Councilman McConnell made motion to accept Rose Nellis' appointment, seconded by Councilman Pflug. Motion carried 7-0.

Ft. Branch Additional Appropriation – Sabrina Frederick stated that Advertisement requirement has been met for the Appropriation of \$94,183. Councilman Wolfe asked why the Library was asking the County Council for this. She said that the Library presents budgets to the Council but the Council gives them a non-binding review. If they go over the amount that has been given to them by LIRK (Library Improvement Reserve Fund) then the Council has jurisdiction. The LIRK fund has money sitting in it but they don't ever budget it, until the time comes to spend it. Therefore that is why Ms. Frederick is before the Council to ask to spend the LIRK money. This fund is an additional appropriation for monies that have already been taxed per Councilman Wolfe. Capital Outlays will be used to build the Haubstadt Library and this has been approved by the State Tax Board. Councilman Pflug made motion to approve the Capital Outlay in the amount of \$94,183, seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carried 7-0.

Michael Stevenson – Surveyor's Office utilizes part time employees during the summer, this year six students from Vincennes University. He applied for and was approved by the "Earn Indiana Grant" which will reimburse the County up to 50% of the Summer Intern's salary this year. He is notifying the Council with regard to the Interns and the Grant approval and asking for their blessing. Councilman Pflug made a motion that the Council accepts the reimbursement, seconded by Councilman Wolfe. Motion carried 7-0.

Surveyor Stevenson researched the effect of the new part-time hours policy or 30 hours rule with regard to Summer Interns and it was determined that the policy does not affect the Interns due to the length of employment.

Budget Calendar for 2014 Budgets – was reviewed and agreed upon by the Council.

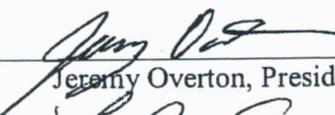
Commissioner Bledsoe requests Additional Appropriation in the amount of \$23,653.99 for completion of the VOIP System (Voice Over Internet Protocol which allows us fewer phone lines with better coverage, less expensive etc.) which will include Duke Energy, (cost to make their poles ready for Dark Fiber) \$6,188.81 and (rental fee for use of poles for 10 years) \$3,095.70 – Business Communication (additional costs incurred) \$3,548.08 and Nomad (additional equipment needed for Sheriff Dept.) \$10,821.40. After several minutes of discussion, Councilman Wolfe made a motion to take monies out of Riverboat Fund, seconded by Councilman Ankenbrand. Motion carried 7-0.

Hwy. Supt. Heldt has lost several employees in 2013, and he is down to thirty-two. He is asking for permission from the Council to hire three employees. He wants to replace three of the four positions, one bridge and two grader operators. The money is already in the budget, and the Positions are funded. Councilman Pflug made a motion to approve the hiring of three employees, two for Highway and one Bridge at 90% of base, seconded by Councilman Ankenbrand. Motion carried 7-0.

County Attorney McDonald speaking on behalf of the Commissioners said it appears to be a good time to bring it up. As witnessed in this meeting, you had several issues and I want you to consider in your Budgets, hiring an HR person. Today we have discussed time clocks, part time and full time employees, Sheriff transfers, employees leaving. We have a County Surveyor doing research on part time vs. full time, FMLA, and health care benefits. Then we are going to have a County Hwy. Superintendent pulled off the road conducting interviews and taking applications to hire three people. We have no consistency with your hiring practice in each office, so this is an ongoing problem and we have over 200 employees working for the County and we have no Human Resource person. The Council needs to budget, so we can have money in place to hire a part time, full time, or contract HR person or firm. This is an issue that faces us every day and you are asking these people to do your job for you. We need money in the Budget to hire someone that these people can talk to. President Overton stated that the request for a HR person should be placed in the Commissioners budget, if you put it in the budget, we will consider it.

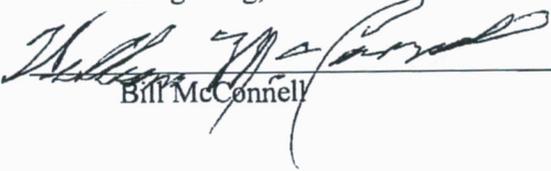
Prosecutor Rob Krieg – Pam Fetcher is replacing Wendi Pegram, and since this is an inter-county transfer, he is asking for approval to pay her wage, seniority and all benefits at 100%. Councilwoman Smith made the motion to approve 100% rate of pay, seconded by Councilman McGraw. Motion carried 7-0.

With no further business, Councilman Pflug made motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Smith. Motion carried 7-0.

  
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Jeremy Overton, President

  
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LeAnn Smith

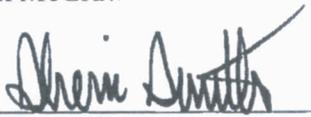
Craig Pflug, Vice-President

  
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Bill McConnell

  
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Tony Wolfe

  
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George Ankenbrand

  
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Derek McGraw

  
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Attest: Sherri Smith