

## COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MAY 13, 2024

The meeting was called to order by President, Pamela Burton.

### **A. Call the Meeting to Order**

#### 1. Roll Call

The following members were present: Ron Deer, John Myers, Jonathan T. Myers, John Mallers, John Ditmars and Melinda Griesemer.

#### 2. Invocation

Ms. Griesemer gave the invocation.

#### 3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

#### 4. Approval of the 5/13/2024 Agenda:

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#### 5. Public Comments (5 minute time limit)

Mr. Deer commented that on Election Day he fell ill and was taken to the hospital, but he is feeling better now.

### **B. Routine Matters – Consent Agenda**

*By a single motion, the Board approves the following items, which may include Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers. Any items listed on the consent agenda may be removed by a Council member and moved to the regular agenda.*

Mr. John Myers made a motion to approve the following requests as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### 1. *Approval of 3/11/24 Regular Meeting Minutes*

#### 2. *Approval of 4/9/24 Regular Meeting Minutes*

#### 3. VASIA 2024 (#9157)

(a) From: 9157.36102.00000.0132 Contractual Services	\$	(500.00)
To: 9157.44000.00000.0132 Office Equipment	\$	500.00

#### 4. 93.354 Crisis Co Ag School 21-22 (#8247)

(a) From: 8247.24100.00000.0210 Educ & Pub Info Materials	\$	(2,500.00)
To: 8247.42000.00000.0210 Operating Equipment	\$	2,500.00

#### 5. 21.027 Coronavirus – Asthma (#8260)

(a) From: 8260.21600.00000.0210 Operating Supplies	\$	(3,500.00)
To: 8260.35002.00000.0210 Advertising (new)	\$	3,500.00

#### 6. 93.268 Supplemental Immunization (#8955)

(a) From: 8955.24100.00000.0210 Educ & Pub Info Materials	\$	(7,239.10)
To: 8955.42000.00000.0210 Operating Equipment	\$	7,239.10

#### 7. Co-Operative Extension Service (#1001-0116)

(a) From: 1001.21500.00000.0116 Office Supplies	\$	(120.00)
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	<i>To: 1001.36000.00000.0116 Equipment Repair &amp; Maint</i>	\$	120.00
8.	<u>Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental [Comm Corr/Adult Proj Inc] (#4300-0209)</u>		
	(a) AA: 4300.31000.00000.0209 Professional Services	\$	3,000.00
9.	<u>Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental [Unified Probation] (#4300-0138)</u>		
	(a) AA: 4300.31000.00000.0138 Professional Services	\$	5,260.00
10.	<u>Phelps Charitable Fund (#4113)</u>		
	(a) AA: 4113.25100.00000.0128 Wearing Apparel	\$	667.37
	(b) AA: 4113.42000.00000.0128 Operating Equipment	\$	2,818.00
	(c) AA: 4113.42700.00000.0128 Capital Improvements	\$	2,768.07

**C. Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers:**

1. Title IV-D Juvenile Court (#1001-0137)

Shena Johnson, Court Administrator, was present to request an additional appropriation for their Professional Services line item.

Mr. Mallers asked if any of these expenses could be paid from the IV-D incentive monies.

Mrs. Johnson replied she wasn't sure, but would check on it.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(1a) AA: 1001.31000.00000.0137 Professional Services \$ 10,000.00

2. Circuit Court (#1001-0131)

Mrs. Johnson was also present to request an additional appropriation for Interpreter Services stating all of the courts have an increased need for these services. She also noted she has applied for an Interpreter grant to help offset the costs.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(2a) AA: 1001.31300.00000.0131 Interpreter Services \$ 30,000.00

3. Fleet (#1001-0144)

Bob Golinski, Fleet Director, was present to request an additional appropriation to lease 24 GPS units and 5 dash cameras for the fleet vehicles.

Discussion was held regarding the current procedures for the fleet vehicles and the added safety benefits of purchasing the dash cameras and additional GPS units. Brief discussion was also held regarding the urgency of the request and the impact of waiting until the 2025 budget cycle.

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 5-2; Mrs. Burton and Mr. Ditmars both voted nay.

(3a) AA: 1001.35001.00000.0144 Lease Payments/Agreements \$ 4,685.00



4. Statewide 911 (#1222)

Heath Brant, 911 Director, was present to request an additional appropriation for his Overtime line item. He noted at budget time, this line item was reduced by \$40,000 to cover the increases in the salaries (due to advertising). The additional amount requested is to help get him through the remainder of the year.

Brief discussion was held regarding the staffing and the possibility of transferring money later in the year to help cover these costs.

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(4a) AA: 1222.19900.00000.0911      Overtime      \$ 75,000.00

5. Information Technology/GIS (#1138-0141)

Jeff West, IT/GIS Director, was present to request an additional appropriation to purchase Office 365 to replace Office 2016 that is currently in use, which will no longer be supported after the end of the year.

Ms. Griesemer made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(5a) AA: 1138.32000.00000.0141      Dues & Subscriptions      \$ 28,800.00

6. Health Department (#1159)

Connie Wiegler, Office Manager, was present to request an additional appropriation to purchase appliances and any unforeseen furniture needs that were missed in the initial request for the new building. She noted they were going to be purchasing 2 or 3 fireproof cabinets to store their genealogy books; these cost about \$5,000 each.

Mr. Ditmars moved to approve the request as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(6a) AA: 1159.40100.00000.0210      Office Equipment/Furniture      \$ 25,000.00

7. Extradition (#1155)

8. 93.323 CDMCF Jail (#8267)

9. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental [Sheriff/Jail] (#4300-0124)

Damian Katt, Major with the Sheriff's Office, was present to request the following additional appropriations:

(7a) AA: 1155.20000.00000.0211      Claims      \$ 20,000.00

(8a) AA: 8267.44100.00000.0124      Misc Equipment      \$ 235,634.46

(9a) AA: 4300.44100.00000.0124      Misc Equipment      \$ 5,124.91

Mrs. Burton commented Sheriff Duane Burgess had sent an email earlier explaining these requests; additional monies are needed for extradition costs and appropriation of two grants.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers moved to approve all three requests as presented. Mr. John Myers seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

## **D. Other Business**

### **1. Hensley Fire Protection District – Discussion on Replacement of Fire Truck**

Jeff Peters, Financial Consultant for the Hensley Fire Protection District, was present along with several members of the Hensley Fire Protection District Board and the Hensley Fire Department to make the Council aware of their intent to borrow money in 2026 to replace one of their fire trucks. Mr. Peters stated due to the length of time it will take to get the fire truck built (about 42 months), they just wanted to make the Council aware this debt (of about \$1 million) will be repaid in 2027 from property taxes as a new debt service levy. He explained the debt service levy for the new fire truck will not overlap with the debt service levy of the fire station. The Hensley Fire Protection District Board intends to amortize the debt across a period which will approximately equal the current property tax; therefore, no property tax rate increase is expected. There is no action required from the Council at this time.

Andy Sichting, Assistant Deputy Fire Chief, stated the fire engine is a 2002 Pierce Fire Engine that is the first out response engine for the department. He added normally they replace the engines every 10 years; however, they attempted to repair the truck but due to rising costs, it was not be cost effective.

## **E. Old & New Business**

### **1. 2025 Budget Discussion**

Mrs. Burton began with a brief overview of the budget discussions held regarding raises and longevity pay so far. She then explained the discussion tonight is preliminary for longevity pay and will result in a special meeting for final decisions prior to their next regularly scheduled Council meeting. She noted Mr. Deer and Mr. Ditmars have been working with consultants to discuss options of longevity pay scales.

Mr. Deer presented 3 different options for longevity pay. Each Council member then gave their preliminary opinions on the proposals.

Mr. Deer stated he is supportive of longevity pay and leaned more towards option #3 (which is a hybrid of the other two options).

Mr. John Myers stated he is supportive of longevity pay, but would like to review the real numbers before moving forward.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers stated he is also supportive of longevity pay, but would like definitive numbers before moving forward.

Mrs. Burton stated she is in support of longevity pay to help with retention of experience, recognition of service, employee morale, enhanced productivity, and a competitive advantage and can be cost effective. She added she would like to see the financial impact before fully supporting approval of a longevity pay scale.

Mr. Mallers stated he is also supportive of longevity pay for the same reasons Mrs. Burton listed and would like to review the data as well.

Mr. Ditmars stated he has mixed emotions regarding longevity pay.

Ms. Griesemer stated she was also supportive of longevity pay and liked option #3.

Mr. John Myers suggested a flat rate of longevity pay per year of service.

Mr. Deer proposed a special meeting to have final discussions on longevity pay and employee salary increases for the 2025 budget on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00p.m.



The Council came to a consensus to have the special meeting on Monday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. as proposed.

Mrs. Burton opened the floor for questions.

Teresa Petro, Recorder, requested consideration of longevity pay to be paid from the general fund for departments that pay their salaries from perpetuation funds.

Mike Hoffman, Community Liaison for White River Township Fire Department, requested clarification of the Cost of Living Assessment (COLA) percentage versus the longevity pay percentage for employee raises.

Mrs. Burton explained there will be one flat percentage determined at the upcoming Special Meeting that will incorporate the COLA and any longevity pay if it is approved at that time.

**F. Adjournment** – *Next regular meeting June 19, 2024*

There being no further business, Mr. Mallers moved to adjourn. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

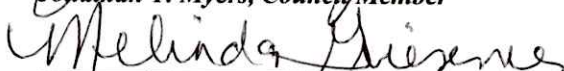
**May 13, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes**

  
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Pamela Burton, Council Member

  
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John Mallers, Council Member


  
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Ron Beer, Council Member

  
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Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member

  
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Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

  
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John Myers, Council Member

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John Ditmars, Council Member

Attest:  
  
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Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor