

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – DECEMBER 9, 2024

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

A. Call the Meeting to Order

1. Roll Call

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

2. Invocation

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of 12/9/24 Agenda

Mrs. Burton noted the following changes to the agenda:

- add item *C19 – Transfer request from Court Services for Fund #2101*
- table item *F3 – Discussion on EDIT Revenue Bonding.*

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

5. Public Comments (limited to 5 minutes per person)

Mr. Deer presented the Sheriff's Office with a ceramic sheriff. Andy Barnhart, Chief Sheriff Deputy, accepted this on behalf of Sheriff Duane Burgess.

There were no other public comments.

B. Appointments:

- Property Tax Assessment Board of Appeals (PTABOA)

Mike Watkins, Assessor, was present and explained this position requires some qualifications. He also requested the re-appointment of Donna Zelner to PTABOA, noting she has served on this board for several years and does a great job.

Mr. Deer moved to appoint Donna Zelner to PTABOA. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Rate of Compensation for 2025
 - *\$350.00 per day for each day for members with Certified Level 2 or Level 3 Assessor/Appraiser designation*
 - *\$100.00 per day for each day for members without Certified Level 2 or Level 3 Assessor/Appraiser designation*

Mr. Watkins was also present for this request, stating the rates did not change from the prior year.

Mr. Mallers moved to approve the rate of compensation for the PTABOA for 2025 as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Johnson County Redevelopment Commission

Lee Money was present to express his interest to continue on the Johnson County Redevelopment Commission. He gave a brief background on himself.

Amy Thompson, First Deputy Auditor, stated that Rob Henderson (also a current appointee) had applied for re-appointment to this board, but he was unable to attend the meeting.

Mr. Money conveyed Mr. Henderson has been an asset to this board, and he would highly encourage his re-appointment to this board.

Mr. Deer moved to re-appoint Rob Henderson and Lee Money to the Johnson County Redevelopment Commission. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Edinburgh Town Economic Development Commission

Mrs. Burton stated they did not receive any applications for this board and suggested it be tabled until their next meeting.

Mr. Bates made a motion to table this request until their next meeting. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Greenwood City Economic Development Commission

Mrs. Burton stated they did not receive any applications for this board either.

Mrs. Thompson voiced she had called the current appointee, Lauren Ashby, prior to the meeting and she is interested in being re-appointed to this board.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to re-appoint Lauren Ashby to the Greenwood City Economic Development Commission. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Local Alcohol Beverage Commission Board

David Mauer was present to express his interest in being re-appointed to this board. He gave a brief background on himself.

Mr. Ditmars moved to re-appoint David Mauer to the Local Alcohol Beverage Commission Board. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Board of Zoning Appeals

Mrs. Burton stated there were no applications for this position; however, Mr. Deer did express some interest in this position, or the alternate position.

Tiffany Costley, Assistant County Attorney, was present and stated to be eligible for this position, the applicant needs to live in the unincorporated area of Johnson County.

Mr. Deer stated he does not live in the unincorporated area.

After some brief discussion, Mr. Mallers made a motion to table this request until their next meeting. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

**note: toward the end of the Appointment portion of the agenda, William Hutson, approached Mrs. Thompson and stated he had submitted an application, applying for the Park Board, Zoning Appeals Board, and Redevelopment Commission. Mrs. Thompson stated she never received his application. The Council members, just learning of this application, decided to still table the appointment of the Zoning Appeals, which is the only board still available. Since he was present, Mr. Hutson introduced himself to the Council and gave a brief background on himself.*

- Board of Zoning Appeals – Alternate

Roger Meyer was present and expressed his interest in being re-appointed to this board. He gave a brief background on himself.

Mr. Bates moved to re-appoint Roger Meyer to the Alternate position on the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- County Park Board

Kevin Leonard, Park Superintendent, was present and stated that Penny Lee was recently appointed to their board, filling the position of a prior person who had passed away. He voiced he would recommend the re-appointment of Penny Lee to this board.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to re-appoint Penny Lee to the County Park Board. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- County Plan Commission (Council Member)

Mrs. Burton stated the current appointment for this is Jonathan T. Myers and then asked if he still was interested being on this board.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers responded yes.

Mr. Deer moved to appoint Jonathan T. Myers to the County Plan Commission. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- County Plan Commission Alternate (Council Member)

Mrs. Burton stated Mr. Deer is the current Council Member appointment to this board. She then asked if any council member was interested in serving on this board as the alternate. She suggested waiting until January to make this appointment since Ms. Griesemer is out and there will be a new Council member, unless someone present is interested.

Mr. Bates replied he would be interested.

Mr. Ditmars moved to appoint Mr. Bates to the Alternate position on the County Plan Commission. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Emergency Management Advisory Council (Council Member)

Mrs. Burton stated Mr. Deer is the current Council Member appointment to this board. She then asked if any council member was interested in serving on this board. Hearing no one speak up, she suggested tabling this request to see if either Ms. Griesemer or the new Council member would be interested in it.

Mr. Bates made a motion to table this request until their next meeting. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

- Solid Waste Management District (Council Member)

Mrs. Burton stated Mr. Ditmars is the current Council Member appointment to the Solid Waste Management District. She asked if he was still interested in being on this board.

Mr. Ditmars replied yes, unless someone else is interested.

Mr. Bates moved to appoint Mr. Ditmars to the Solid Waste Management District. Mr. Mallers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

C. 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. Mallers moved to approve the consent agenda as amended.

Mr. Deer asked Mrs. Costley about the ARPA money and wondered if everything had been appropriated and would be spent.

Mrs. Costley replied yes, everything should be spent. The Commissioners did not want to send any of the money back; she noted they passed a contract earlier in the day that basically said any remaining funds, up to \$250,000 would go to the Johnson County Community Foundation, which would benefit the community.

Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

1. *Approval of 2025 Budget Hearing Minutes (September 3rd, 5th, and 12th, 2024)*
2. *Approval of 11/12/24 Regular Meeting Minutes*
3. *Board of Commissioners (#1001-0122)*

<i>(a) From: 1001.14200.00000.0122 Fica-Social Security</i>	<i>\$ (45,000.00)</i>
<i>From: 1001.14300.00000.0122 PERF</i>	<i>\$ (85,000.00)</i>
<i>To: 1001.34200.00000.0122 Prof Liability & Casualty</i>	<i>\$ 130,000.00</i>
4. *21.027 American Rescue Plan (#8950)*

<i>(a) From: 8950.31000.00000.0122 Professional Services</i>	<i>\$ (535,000.00)</i>
<i>To: 8950.44000.00000.0122 Office Equipment (new)</i>	<i>\$ 125,000.00</i>
<i>To: 8950.31017.00000.0122 JC Fiber (new)</i>	<i>\$ 410,000.00</i>
5. *Auditor (#1157-0102)*

<i>(a) From: 1157.11387.00000.0102 Deputy Auditor</i>	<i>\$ (3,000.00)</i>
<i>To: 1157.21500.00000.0102 Office Supplies</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>
6. *Clerk (#1001-0101)*

<i>(a) From: 1001.21500.00000.0101 Office Supplies</i>	<i>\$ (480.00)</i>
<i>From: 1001.25800.00000.0101 Books</i>	<i>\$ (1,000.00)</i>
<i>From: 1001.31000.00000.0101 Professional Services</i>	<i>\$ (600.00)</i>
<i>From: 1001.31200.00000.0101 Printing</i>	<i>\$ (2,800.00)</i>
<i>From: 1001.36000.00000.0101 Equipment Repair & Maint</i>	<i>\$ (1,500.00)</i>
<i>To: 1001.44000.00000.0101 Office Equipment</i>	<i>\$ 6,380.00</i>
7. *Problem Solving Court Juv 2024 (#9189)*

<i>(a) From: 9189.21003.00000.0137 Participant Incentives</i>	<i>\$ (945.43)</i>
<i>From: 9189.21500.00000.0137 Office Supplies</i>	<i>\$ (71.88)</i>
<i>From: 9189.25801.00000.0137 Food</i>	<i>\$ (1,982.69)</i>
<i>To: 9189.31500.00000.0137 Travel & Training (new)</i>	<i>\$ 3,000.00</i>
8. *Reentry Court (#9190)*

<i>(a) From: 9190.31000.00000.0133 Professional Services</i>	<i>\$ (5,000.00)</i>
<i>To: 9190.31500.00000.0133 Travel & Training (new)</i>	<i>\$ 5,000.00</i>
9. *Veterans Court 2024 (#9192)*

<i>(a) From: 9192.21003.00000.0134 Participant Incentives</i>	<i>\$ (1,407.34)</i>
<i>To: 9192.31000.00000.0134 Professional Services (new)</i>	<i>\$ 1,407.34</i>

<u>10. Veterans Court 2024 New (#9193)</u>		
(a) From: 9193.31500.00000.0134	Travel & Training	\$ (3,982.69)
To: 9193.21003.00000.0134	Participant Incentives	\$ 1,500.00
To: 9193.21500.00000.0134	Office Supplies (new)	\$ 500.00
To: 9193.25801.00000.0134	Food (new)	\$ 1,982.69
<u>11. Drug Court Adult 2024 (#9194)</u>		
(a) From: 9194.31500.00000.0131	Travel & Training	\$ (6,000.00)
To: 9194.21003.00000.0131	Participant Incentives (new)	\$ 3,500.00
To: 9194.30035.00000.0131	Participant Services (new)	\$ 2,500.00
<u>12. Mental Health Court 2024 (#9195)</u>		
(a) From: 9195.11400.00000.0138	Part Time	\$ (16,902.00)
To: 9195.21003.00000.0138	Participant Incentives (new)	\$ 3,500.00
To: 9195.30035.00000.0138	Participant Services	\$ 6,402.00
To: 9195.31000.00000.0138	Professional Services	\$ 7,000.00
(b) From: 9195.14200.00000.0138	Fica-Social Security	\$ (1,598.00)
To: 9195.31500.00000.0138	Travel & Training	\$ 1,598.00
<u>13. Local Health Maintenance (#1168)</u>		
(a) AA: 1168.11400.00000.0214	Part Time	\$ 5,000.00
(b) AA: 1168.14200.00000.0214	Fica-Social Security	\$ 383.00
<u>14. VASIA Guardianship Fees (#4203)</u>		
(a) AA: 4203.35002.0000.0454	Advertising	\$ 3,000.00
<u>15. Veterans Court 2025 (#9199)</u>		
(a) AA: 9199.21003.00000.0134	Participant Incentives	\$ 3,000.00
(b) AA: 9199.21600.00000.0134	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
(c) AA: 9199.30035.00000.0134	Participant Services	\$ 3,000.00
(d) AA: 9199.31000.00000.0134	Professional Services	\$ 1,000.00
(e) AA: 9199.31500.00000.0134	Travel & Training	\$ 5,000.00
<u>16. Reentry Court 2025 (#9198)</u>		
(a) AA: 9198.21003.00000.0133	Participant Incentives	\$ 3,000.00
(b) AA: 9198.21600.00000.0133	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
(c) AA: 9198.30035.00000.0133	Participant Services	\$ 3,000.00
(d) AA: 9198.31000.00000.0133	Professional Services	\$ 1,000.00
(e) AA: 9198.31500.00000.0133	Travel & Training	\$ 5,000.00
<u>17. Problem Solving Court Juv 2025 (#9197)</u>		
(a) AA: 9197.21003.00000.0137	Participant Incentives	\$ 1,000.00
(b) AA: 9197.21600.00000.0137	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
(c) AA: 9197.30035.00000.0137	Participant Services	\$ 3,000.00
(d) AA: 9197.31000.00000.0137	Professional Services	\$ 500.00
(e) AA: 9197.31500.00000.0137	Travel & Training	\$ 5,000.00
<u>18. Drug Court Adult 2025 (#9200)</u>		
(a) AA: 9200.21003.00000.0131	Participant Incentives	\$ 3,000.00
(b) AA: 9200.21600.00000.0131	Operating Supplies	\$ 5,000.00
(c) AA: 9200.30035.00000.0131	Participant Services	\$ 3,000.00
(d) AA: 9200.31000.00000.0131	Professional Services	\$ 1,000.00

(e) AA: 9200.31500.00000.0131 Travel & Training \$ 5,000.00

19. Supplemental Adult Prob Services (#2101)

(a) From: 2101.11400.00000.0297 Part Time \$ (1,000.00)

To: 2101.19900.00000.0297 Overtime (new) \$ 1,000.00

D. Salary Ordinance Amendments, Additional Appropriations, Reductions, and Transfers:

1. Emp Gr Self-Fund Health Ins (#4702)

Kevin Walls, Commissioner, was present to request an additional appropriation for employee group health insurance to get through the remainder of the year, noting people usually wait until the end of the year to get medical procedures done.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(1a) AA: 4702.14400.00000.0122 Emp Group Health Insurance \$ 790,000.00

2. Board of Commissioners (#1233-0122)

Secondly, Mr. Walls was present for this request for an additional appropriation. He explained this money would be spent on the construction of the new Community Corrections and Probation building. He added the initial request was around \$10,000,000; however, due to good results from the bids, they are only requesting \$7,500,000.

Mr. Jonathan T. Myers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(2a) AA: 1233.31000.00000.0122 Professional Services \$7,500,000.00

3. Courthouse Maintenance (#1001-0123)

Lastly, Mr. Walls was present to request an additional appropriation to pay for utilities for the remainder of the year. He noted they had picked up payment for the new Health/Coroner building this year.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(3a) AA: 1001.32400.00000.0123 Utilities \$ 15,000.00

Mr. Walls also expressed his appreciation for Mr. Deer's service with the County.

4. Fleet (#1001-0144) [retro to 1/25/24 pay date]

Bob Golinski, Fleet Director, was present and explained an error was made when calculating the part-time rate for his Mechanic position. At budget time, he requested an increase in this line item's appropriation but forgot to change the hourly rate. He is not requesting any additional funds. Mr. Golinski then stated, after looking at this error, he discovered he did the same thing for the 2025 budget and will be putting in a similar request for the January 2025 council meeting.

Mrs. Burton stated she had a phone conversation with Mr. Golinski regarding this matter and also followed up with the Auditor's office. Unfortunately, this happens sometimes. Her suggestion was to come before the Council to validate his intent. She also noted there are procedures in place to help prevent this kind of error from happening again.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(4a) 1001.11400.00000.0144 – Part Time (Mechanic) – request to increase hourly rate from \$22.00 to \$22.47

Mrs. Thompson asked for clarification on whether his request for January could be put on the consent agenda.

Mrs. Burton replied it was fine to put this request on January's consent agenda.

5. 93.069 Base BP1 2024-2025 (#8199)

6. 93.069 CRI BP1 2024-2025 (#8200)

Betsy Swearingen, Director of Health, was present via zoom. She explained these are annual grants (runs from July 1st to – June 30th), and each January she appears before the Council to request rate changes, noting when they get salary increases on their regular wages, it affects the rate in the grant.

Mrs. Burton asked if the actual wage is stipulated in the grant.

Mrs. Swearingen replied no, it is based on the salary of the Preparedness Coordinator (which is Mrs. Swearingen), and what she makes in her regular position.

Mrs. Burton then asked if it was within the budget of the grant.

Mrs. Swearingen replied yes; it meets the criteria of the grant.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(5a) 8199.19999.00000.0210 – H1N1/Base/CRI Hourly Wages – request to increase hourly rate from \$43.268 to \$45.432

(6a) 8200.19999.00000.0210 – H1N1/Base/CRI Hourly Wages – request to increase hourly rate from \$43.268 to \$45.432

7. Immunization Grant (#8268)

Mrs. Swearingen was also present for this request. She is requesting a transfer of funds to increase the grant's hourly rate and transfers to support this change.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(7a) From: 8268.19900.00000.0210 Overtime \$ (10,840.00)

To: 8268.19998.00000.0210 Grant Hourly Wages \$ 9,120.00

To: 8268.14200.00000.0210 Fica-Social Security \$ 698.00

To: 8268.14300.00000.0210 PERF \$ 1,022.00

(7b) 8268.19998.00000.0210 - Grant Hourly Wages – approval of an hourly rate of \$37.140 retro to 8/28/24; approval to increase it to \$38.996 effective 12/26/24

8. 16.710 COPS Crisis Intervention (#8956)

Steve Kermode, Assistant Director at Community Corrections, was present to request the appropriation of this grant for 2025. This grant was awarded to support the CIT team.

Mr. Deer wanted to recognize how successful the CIT has been in our community.

Mr. Deer then made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(8a) AA: 8956.16921.00000.0138 Program Therapist \$ 84,300.00

(8b) 8956.16921.00000.0138 – Program Therapist – annual salary of \$84,300.00; max bi-weekly pay of \$3,242.31		
(8c) AA: 8956.14200.00000.0138	Fica-Social Security	\$ 6,488.00
(8d) AA: 8956.14300.00000.0138	PERF	\$ 9,498.00
(8e) AA: 8956.14400.00000.0138	Emp Group Health Insurance	\$ 14,500.00
(8f) AA: 8956.19900.00000.0138	Overtime	\$ 500.00
(8g) AA: 8956.21500.00000.0138	Office Supplies	\$ 1,701.00
(8h) AA: 8956.31500.00000.0138	Travel & Training	\$ 11,920.00

9. Comm Corr Adult Grant 2025 (#9142)

Mr. Kermod was also present to appropriate the 2025 Community Corrections Adult Grant.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(9a) AA: 9142.11431.00000.0208	Field Officer (1)	\$ 60,500.00
(9b) 9142.11431.00000.0208 – Field Officer (1) – Annual salary of \$60,500; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,326.92		
(9c) AA: 9142.11434.00000.0208	Field Officer (2)	\$ 65,500.00
(9d) 9142.11434.00000.0208 – Field Officer (2) – Annual salary of \$65,500; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,519.23		
(9e) AA: 9142.11502.00000.0208	Field Officer (3)	\$ 60,500.00
(9f) 9142.11502.00000.0208 – Field Officer (3) – Annual salary of \$60,500; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,326.92		
(9g) AA: 9142.11755.00000.0208	Case Manager (2)	\$ 52,215.00
(9h) 9142.11755.00000.0208 – Case Manager (2) – Annual salary of \$52,215; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27		
(9i) AA: 9142.11756.00000.0208	Case Manager (3)	\$ 52,215.00
(9k) 9142.11756.00000.0208 – Case Manager (3) – Annual salary of \$52,215; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27		
(9l) AA: 9142.11757.00000.0208	Case Manager (4)	\$ 52,215.00
(9m) 9142.11757.00000.0208 – Case Manager (4) – Annual salary of \$52,215; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27		
(9n) AA: 9142.11764.00000.0208	Case Manager (5)	\$ 52,215.00
(9o) 9142.11764.00000.0208 – Case Manager (5) – Annual salary of \$52,215; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27		
(9p) AA: 9142.11766.00000.0208	Case Manager (6)	\$ 52,215.00
(9q) 9142.11766.00000.0208 – Case Manager (6) – Annual salary of \$52,215; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27		
(9r) AA: 9142.11767.00000.0208	Case Manager (7)	\$ 52,215.00
(9s) 9142.11767.00000.0208 – Case Manager (7) – Annual salary of \$52,215; max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27		
(9t) AA: 9142.14200.00000.0208	Fica-Social Security	\$ 41,677.00
(9u) AA: 9142.14300.00000.0208	PERF	\$ 61,017.00
(9v) AA: 9142.14400.00000.0208	Emp Group Health Insurance	\$ 130,500.00
(9w) AA: 9142.19900.00000.0208	Overtime	\$ 45,000.00
(9x) AA: 9142.31000.00000.0208	Professional Services	\$ 7,580.00

*note: the initial numbering was off on the original agenda; it went from (9a) to (9d), skipping (9b) & (9c)

10. Mental Health Court (#9201)

Mr. Kermod was also present for this request; however, he was just filling in and didn't have a copy of the request letter in front of him.

Mrs. Burton stated the letter indicated this is an IOCS Grant and it runs from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Mr. Kermod stated that was correct and noted this request has part time, which is why it was added to the regular agenda and not on the consent agenda.

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

(10a) AA: 9201.21003.00000.0138	Participant Incentives	\$	3,000.00
(10b) AA: 9201.21600.00000.0138	Operating Supplies	\$	5,000.00
(10c) AA: 9201.30035.00000.0138	Participant Services	\$	3,000.00
(10d) AA: 9201.31000.00000.0138	Professional Services	\$	1,000.00
(10e) AA: 9201.31500.00000.0138	Travel & Training	\$	5,000.00
(10f) AA: 9201.11400.00000.0138	Part Time	\$	31,399.00
(10g) 9201.11400.00000.0138 – Part Time – approval of an hourly rate up to \$20.00			
(10h) AA: 9201.14200.00000.0138	Fica-Social Security	\$	2,601.00

E. Other Business

1. Approval of Resolution 2024-08: A Resolution Transferring Unspent Ordinance Violation Fine Fund (#4201) to the Animal Control Deferral Program Fund (#2516)
2. Approval of Ordinance 2024-13: An Ordinance for the Appropriations of Ordinance Violation Fine Fund (#4201)

Mrs. Costley was present and explained the history on this and how Resolution 2024-08 will “clean up” the money that was deposited into fund #4201, Animal Control Deferral Program Fund over the last several years. She then explained that Ordinance 2024-13 will clarify how these fees collected can be spent going forward.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

3. Approval of Ordinance 2024-14: An Ordinance Regarding an Additional Appropriation by White River Township Fire Protection District [Fund #8603 – Special Fire General Fund (Capital Equipment) \$2,500,000.00]

Jeremy Pell, White River Township Fire Protection District Chief, was present to request an additional appropriation to purchase a replacement Ladder Truck. Also present was Ben Roeger, Financial Consultant for the district. Mr. Pell explained they have a vehicle rotation schedule they use. According to the Indiana Code, they have to have funding and an appropriation before they can enter into a contract. They are trying to plan ahead since it takes about 3-4 years for a truck to be built. If they can enter into a contract now, they will get it at a lower cost, and it will be ready for when it hits the rotation schedule.

Mr. Roeger explained the district will encumber these funds once they have everything to enter into a contract. They will continue to encumber these funds until the truck is completed.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Deer seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

F. Old & New Business

1. Approval of Agreement for Consulting Services with Michael A. Reuter

Mrs. Burton stated this is the annual agreement with Mike Reuter, noting it has a modest fee increase.

Mr. Ditmars made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mr. Jonathan T. Myers seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

2. Recorder (#1189)

Teresa Petro, Recorder, was present to request the following title changes:

1189.11201.00000.0277 – First Deputy – change title to “Chief Deputy”

1189.13402.00000.0277 – Deputy Recorder – change title to “Deputy Recorder Rejections”

1189.13403.00000.0277 – Deputy Recorder – change title to “Deputy Recorder Property Fraud/Record Retention”

1189.13404.00000.0277 – Deputy Recorder – change title to “Deputy Recorder Honor Rewards”

She has updated the job descriptions, which have been sent to Waggoner, Irwin, and Scheele (WIS) to review for the upcoming job salary study.

Mrs. Costley added she had worked with Ms. Petro on cleaning up her staff's job descriptions, defining more specific rolls for each employee.

Mrs. Burton commented at their meeting last month, the title changes requested were based on a mistake and they couldn't wait until budget time to get resolved. She asked if this request was due to another mistake, needing to be done now instead of waiting until budget time.

Mrs. Costley replied this is not a mistake. Ms. Petro is requesting her staff's job descriptions and titles be reviewed and corrected for the upcoming 2026 salary study by WIS.

Brief discussion was held on the process for title changes and potential salary adjustments.

Ms. Petro stated she was not asking for any salary changes at this time (for 2025); everything is for the budget year 2026.

Mr. Deer asked Mrs. Costley to give an update on where they were with WIS regarding the salary study.

Mrs. Costley replied, she and Mr. Mallers met with Addie Rooker, from WIS, and they have a plan of action with a timeline. She explained each month, she would like to update the Council on this project. They started this process in December and are in the preliminary stages. She stated they discussed expectations and county/city unit comparisons.

Mrs. Burton thanked Mrs. Costley for her update. She then asked for a motion on Ms. Petro's request.

Mr. Bates made a motion to approve the title requests as presented. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

3. Discussion of EDIT Revenue Bonding

This item was tabled.

4. Discussion on Outside Counsel for Council in 2025

Mrs. Burton conveyed last month she asked the Council members to look at outside counsel for the Council. She did some research and reached out to several other counties, which she forwarded her findings to the other council members. Most counties do have legal representation for the Council; some have more than one. Most of them pay a flat fee for the year, which includes a small scope of services. Anything above or beyond that amount would be negotiated. She also reached out to about five local attorneys; however, none of them were interested because they felt like it would be a conflict of interest with the Commissioners. She personally, doesn't want to hire someone outside of the county, but is unsure what the next steps should be. She then asked Mrs. Costley for her thoughts.

Mrs. Costley stated she had some ideas and would work with the Council members going forward. Brief discussion was held regarding this matter among the council members.

Since this was Mr. Deer's last Council meeting, he wanted to share some of his history, including where he grew up, went to school, and where he worked. He prides himself on being a Statesman, not a Politician. A Politician tells you what you want to hear; a Statesman tells you what you need to hear. At this point in time, he believes he is the longest serving Elected Official, having served 28 years; however, Ron West will surpass him over his next four years. He also wanted to thank several people; his first being Jonathan T. Myers (his friend of over 30 years and also his colleague), he also wanted to thank all of the attorneys that have assisted him with his numerous questions

over the past four years. A special thanks to Amy Thompson for putting up with countless upon countless calls of me asking questions of her. He also wanted to thank his wife Judy (whom he married four years ago) for putting up with all of the time he spent working on Council stuff. Lastly, he said he is unsure what his future holds, but he still wants to be involved and help out the citizens in the county.

Mrs. Burton then, on behalf of the Council, wanted to recognize and honor Mr. Deer's years of dedicated service, including his leadership, commitment, tireless efforts, and his passion for the County.

G. Adjournment – *Next regular meeting January 13, 2025*

There being no further business, Mr. Bates moved to adjourn. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried 6-0.

December 9, 2024 – Regular Meeting Minutes



Pamela Burton, Council President



John Mellers, Council Vice-President



Michele Ann Graves, Council Member



Ron Bates, Council Member



Jonathan T. Myers, Council Member



John Ditmars, Council Member



Melinda Griesemer, Council Member

Attest:


Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor