

COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING – MARCH 10, 2025

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: Melinda Griesemer, John Mallers, Michele Ann Graves, John Ditmars, and Ron Bates. Jonathan T. Myers was absent.

2. Invocation

Mrs. Burton gave the invocation.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Burton led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Approval of 3/10/25 Agenda

Mrs. Burton noted the following changes to the agenda:

- *Add item B14: transfer request from Highway Department for fund #9168*
- *On item B12, the amount requested should only be \$1,500.00 instead of \$21,500.00*
- *Add item E2: Council member appointment to the Opioid Advisory Board*
- *Add item E3: Discussion of Council liaison list relating to two departments*

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

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

Ms. Griesemer commented she feels it is in the best interest of the County Council to retain independent outside counsel for numerous reasons; some of which have prompted her immediate concern. She stated they are all independently and collectively whistleblowers. If they discover something isn't right, they are obligated to act quickly and swiftly. She feels like there are other departments or boards within the County that are not acting quickly or swiftly in the best interest of the taxpayers. She is limited in her role on the Council as to what she can do; therefore, she feels it is in her best interest, the County Council's best interest, and the Johnson County taxpayers' best interest if they retain independent counsel. She would like to make a move for the Council to hire independent counsel for representation on these matters.

Mrs. Burton gave a brief recap of prior discussions regarding retaining outside counsel. She then stated she would figure out the details on how to get this advertised and the application process.

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. Mallers made a motion to approve the following requests as amended. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

1. *Approval of 1/13/25 Council Minutes*
2. *Approval of 2/10/25 Council Minutes*
3. *Approval of 2/10/25 Council Minutes: Executive Session*

4. Grants Awarded/Non-Governmental (#4300-0209) Comm Corr Adult
 (a) From: 4300.31000.00000.0209 Professional Services \$ (569.69)
 To: 4300.21600.00000.0209 Operating Supplies \$ 569.69
5. Problem Solving Court Juv 2025 (#9197) Court Services
 (a) From: 9197.21600.00000.0137 Operating Supplies \$ (2,500.00)
 To: 9197.31000.00000.0137 Professional Services \$ 2,500.00
6. Reentry Court 2025 (#9198) Court Services
 (a) From: 9198.21600.00000.0133 Operating Supplies \$ (2,000.00)
 To: 9198.31000.00000.0133 Professional Services \$ 2,000.00
7. Veterans Court 2025 (#9199) Court Services
 (a) From: 9199.21600.00000.0134 Operating Supplies \$ (2,000.00)
 To: 9199.31000.00000.0134 Professional Services \$ 2,000.00
8. Drug Court Adult 2025 (#9200) Court Services
 (a) From: 9200.21600.00000.0131 Operating Supplies \$ (2,000.00)
 To: 9200.31000.00000.0131 Professional Services \$ 2,000.00
9. Mental Health Court 2025 (#9201) Court Services
 (a) From: 9201.21600.00000.0138 Operating Supplies \$ (2,000.00)
 To: 9201.31000.00000.0138 Professional Services \$ 2,000.00
10. Health (#1159) Health
 (a) AA: 1159.36001.00000.0210 Building Repair & Maint \$ 5,960.00
11. Phelps Charitable Fund (#4113) Park
 (a) AA: 4113.42700.00000.0128 Capital Improvements \$ 1,435.97
12. GAL/CASA (#1213) CASA
 (a) AA: 1213.31000.00000.0274 Professional Services \$ ~~21,500.00~~ 1,500.00
13. LIT Correctional/Rehab Facilities (#1233-0122) Commissioners *note: reappropriation from December 2024 meeting*
 (a) AA: 1233.31000.00000.0122 Professional Services \$ 7,500,000.00
14. Community Crossing Grant 23-24 (#9168) **added at meeting**
 (a) From: 9168.46001.00000.0201 Asphalt/Concrete/Aggregates \$ (1,785.25)
 To: 9168.30060.00000.0201 Grant Adjustments \$ 1,785.25

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

1. Adult Probation Adm Fees (#2001) Unified Probation
2. County Alcohol & Drug (#2502) Unified Probation

Steve Kermode, Adult Community Corrections Assistant Director, was present to request approval of the following two line items to pay for health insurance for two employees. He explained this normally would have been paid for from the DOC Grant; however, it didn't get budgeted due to a new process with the grant, and therefore they are requesting to pay it from two of their fee funds.

Mrs. Graves made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

(1a) AA: 2001.14400.00000.0282 *Emp Group Health Insurance* \$ 11,000.00

(2a) AA: 2502.14400.00000.0332 *Emp Group Health Insurance* \$ 14,000.00

3. 93.788 SIM Grant 2024 (#8264) Unified Probation

Mr. Kermode was also present for this request. He explained typically once a grant period has ended, if there is money left it gets sent back to the State. The State notified them they have extended the grant period until September 30, 2025; therefore, they can spend the remaining money instead of sending it back.

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

(3a) AA: 8264.16940.00000.0138 *Jail Navigator* \$ 2,435.85

(3b) 8264.16940.00000.0138 – *Jail Navigator* – annual salary of \$52,215 {max bi-weekly pay of \$2,008.27}

(3c) AA: 8264.14200.00000.0138 *Fica-Social Security* \$ 333.94

(3d) AA: 8264.14300.00000.0138 *PERF* \$ 488.12

(3e) AA: 8264.19900.00000.0138 *Overtime* \$ 445.56

4. Mental Health Court (#9195) Unified Probation

Lastly, Mr. Kermode was present for this request. He explained there was a claim submitted and paid in error in 2024 from a 2023 grant. Since this was not corrected by the end of 2024, there is a different process needed to fix this bookkeeping error.

Mrs. Burton suggested more controls be put in place so that these types of issues don't occur going forward.

Mr. Kermode replied he completely understands.

Mr. Ditmars added these grants can get pretty convoluted and inquired what type of control points are being put in place to get ahead of these types of issues.

Mr. Kermode responded he has created an internal reconciliation process to hopefully eliminate all of these issues moving forward, noting it just started in 2025.

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

(4a) From: 9195.31000.00000.0138 *Professional Services* \$ (513.76)

To: 9195.30060.00000.0138 *Grant Adjustments* \$ 513.76

5. Drug Free Community (#1148)

Michelle McMahon, Director of Drug Free Community, was present via zoom to request appropriations to pay out all of the approved grant applicants so they can utilize these funds in their program.

Mr. Bates inquired why each category had the same amount appropriated.

Mrs. McMahon answered by statute they have to spend 75% of their available funding and they have to spend at least 25% in each category. Unfortunately, they had less funding available this year and it just worked out each category got the same amount.

Mrs. Graves made a motion to approve the requests as presented. Mr. Bates seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

(5a) AA: 1148.31005.00000.0331 *Treatment/Intervention* \$ 27,377.83

(5b) AA: 1148.32005.00000.0331	Prevention/Education	\$	27,377.83
(5c) AA: 1148.33005.00000.0331	Justice/Law Enforcement	\$	27,377.83

D. Other Business

There was no other business discussed.

E. Old & New Business

1. Health Department – Request to Increase Amount in Petty Cash

Betsy Swearingen, Director, was present to request an increase in their petty cash. She explained they are requesting to change their petty cash process to be more in line with what SBOA wants. Currently, they have one cash bag but would like to have each of their employees who sit up front and handle money to have their own cash bag. She expressed they feel like this would be a better accounting process for their department when they make change for people who want birth and death certificates, immunizations, etc.

Ms. Griesemer asked if this has been discussed with Dr. Qualls, County Health Officer.

Mrs. Swearingen replied yes.

Ms. Griesemer then asked if this has been discussed with the Johnson County Board of Health.

Mrs. Swearingen stated the request to be on the Council's agenda was prior to the meeting with the Board of Health.

Ms. Griesemer suggested Mrs. Swearingen consult with all of her resources before requesting changes to county policies.

Brief discussion was held regarding the current policy of the cash bag and how it would change with the additional bags, as well as why is this request being made at this time after all of these years. As the discussion ensued, it was decided the request was for a "cash change fund (drawer)", not "petty cash" (the wrong terminology was used on the request letter).

Mr. Mallers made a motion to approve the request to increase the amount in the cash drawers. Mr. Ditmars seconded the motion, which carried four to two: Ms. Griesemer and Mrs. Graves both voted nay.

2. Council Member Appointment to the Opioid Advisory Board

Mrs. Burton noted Ms. Griesemer notified her she is no longer available to serve on this board. She then asked for additional information regarding the requirements of serving on this board.

Tiffany Costly, County Attorney, replied there would only be two to three meetings each year.

Mrs. Burton asked if anyone had an interest in serving on this advisory board. Hearing none, and with Mr. Myers being absent, Mrs. Burton stated she would take this appointment but would follow up with Mr. Myers in case he has an interest in it.

3. Discussion on Council Liaison List

Mrs. Burton voiced each Council member is assigned as a liaison to each department, in an effort to be helpful with departments presenting requests to the Council. This does not mean that at any time any Council member(s) can reach out to any department or any department can reach out to any Council member(s). However, Ms. Griesemer has asked to be relieved as the liaison to the departments of Health and Coroner and suggested these two departments be assigned to different Council members. At this time, no action needs to be taken. In the meantime, these two departments can reach out to any of the Council members if they have a need for a liaison. It was decided this would be addressed at the next council meeting.

F. Adjournment – Next regular meeting April 14, 2025

There being no further business, Mr. Mallers moved to adjourn. Mrs. Graves seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

March 10, 2025 – Regular Meeting Minutes


Pamela Burton, Council President


Michele Ann Graves, Council Vice-President


Jonathon T. Myers, Council Member


Melinda Griesemer, Council Member


John Mallers, Council Member


John Ditmars, Council Member


Ron Bates, Council Member

Attest:

Elizabeth A. Alvey, Johnson County Auditor