

**MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
February 12, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Dale White, Denise Crowder, Jim McKee and Jeff Fishero. Kelly Carlson was on Zoom.

Baker Tilly – Jason Semler

Jason Semler handed out the Comprehensive Financial Plan for Fountain County from 2021 to 2027 (dated February 12, 2024) as compiled by Baker Tilly. He went over it with the council page by page. He stated that our property taxes are low. They have not increased accordingly from year to year. A good tax base is important. He made suggestions on the funds that are included in the tax rate along with several other funds. A LIT rate for EMS & Public Safety was discussed with other options. Fountain County is 32 (tied with 3 other counties) in the State for the same percentage of LIT. He went over the Illustrative Project Costs and Funds for the proposed renovation of the Annex and gave a couple of scenarios on the funding of the project with the Council. Money received from the economic development payment (solar project) is not included in the report.

Public Comment

Dawn Songer asked about a provision for airports in the Comprehensive Plan. It was suggested that she get with Jim McKee who sits on the Area Plan Commission Board.
Kristin Hayman, Veedersburg Town Clerk was in attendance along with Wayne DeLong of Geenex Solar.

MINUTES

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the minutes of the January 8, 2024 meeting as presented.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruea Y
Vote 7-0

Report of Collections – as submitted

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Denise Crowder to acknowledge the Report of Collections for the Health Department and Recorder for the month of Dec 2023 along with the report of collections for the Ambulance, Clerk, Health Department, Recorder and Sheriff for January 2024.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruea Y
Vote 7-0

Review and Acknowledge Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation & Monthly Comparison Report

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jeff Fishero to acknowledge the Treasurer’s Bank Reconciliation for December 2023 and January 2024 along with the Monthly Fund Comparison Report.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruea Y
Vote 7-0

Review & Acknowledge Clerk's Monthly Report for December, 2023.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim McKee to acknowledge the Clerk's Monthly Report for December, 2023.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote 7-0

COMMISSARY REPORT December 2023

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Commissary Report for July 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023. The balance is \$101,511.52.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote 7-0

Additional Appropriation

Hearing Opened at 10:18 a.m.

Public Comment: Carol Owens asked if Warren County will be paying 50% of the equipment costs. Dana Stonebraker will be contacting Warren County on this matter.

Hearing Closed at 10:19 a.m.

Resolution 2024-1

County General – Radio Dispatch

1000-0303-41101 Equipment \$22,000
1000-0303-43100 Computer Software \$202,000

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Denise Crowder to approve the above additional in the amount of \$224,000.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote: 7-0

ENCUMBRANCES

1000-0062-33130 \$20,446.00 Contractual Services

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Kelly Carlson to approve the above encumbrance.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote 7-0

TRANSFERS

From: 1000-0001-33800 Training & Education
To: 1000-0001-33900 Dues & Subscriptions \$10.00

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the transfer in the amount of \$10.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote 7-0

REESTABLISHMENT OF CUMULATIVE FUNDS

The Current rates are as follows for 2024:

- Cum Bridge - .100
- Cum Voting Machine - .0050
- CCD - .0333

Council needs to decide to keep rates as is or to raise them. The main fund in question is the Cum Voting Machine. The maximum rate for this fund is .0167.

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A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Denise Crowder to leave the Cumulative Funds rates the same for 2025 as stated above for 2024.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Crucea Y

Vote 7-0

Sheriff Retirement

There was discussion on the shortfall in the Sheriff's Retirement fund of \$28,590. We also received a Fee Statement in the amount of \$12,211.00 from McCready & Keene Inc. for the administrative services including the Actuarial Valuation as of January 2024. Colleen asked if we should ask for an additional to pay for the extra expenses or pay from another line item. There is not enough money in the Sheriff Pension Trust to cover their portion of the retirement and the fee statement. No decision was made.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Health Dept – Jenny Eads

She told the Council that the county must opt in by June 1, 2024 on the Governor's Health Funding or stay as we are. It is an additional \$310,000 for 2025. Dr. Weaver of the IDOH will be at the county on April 19, 2024 at 2:15 in the Commissioner's Room to meet and greet the County officials. The Health Department is waiting on the vouchers from St. Franciscan for the preventive services that is being made available to county residents.

EMA – Tina Holmes

She is currently working on grants. One of those being the salary reimbursement.

Sheriff – Terry Holt

He currently has 65 inmates. Thirty-one are out of county and the remaining 34 are Fountain County inmates.

E-911

The E-911 Board recommended to the Council that the Director be given a 5% pay increase. The annual salary will now be \$59,610.60. They compared her salary to the surrounding counties. She does dispatch for two counties. No salary increase will be given to the Deputy Director at this time.

A motion was made by Jeff Fishero and seconded by Tom Booe to increase the E-911 Director's pay by 5% for the remaining of 2024.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Crucea Y

Vote 7-0

EMA

The EMA board recommended to increase the director's pay to \$48,741.60 for the remaining of 2024. The Director will receive comp time for any time over 40 hours worked. They have money in the part time line item that was budgeted for 2024 to cover the additional salary. They did ask that if the duties increased that they have the option to hire a part time person.

A motion was made by Dale White and seconded by Denise Crowder to go with the recommendations of the Board.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Crucea Y

Vote 7-0

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Andrew Krout had presented the council with a proposed Matrix system for the Sheriff & Deputies. The purpose was to be competitive with surrounding counties. We recently lost a veteran office to Montgomery County due to pay. They also feel the longevity should be increased and the Sheriff

retirement be capped at 32 years versus 26. They suggested the council look at a cost of living raise every two years. Much discussion took place along with some compromise.

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Kelly Carlson to increase the salaries with a 15% cap. They will agree to \$2,000 longevity paid every 2 years. Then after 25 years of service, longevity will be paid yearly in the amount of \$2,000. The Council will look at the cost of living each year. The officers who do instruction training will receive \$1,000 each with the exception of Kemp and he will receive \$2,000 as he is instructor for two classes. They will increase the retirement to 32 years.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote 7-0

Sheriff	\$102,446.60
Chief Deputy (Krout)	plus Keep the tax warrant contract
Deputy Sgt/Detective (Kemp)	\$76,072.50
Deputy 2 & 3 (Rainey & Clawson)	\$70,035.00
Deputy 5 & 6 (Paxton & Powell)	\$66,412.50
Deputy 7 & 8 (Smyth & Todd)	\$64,000.00
Deputy 9 (Hohenstein)	\$62,000.00
Deputy 10 (Tucker)	\$60,000.00
Courthouse Safety Officer (Lathrop)	\$57,500.00
Matron	\$60,000.00
	\$57,500.00

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE
MONDAY, March 11, 2024
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Denise Crowder and seconded by Tom Booe to close the meeting.

J Fishero Y J McKee Y D Crowder Y K Carlson Y D White Y T Booe Y D Cruza Y
Vote 7-0

Denise Crowder
ATTEST

Kelly L. Carlson
Tom M. Booe
Denise Crowder

