

REGULAR SESSION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL
OF HUNTINGTON COUNTY INDIANA
JULY 26, 2021 COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

The Huntington County Council met in regular session on the 26th day of July 2021, in the G.A.R. Room, at the Huntington County Courthouse, Huntington, Indiana, at 7:00 P.M. for the purpose of considering all business brought before it pursuant to notice given to the Huntington Herald Press on July 14, 2021.

Council Members present: Kendall Mickley, Terry Miller, Peyton Pike, and Kittie Keiffer. Shane Bickel and Keith Eller were absent. Phil Hibbert resigned as of July 12, 2021.

Terry Miller opened the meeting with prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM 1: Kittie Keiffer made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2021, Council minutes with corrections. Terry Miller seconded, and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 2: Leslie Rentschler, Director of Community Corrections, requested an appropriation of funds in the 1122 PI Community Corrections fund 1122.11005.000.9609 Assistant Director. Kittie Keiffer made a motion to approve this request. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 3: Joakim Abrahamsson, IT Director, requested to transfer \$1,500.00 from CCIS 1000.44350.000.0106 Camera Equipment line to 1000.32500.000.0106 Travel Expenses. Kittie Keiffer made a motion to approve this request. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 4: Kendall Mickley spoke on behalf of Sheriff Chris Newton, to discuss the request to transfer \$16,900.00 from 1000.11106.000.0005 Captain to 1000.11335.000.0005 Officers. Peyton Pike made a motion to approve this request. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 5: Jeremy Nix, Prosecutor, requested to transfer \$500.00 from the Prosecutors Forfeiture fund 1234.32500.000.0000 Travel Expenses to 1123.39800.000.0000 Misc. Services and Charges. Kittie Keiffer made a motion to approve this request, Peyton Pike seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 6: Brenda Hamilton, Treasurer, requested to transfer \$2937.30 from the following accounts:

1000.39500.000.0003 Subscription & Dues	\$15.41
1000.21100.000.0003 Office Supplies	\$716.00
1000.32120.000.0003 Outsource Tax Bills	\$1,383.59
1000.32100.000.0003 Postage	\$500.00
1000.32800.000.0003 Meals	\$69.28
1000.32105.000.0003 Meter Head	\$153.02
1000.45100.000.0003 Office Equipment	\$100.00

To 1000.11400.000.0003 Clerical Assistant.

Peyton Pike made a motion to approve this request. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 7: Troy Hostetler, Highway Superintendent, requested a transfer of \$2,000.00 from the MVH 1176.27500.000.0533 Materials to the 1176.24102.000.0533 Small Tool Supplies. Terry Miller made a motion to approve this transfer. Peyton Pike seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Troy is requesting an additional appropriation of \$10,000.00 in the 1176.11160.000.0531 Laborers line. Kittie Keiffer made a motion to approve this request. Peyton Pike seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Troy is also requesting an additional appropriation of \$50,000.00 in the Local Road & Street fund 1169.36200.000.0000 Service Contracts. Kittie Keiffer made a motion to approve this request. Terry Miller seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

There was discussion of staffing changes at the Highway.

Peyton Pike made a motion to open the Salary Ordinance. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Terry Miller made a motion to change the Salary Ordinance to reflect the Assistant Superintendent, Supervisor, and three Foreman from the Highway Department moved to the Equipment Operator III positions, and their pay associated to that. Peyton Pike seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Kittie Keiffer made a motion to close the Salary Ordinance. Peyton Pike seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 8: Per a request in writing from Circuit Court Judge Davin Smith, he requested the following Additional:

1000.31105.000.0232	Atty. Fees for Conflicts	\$7,500; and
1000.31105.000.0232	Atty Gal Chins	\$30,000.

Terry Miller made a motion to approve both additional. Peyton Pike seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

Judge Smith also requested an appropriation of funds in the CASA Grant Matching 9667.36200.000.0000 Service Contracts for \$4,214.00.

Peyton Pike made a motion to approve this request. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ITEM 9: Dr. Matt Pflieger, County Health Officer, was present to discuss a position for Public Health Administrator, which was previously discussed with the Job Class Committee. This position would entail more of a full time manager of staff who would be able to assist in many different facets of jobs for other employees at the Health Department, including the management of grants for the department. Dr. Pflieger addressed previous concerns about the funding for the position, and he indicated that the American Recovery Plan (ARP), through the Federal Government has money for Health Departments and also other County and City needs. Dr. Pflieger stated that with the help of a grant writer, they have been able to find the funds and put into the Commissioner's Plan, and the funds for this position, for 3 1/2 years. So this would solely be a grant funded position with nothing coming out of the Health Department's budget. The job description has been outlined as a full-time position. He would be asking from the grant for \$125,876.28, which would cover a \$60,000.00

salary plus taxes and benefits of up to \$51,158.00 to include all aspects of the position. President Kendall Mickley expressed concerns about this being a grant-funded position and the possibility of the grant funding being unavailable in the future. Terry Miller stated that he supports the position and believes it is needed.

Council members discussed the options pertaining to this position including looking at whether we are charging enough in fees and possible re-structuring of positions. President Mickley suggested that they consider this position further at budget time. Dr. Pflieger indicated that he believed that Stefanie Rogers (HR) and the Commissioners plan to submit further grant requests in August.

Auditor Jill Landrum explained that the information related to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) is constantly changing. The Commissioners have hired a professional agency to provide them guidance on how the money for the American Rescue Plan can be spent. Although, using money from ARP to fund health-related positions was not covered in the original directives of the Plan, nor the Ordinance adopted by the Commissioners, there is a possibility of it eventually becoming an approved expenditure.

President Mickley summarized that there is nothing to vote on now or to put into the Salary Ordinance. Once we receive confirmation that the position, taxes, and benefits are covered by the ARP, then Council can proceed with consideration of adding this position.

ITEM 10: The presentation of the Comprehensive Financial Study by Baker Tilly was scratched from the agenda.

ITEM 11: NEW BUSINESS

Leslie Rentschler reported that she met with Baker Tilly earlier in the day so they could tour the O'Donnell Center and also collect additional financial information.

ITEM 12: COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS COMMITTEE: Kittie Keiffer- There were 109 bond releases, 4 day reporting, 1 person fines and fees court, 57 on home detention, and 5 on probation.

SOLID WASTE: Peyton will replace Phil Hibbert as the appointee for this committee in the future.

3A REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT: Phil Hibbert previously served on this; however, Kendall indicated that we do not need to re-assign at this time.

JOB CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE: Kittie Keiffer, Terry Miller, and Keith Eller – No Meeting

LOCAL ANTI-DRUG COALITION EFFORT (L.A.C.E) / EARLY INTERVENTION TEAM: Shane Bickel – absent/no report

LIME CITY DEVELOPMENT: Terry Miller- Meeting on Friday

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT: Keith Eller – absent/no report

PLAN COMMISSION: Terry Miller – No meeting

C.E.D.I.T ADVISORY: Peyton Pike – No meeting

HCUED: Kendall Mickley – No meeting

ABCD – Keith Eller – No meeting

TAX ABATEMENT REVIEW: Kittie Keiffer – No meeting

WHARM: They will wait to make appointment until later date.

COMMISSIONERS HEALTH INSURANCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Kendall Mickley – No meeting

EMS ADVISORY COUNCIL: Peyton Pike with replace Phil Hibbert on this committee

HCPSD COMMITTEE: Kendall Mickley – Met with Dispatch last week to discuss their Budget. Kendall asked Tim Allen to include a line item for a possible Bond payment in case we have to go in that direction. Kendall mentioned that he suggested to Commissioners the possibility of using ARP funds to pay for the expenses related to the dispatch move and tower project instead of Bonding for the expenditure. Kittie Keiffer mentioned that we need to have something in writing that verifies how we can spend the ARP money, to protect us as a County. Auditor Jill Landrum explained that the ARP is a 4-year plan and unspent money has to be returned.

INTERNAL CONTROLS COMMITTEE: Kittie Keiffer – No meeting

REDEVELOPMENT COMMISSION: Terry Miller & Kittie Keiffer – Meeting to be held on Monday, August 2nd.

Terry Miller discussed that housing is needed in Huntington County. Meeting Wednesday July 28th at 5:30 at the Forks of the Wabash.

ITEM 13: ADJOURNMENT – Peyton Pike made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kittie Keiffer seconded and the motion passed 4-0.

ADOPTED THIS 16th, DAY OF AUG 2021

ATTEST: Jill M. Landrum
JILL M. LANDRUM, AUDITOR

T. Miller
TERRY MILLER

-ABSENT-
SHANE BICKEL

-TBD-
VACANT POSITION

Kendall Mickley
KENDALL MICKLEY

Peyton Pike
PEYTON PIKE

Kittie Keiffer
KITTIE KEIFFER

-ABSENT-
KEITH ELLER