

MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
OF THE
ST. May 12, 2015

The regular meeting of the St. Joseph County Council was called to order at 6:03 p.m., on May 12, 2015, by the President, Rafael Morton, in the Council Chambers, fourth floor, County-City Building, South Bend, Indiana.

Members in attendance were:

Mr. Robert L. Kruszynski
Mr. Corey Noland
Mr. James O'Brien
Ms. Diana Hess
Mr. Rafael Morton
Mr. Mark P. Telloyan
Mr. Mark A. Catanzarite
Mr. Robert McCahill
Mr. Mark Root

Present from the Auditor's office were Mr. Michael J. Hamann and Ms. Teresa Shuter, Chief Deputy Auditor. Council staff present was Mr. Michael A. Trippel, Attorney and Ms. Jennifer Prawat, Executive Secretary.

Petitions, Communications & Miscellaneous Matters:

Mr. Morton made a motion to reappoint Mark Root to the MACOG Policy Board, it was seconded by Mr. McCahill, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 9-0.

Ms. Hess made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 10th and the April 14th public hearing and was seconded by Mr. McCahill, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 9-0.

No report from the County Auditor
No report from the Board of Commissioners.

No report from Special Committees.

First Readings:

Mr. Noland made a motion withdraw Bill No. 28-15 at the request of the petitioner and was seconded by Mr. Root, the motion was passed by a voice vote; 9-0.

Resolution:

BILL NO. 27-15: A RESOLUTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY COUNCIL
APPROVING THE ST. JOSEPH COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY CAPITAL PROJECTS PLAN FOR 2015-2017

Donald J. Napoli, Director, St. Joseph County Public Library, we come before you each year to have our capital projects funds as required by state law as it is also required by state law to come before you if it is a three year plan. The front end of the plan is our library budget and where our funds come from. Right now we are looking at rising next year a total of six hundred and fifteen thousand dollars, over the next three years, one million, and nine hundred thousand dollars towards that plan.

Mr. O'Brien: Are we assuming, are you assuming a five percent increase in assess value then for seventeen and eighteen?

Mr. Napoli: Are we assuming it? No. Three percent increase.

Mr. O'Brien: Three percent increase, thank you.

Motion to pass Bill No. 27-15 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Mr. Catanzarite. Bill No. 27-15 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

Mr. Napoli: I just wanted to thank the Council for all the support they have given to the library all the years that I've served. I have about forty nine days left and then I am retiring but this Council has been wonderful to the public library and we thank you for your support over many years and the things you have done to make us a better public library.

Mr. Morton: Thank you for those kind words sir. I'd like to reciprocate and say you have done an outstanding job, thank you very much.

Mr. Noland: Congratulations, forty nine days.

Mr. McCahill: Thank you for your service.

SALARY AMENDMENT:

BILL NO. 25-14: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 50-14, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2015 (Dept. 0150 - Penn Assessor)

Assigned to the Budget and Administration Committee

Mr. Root reported that Bill No. 25-15 comes with a favorable recommendation.

Michael Castellon, Penn Township Assessor, 219 Lincolnway West, Mishawaka, we are here today asking to establish new staffing for Penn Township so we can acquire the appropriate data for Penn Township within its jurisdiction and we are also asking for an amendment to the current salary so we can retain the service data collector within the district.

Motion to pass Bill No. 25-15 was made by Mr. Catanzarite and seconded by Mr. Noland. Bill No. 25-15 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

Mr. O'Brien: I just want to make a disclosure, I conferred with Mr. Trippel about the propriety of my participation in the matter because I do have property tax appeals from time to time, I don't have any pending in Penn Township that I am aware of and I don't have any pecuniary conflict. I wanted to make that disclosure; I do plan on voting in favor of the matter, this is simply a matter of making a disclosure that from time to time I have had property tax appeals pending.

BILL NO. 23-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 50-14, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR 2015 (Dept. 0034 – Commissioners)

Assigned to the Budget and Administration Committee

Mr. Root reported that Bill No. 23-15 comes without a recommendation.

Mr. Kostielney, President, St. Joseph County Commissioner, I am here tonight to request to add a position of Economic Development Director for St. Joseph County. We currently, our lead economic organization, the Chamber of Commerce who's in charge of looking to bring new business to the area, I'd like to have this director then who serves as a conduit to take any leads that may come from the Chamber and other sources and then bring them into St. Joseph County and help them work through any processes that would need to be worked through that would include Area Plan, Board of Zoning Appeals, Building Department, helping with permitting and all those things to help them shepherd them through the process and they would also serve as a source for both the Council and the Board of Commissioners to get any questions answered or just to keep them up to speed on what's going on and also as we move forward, they would make their services available to some of the smaller units of local government in the outlined areas of the county and also help look to streamline any processes that might be taking place here in the county, help make it easier for folks to look to do business here and also serve some of our existing clients, maybe start with the biggest ten to twenty local businesses and see what, how could government be more helpful to them so they would be more inclined to stay and possibly grow.

Motion to pass Bill No. 23-15 was made by Mr. O'Brien and seconded by Mr. Noland. Bill No. 23-15 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

BILL NO. 26-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 50-14, THE SAME BEING AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SALARIES AND FIXING THE NUMBERS OF EMPLOYEES OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY FOR THE YEAR, 2015(Dept. 055 - Health)

Assigned to the Human Services/Criminal Justice Committee

Mr. McCahill reported that Bill No. 26-15 comes with a favorable a recommendation.

Dr. Dale Deardorff, Interim St. Joseph County Health Officer, as discussed in the subcommittee meeting, we are asking for a salary ordinance for a health officer to go from sixteen hours to thirty seven point five hours per week. This will make it a full time position with a salary a hundred and forty thousand dollars a year. The Indiana State Department of Health has already approved this to utilize the local health department trust account funds; this year we are asking the health officer to utilize this extra time to work on long term plans and goals to improve the health of the citizens of St. Joseph County.

Mr. Noland: Just curious, do you have an example or two of the long term of health benefits that....

Dr. Deardorff: Yes, the health benefits are looking at the mortality rate, which we have really not pretty statistics in this county, looking at tobacco use, these are all goals that the state health department has identified as goals to improve the health of the citizens of Indiana, we are also adopting these particular goals as we go forward as a county and the county health department to improve the goals of this county and the health of this county.

Mr. Morton: Could you talk about possible future partnerships with some of the health care providers....

Dr. Deardorff: I think one of the things that we as a health department are really and board of health actually serve as Vice President of Board of Health, one of the things that we are looking for is start leveraging private/public partnerships which are the things we see for the improvement of the health and community is that we do need to get in a collaborative situations with our local health care systems, with educations systems and some of our other private enterprises as well, everybody wins when we improve the health of the citizens.

Mr. Morton: If I am not mistaken, you did talk about that already....

Dr. Deardorff: Yes, that's already, we are working with IUSB. We have also visited with other government officials in the community as well as some of the health system officials and we are trying to be very proactive on this.

Mr. Morton: Moving forward, those collaborative efforts will serve as a measuring stick, if you will to talk about the success maybe a year or two down the road of this position.

Dr. Deardorf: Yes, one of the things you see different things in medicine going on is that, we are going from outputs to outcomes. Are we really improving the health of the people because we really have a tendency in this county to spend a lot of money on health care but we really don't get the results everyone should be getting for the amount of money we are spending. We are seeing a shift in the outcome and this shift is also in the public sector as well. If you look at all the major improvements of longevity, life expectancy in this country, you can point to public health, water, food, immunizations, treatment of infectious disease, a lot of these are public health initiatives and we need to pick up our commitment to public health as we go forward as a community, as a state, as a nation. We will pay a price if we don't. We need to be smarter on the money we are spending on initiatives we have right now and look for outcomes.

Mr. Catanzarite: Doctor, one of the first things you mentioned on the benefits was neonatal mortality rate, just out of curiosity, do our St. Joseph County neonatal mortality rates get skewed because of Memorial Hospital being the regional neonatal intensive care facility, when those infants die, are there numbers extrapolate to their home county where they are from or they lumped into St. Joseph County?

Dr. Deardorff: That is one of the get mysteries; I am still trying to get that answer myself from the state. The last complete data the state has is 2011.

Motion to pass Bill No. 26-15 was made by Ms. Hess and seconded by Mr. O'Brien. Bill No. 26-15 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

Public Hearing/Public Comment:

BILL NO. 22-15: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING AND TRANSFERRING MONEYS FOR THE PURPOSE HEREIN SPECIFIED FOR THE SEVERAL DEPARTMENTS HEREIN LISTED OF ST. JOSEPH COUNTY GOVERNMENT

A. PSAP

CEDIT Construction Fund

FROM: 4933-36015-000-0034	Contractual Services	\$ 8,240,454.19
TO: 4933-36015-000-0034	Contractual Services	7,949,806.69
1222-36051-000-0034	Tech. Lease Equip.	3,180.00
1222-36052-000-0034	Tech. Maint. Equip.	287,467.50

TOTAL: \$ 8,240,454.19

B. County Engineer

General Fund

FROM: 1000-37100-000-0023	Vehicle Lease	\$ 4,000.00
TO: 1000-22010-000-0023	Gasoline	4,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 4,000.00

C. Circuit Court

General Fund

FROM: 1000-21030-000-0019	Office Supplies	\$ 144.00
TO: 1000-44250-000-0019	Office Machines	144.00

TOTAL: \$ 144.00

D. Prosecutor

Protective Order Projects

FROM: 8116-14850-000-0018	Health Insurance	\$ 6,000.00
TO: 8116-37010-000-0018	Rent	6,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 6,000.00

E. Prosecutor

Adult Protective Services Grant

FROM: 9108-11318-000-0018	Investigator APS	\$ 2,307.00
TO: 9108-32020-000-0018	Travel	2,307.00

TOTAL: \$ 2,307.00

APPROPRIATE

F. Commissioners

CEDIT

7312-38015-000-0034	PSAP Assess Oper/Cap.	\$ 1,838,220.00
7312-3804-000-0034	PMT on Bonds	363,241.44

TOTAL: \$ 2,201,461.44

G. Penn Township Assessor
General Fund

1000-31070-000-0150	Contractual Services	\$ 60,000.00
1000-32020-000-0150	Travel	4,100.00
1000-11107-000-015	Real Estate Deputy	21,923.00

TOTAL: \$ 86,023.00

H. PSAP
State Wide E911 Fund

1222-36051-000-0034	Technology-Lease Equip.	\$ 711,077.62
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TOTAL: \$ 711,077.62

I. PSAP
CEDIT Construction Fund

4933-36015-000-0034	Contractual Services	\$8,240,454.19
4933-39980-000-0034	Funds W/O Approp.	559,900.06
4933-38010-000-0034	Paying Agent Fees	1,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 8,801,354.25

J. Commissioners
CEDIT

7312-11032-000-0034	Executive Director	\$ 47,000.00
7312-14800-000-0034	FICA	3,596.00
7312-14810-000-0034	PERF	5,405.00
7312-14840-000-0034	Group Insurance	1,167.00

TOTAL: \$ 57,168.00

K. County Engineer
Local MM Const.

1172-43020-000-0023	Engineering & Design	\$ 150,000.00
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TOTAL: \$ 150,000.00

L. County Engineer
Local Mm Const.

1172-43155-000-0023	McKinley AM General	\$ 300,000.00
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TOTAL: \$ 300,000.00

M. Health Dept.
Health Trust Fund

911-11055-000-0055	Health Officer	\$ 39,050.00
911-14800-000-0055	FICA	2,987.33
911-14810-000-0055	PERF	7,700.00
911-14840-000-0055	Group Insurance	17,234.00
911-39750-000-0055	Data Processing	3,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 69,971.33

N. Juvenile & Probate Court
Real Services

9124-36015-000-0025 Contractual Services \$ 38,250.00

TOTAL: \$ 38,250.00

O. Community Corrections
CBC Bldg. Fund

4922-36011-015-0795 Bldg. Maint. \$ 10,000.00

TOTAL: \$ 10,000.00

Mr. O'Brien: I just want to clarify letter H , I believe the technology has been changed from seven hundred eleven seventy seven dollars and sixty two cents to two hundred, nineteen thousand eight fifty five twenty.

Ms. Shuter: Yes, and the bill reflects that.

Motion to pass Bill No. 22-15 was made by Mr. Noland and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 22-15 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

Public Hearing/Miscellaneous Matters:

BILL NO. 21-15: AN ORDINANCE OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL PROVIDING FOR MINIMUM EMPLOYEE SALARY PETITIONER: THE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mr. Root: This is a housekeeping measure to put into an ordinance form the fact that several years ago in the budget process we set a minimum salary for all full time employees in the county and it's come to our attention from our legal council that we may want to put this into ordinance form so that's what we have done tonight. We did this two years ago in the budget process and the salaries should reflect that in the budget book but we wanted to do this to cover ourselves on that.

Mr. Morton: This did come to the Council will a full favorable recommendation, correct sir?

Mr. Root: Yes.

Tony Flora, 202 E. Angela St. South Bend, I am here as President of North Central Indiana AFLCIO to say that we applaud the fact that as Mr. Root pointed out, although this is an ordinance which essentially just memorializes what is in fact in your budget, what it clearly states to our community is, our county government recognizes that twelve dollars an hour, which is, if you calculate the twenty five thousand dollars per year, a twelve dollar an hour pay is really the minimum, descent pay that anyone should be earning and we applaud the fact that all full time employees of St. Joseph County are at that level of pay and we certainly look forward to even the part time employees being brought to that level because what we have to recognize is this number that we are looking at really only gives people purchasing power that we had forty five years ago and that we have seen such a deterioration in wage levels in our country that it had a drastic impact in our community the fact that in our community essentially forty percent of the residents are struggling to survive and so we applaud what St. Joseph County Council is doing which is clearly saying to the community that this is the kind of pay that everyone should at least face and receive and we hope that we move forward with this throughout our government in this area and other businesses.

Motion to pass Bill No. 21-15 was made by Mr. McCahill and seconded by Ms. Hess. Bill No. 21-15 was passed to-wit; 9-0.

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Privilege of the floor:

Mr. O'Brien: I would like to comment with regard to the gentlemen's observation from the ALFCIO, I think this is a matter where different rationales get to the same conclusion. My conclusion, my rationale in supporting the County's wage at twenty five thousand dollars a year is because I believe it's necessary to have quality work force and I think that the market dictated that. My support was not based on a belief that's an appropriate wage level for everyone and every position regardless of background but rather the supply and demand dictated that price that I fully support and endorse Mr. Root's and your bill and was pleased to support it.

Adjournment: Mr. Morton stated that the meeting was adjourned 6:32 p.m.

Auditor, St. Joseph County

President, St. Joseph County Council

