

**MINUTES**  
**MARSHALL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**MONDAY, MAY 9, 2011**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That on Monday, May 9, 2011, the Marshall County Council met in a public meeting at the County Building, Plymouth, Indiana, pursuant to the call of the County Auditor. Present were the Honorable Matt Hassel, President; Don Morrison, Vice President; Members John Benedict, Ralph Booker, Ward Byers, Rex Gilliland, Judith Stone; and Auditor Penny Lukenbill. The meeting was opened with the Pledge to the Flag.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

There was no public comment.

**CLYDE AVERY-EMA DIRECTOR**  
**VEHICLE PURCHASE**

Mr. Avery was presented his request for an additional appropriation for \$22,997 to purchase a new 2011 Dodge RAM pickup truck, replacing his current 2000 Ford Explorer. If approved, the vehicle will be purchased from Country Auto. The installation cost for the mobile radio will be paid from his current EMA budget. The Commissioners have recommended the purchase.

**SHERIFF TOM CHAMBERLIN**  
**PERSONNEL REQUEST**

Sheriff Chamberlin stated that upon the retirement of Captain Rex Gilliland, he will be replacing the position with a Chief Deputy Sheriff, as allowed under the rules and regulations of the Marshall County Merit Board and Indiana Code. The qualifications and job description of the position will remain the same. The Captain is currently paid an hourly rate of \$24.05 for 2080 hours or \$50,024.00 annually. The Sheriff is proposing to make the Chief Deputy a salaried position at \$51,000, with no longevity or merit pay. The new Chief Deputy will begin training with Captain Gilliland on May 10, and assume duties June 1. The Sheriff has funds remaining in personal services from unfilled, budgeted positions and will make the necessary transfers into the Chief Deputy line. The position of Captain will remain in the salary ordinance, but will not be funded. **Judith Stone moved, seconded by Ralph Booker, to approve the position of Chief Deputy in the Sheriff's Department at an annual salary of \$51,000. Motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Byers voting no.**

The Sheriff also requested approval to replace a full-time jailer/dispatcher position funded through 911, and anticipates filling the position with a current part-time jailer. The Commissioners recommended approval.

**John Benedict moved, seconded by Ward Byers, to approve the Sheriff's request to replace a fulltime jailer/dispatcher, to be paid from 911 funds. Motion carried 7-0.**

Sheriff Chamberlin also presented his Capital Outlay needs for the 2012. For several years, the sheriff vehicles have been on a five-year rotation schedule. He will be requesting five vehicles for 2012 at an estimated cost of \$25,000 each. The Sheriff stated he is researching a variety of options and will have firm numbers at budget time.

**BILL CLEAVENGER – CORONER**  
**2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

Mr. Cleavenger distributed the 2010 annual Coroner's Report, which also included the first four months of 2011. Of the 102 coroner cases in 2010, there were 82 natural deaths, 10 suspected drug

overdoses, 7 suicides, and 2 traffic fatalities. So far this year, there have been 34 coroner cases, including 3 suicides. He explained that the Coroner's budget largely depends upon the number of cases each year, and is often unpredictable for that reason.

Mr. Gilliland noted that traffic fatalities have decreased dramatically over the past several years, but Mr. Cleavenger explained that accident victims are often evacuated to out-of-county hospitals, and ensuing deaths are attributed to that county.

### **ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

**EMA: John Benedict moved, seconded by Rex Gilliland, to approve the Emergency Management Agency's request for an additional \$20,997 to purchase a 2011 Dodge Ram pickup. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Highway: Rex Gilliland moved, seconded by Judith Stone, to approve the Highway Department's additional appropriation request for \$1,557 for Unemployment Insurance. Motion carried 7-0.**

Highway Superintendent Neal Haeck discussed his request for an additional \$110,000 for Capital Outlays. He is refurbishing four trucks with new beds and hydraulics, which will extend the life of the trucks by five years. The cost of the repairs is \$72,000, which will be paid from his \$110,000 Capital Outlays equipment appropriation, originally budgeted for the purchase of a new dump truck. He proposes to use the additional \$110,000 and the balance left in the equipment line, to purchase a new dump truck and pickup for \$150,000.

**John Benedict moved, seconded by Judith Stone, to approve the additional appropriations request for the Highway in the amount of \$110,000 for Vehicle Repairs. Motion carried 6-1, with Mr. Byers voting no.**

### **AUDITOR'S REPORT**

**April 11, 2011 Minutes: Don Morrison moved, seconded by Ward Byers to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2011 meeting as presented. Motion carried 7-0.**

**Waiver of Probationary Period and Pay: The Auditor requested approval to waive the 90-day probationary period and 90% probationary pay for Claims Deputy Charlotte Leighton. Ms. Leighton has been a county employee for over three years and is familiar with many of the processes involved in her new position.**

**Rex Gilliland moved, seconded by Don Morrison, to waive the 90-day probationary period/90% probationary pay for Deputy Auditor Charlotte Leighton. Motion carried 7-0.**

### **DEPARTMENT HEADS BUDGET CONSIDERATIONS**

In response to the Council's invitation to discuss potential increases to their 2012 budgets, several department heads presented their anticipated needs:

**Commissioners: Commissioner Overmyer reported that the Commissioners have not yet had an opportunity to discuss salary recommendations, but he is hopeful that a wage increase can be included for 2012. He suggested a meeting with Council prior to budget hearings.**

The Healy Group is beginning negotiations with health insurance companies, in an effort to hold health insurance premium increases to a minimum.

He updated the Council on the various bridge and road projects in progress or set to begin in the next year. The bids for the Pierce Street Bridge will be awarded May 11. The 13<sup>th</sup> Road bridge will be completed in early September. Construction engineering funds for Pine Road will run short, but

they are working with MACOG for additional funding. They anticipate replacing the Hickory Road Bridge, which may qualify for federal funding since it's efficient rating is below 50%.

Construction of 7<sup>th</sup> Road between Michigan Road and US 31 will begin in 2013, and will coincide with the construction by INDOT of an interchange at 31 and 7<sup>th</sup> Road. The environmental study is complete, and surveying is now being done. The state has agreed to pay Marshall County \$4.2 million over three years, beginning in 2014, for the relinquishment of old US 31 south of Lapaz..

**(Recessed from 10:00 to 10:05 am)**

WIC: The WIC offices will move to a larger area in the Community Resource Center in 2012, and their monthly rent will increase from \$1300 to \$2290. The WIC grant through the USDA will cover the increased rent, as well as any additional furnishings or equipment needed.

Circuit Court: Judge Palmer will be requesting a new copier to replace the court's current 12-year old unit. He anticipates a cost of \$6,000 to \$17,000, depending upon the unit selected.

Reassessment: Debbie Dunning will run the numbers to make certain the 0123 Reassessment Fund can continue to support salaries of three deputies. For several years, all 8 assessor employees were paid out of Reassessment, but for the 2011 budget, she shifted 5 to the General Fund, leaving only 3 in Reassessment. The levy for the 0123 Reassessment Fund has been discontinued, and a new levy is being generated for the 2015 Reassessment. Expenses can still be paid out of the old Reassessment Fund through the 2012 payable 2013 tax year.

Recorder: The Recorder is researching a new computer system, and has narrowed the choice to two vendors. The new system will cost between \$50,000 and \$60,000 and will be purchased by the Recorder's Perpetuation Fund. Annual maintenance on the current system is \$32,000, and the maintenance on a new system will run about \$10,000 per year, saving the county nearly \$200,000 over a ten-year period.

Extension: Karen Richey noted that the State recently increased their mileage rate to 44 cents per mile to reflect increased fuel prices, and requested that the Council consider increasing the county's rate. She stated that the Extension Office is trying to hold down costs by taking advantage of training through webinars rather than travel to Purdue.

Highway: Mr. Haeck provided a financial update on several current Highway projects. The construction engineering costs on Pine Road will be an additional \$50,000 to \$60,000, but there will be approximately \$13,000 left over on the 13<sup>th</sup> Road Bridge project. If the Pierce Street Bridge bids come in low enough, the County may be entitled to additional federal funding credits. The project engineering and land acquisition costs for the 7<sup>th</sup> Road project could be reimbursed by federal funds. He also pointed out that it is difficult on the budgeting process when the County has to pay up front on projects, then must wait for reimbursement by INDOT. As an example, he has submitted to INDOT 13 claims for reimbursement totaling \$262,000 on Pine Road alone. Significant increases in fuel costs are also having an impact on his department. Other departments have reimbursed the Highway for fuel purchases totaling \$90,000, and he will request appropriation of the reimbursements in June.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**  
**SALARY INCREASES FOR 2012**

Mr. Gilliland asked the Auditor for a brief update on anticipated revenues for next year. She stated that there are no indications at this time of sharp revenue drops. Recent information indicates that the State will flat line the certified CAGIT distributions for 2012, rather than reduce them to reclaim over-distributed amounts. However, there will be no distributions of supplemental CAGIT for the Rainy Day Fund until the balance in our income tax trust fund reaches 150% of our annual regular CAGIT distributions. As a result, the Rainy Day Fund will not increase as it has in the past.

The Council then discussed possible salary increases for 2012. Members agreed they would like to give raises, especially since wages have not increased since 2009, and will give serious consideration to increase. However, they emphasized that a recommended increase is not a guarantee that raises will be approved at budget adoption, and cautioned against assuming that pay raises will be automatic. Council members are concerned with the increases in the cost of fringe benefits in two areas: Health insurance premiums and the County's PERF contribution for each employee, which will rise from 6.25% to 8% next year.

Mr. Hassel recommended that department heads should keep their budgets at the same overall level, and reducing other areas to adjust for raises. Mr. Byers encouraged department heads to place their emphasis on employees rather than things to purchase. After discussion, a 3% raise was suggested by Mr. Booker, but Mr. Byers and Mr. Benedict felt that 2% was more realistic.

**John Benedict moved, seconded by Ward Byers, to recommend that Department Heads include a 2% raise in their 2012 budgets. Motion carried 7-0.**

Mr. Byers recommended that any raise not be applicable to the Council and Commissioners.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the council, **Ralph Booker moved, seconded by Judith Stone, to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 am. Motion carried 7-0.**

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**Matt Hassel, President**

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**Don Morrison, Vice President**

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**John Benedict**

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**Ralph Booker**

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**Ward Byers**

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**Rex Gilliland**

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**Judith Stone**

**Attest:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Penny Lukenbill, Auditor**