

March 5, 2024

Council Chambers
Vigo County Government Center
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Chris Switzer, Mike Morris and Mark Clinkenbeard

Others Present: County Attorney Terry Modesitt, James Bramble, Cheryl Loudermilk, Tammy York-Allen, Todd Thacker, Kevin Gardner, Vickie Albright, Diana Winstead-Smith, Chris Eldridge, Kara Wright, Jordynne Shelton, Josie Thompson, Larry Robbins, Norm Loudermilk, Joni Wise, Derrick Scott, Vicki Weger, Mayor Brandon Sakbun, and several members of the public.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Chris Switzer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Fire Chief Derrick Scott led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Review of Minutes/Claims. Auditor James Bramble presented the Board with minutes for February 27, 2024 for approval. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for February 27, 2024. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of February 24, 2024 through March 1, 2024 in the amount of \$457,212.80. Mark Clinkenbeard made a motion to approve the February 24, 2024 through March 1, 2024 claims in the amount of \$457,212.80. Mike Morris seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Mr. Bramble then presented the Board with payroll for March 1, 2024 in the amount of \$1,335,811.48 for approval. Mike Morris made a motion to approve the March 1, 2024 payroll. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Appointment for Honey Creek Fire Protection - Commissioners. Chris Switzer said there was one appointment today for the Honey Creek Fire Protection District as follows: "This is to certify that you, Lori A. Fox, are reappointed to the Honey Creek Fire Protection District for Vigo County effective the 5th day of March, 2024, expiring on December 31, 2027. In Testimony Whereas, the Vigo County Board of Commissioners have hereunto set their hands and seal this 5th day of March, 2024." Mike Morris made a motion to approve the reappointment of Lori A. Fox to Honey Creek Fire Protection District. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Addendum to the County's Handbook - HR. Norm Loudermilk, Director of the Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center, said he had become aware that the way they were doing some things at the Juvenile Center were in conflict with the handbook. The Baker Tilly study renamed one of their positions and a new position was established that is paid out of their non-reverting fund and there were some differences with lunch hour policies. He believed the handbook should reflect that they no longer have an office manager but instead have a compliance manager along with updating lunch time/working hours/leaving the work area policies that had been in effect/used since before Mr. Loudermilk became director. Mike Morris asked how many people worked at the Juvenile Center. Mr. Loudermilk said there are 4 administrators and 16 officers. There are 4 people working a shift at any one time. Mark Clinkenbeard made a the motion to approve the change as proposed. Mike Morris said he would like to think about this and investigate it a bit further before taking action. After a short discussion, Mark Clinkenbeard withdrew his motion to approve. Mike Morris made a motion to table this matter to next week's meeting. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Juvenile Sallyport Proposal Letter – Norm Loudermilk. Norm Loudermilk, Director of the Vigo County Juvenile Justice Center, said they are simply out of space. Due to the fact that they do not have a kitchen, they have to use part of their garage area (sallyport) to hold coolers and freezers for the food they pick up at the jail and bring back to feed the kids. Over the years, the coolers/freezers have gotten bigger to accommodate what is needed which results in their sallyport becoming smaller and smaller. There is simply no room for a squad car to pull into the sallyport and maintain the safety and confidentiality needed for the detainee. There is an area west of the current sallyport where an addition could be constructed and creating a new 2-bay sallyport while allowing the current sallyport to be turned into a kitchen. He has reached out to the ARPA funds committee asking for funding to accomplish the addition, discovered the funds could be used for this type of request, and will go before the County Council in April to request those funds (somewhere in the ballpark of \$400,000). DLZ had been contacted to create a proposal to be used for bid purposes. Mr. Loudermilk hopes to have this approved, get the funding approved in April, have the project bid out in early May, and get construction started. Since this project will require only 2 walls and a roof, he hopes to have a functioning sallyport with additional storage by mid-summer. Mark Clinkenbeard said he had been over to see the area and felt that it made good sense. He did feel it was important to point out that they were not adding bed space but this is much needed. County Attorney Terry Modesitt said he would like to discuss some things set out in the contract that might need to be changed and asked if an additional week before approval would create a hardship. After a short discussion, Mike Morris made a motion to table this matter until next week's meeting. Mark Clinkenbeard seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 3-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Hamilton Center Presentation. Emily Owens, Chief of Clinical Outreach at Hamilton Center, gave a short update for services from fiscal year 2023. 6,043 residents of Vigo County were provided services in 2023. She also set forth their referral sources in the community. Medicaid is where they receive the majority of their funding from clients. Community outreach efforts included marketing activities and participation in health fairs, working with the school corporation, local police, probation department, etc. They are partnering with the Terre Haute Housing Authority and have increased their on service delivery for Dreiser Square and Garfield Towers to assist the residents. She also reviewed their addiction services and what is provided. Methamphetamine is the greatest problem followed by alcohol, cannabis, tobacco and opiates. They have programs to address each diagnosis. Hamilton Center employs 359 people here in the County. Ms. Owens was also joined by Mollie Funk, Executive Director of Addiction Services, and Matt Hayes, Director of Child and Adolescent Services.

Mayor Brandon Sakbun wanted to thank the County for working with the City on a capital improvements plan that will cover 10-15 years and generational changes. He talked about the benefits of this and the improvement possibilities for the Fire Departments, the Parks Department, Street Department down the road. A growing population and infrastructure is going to require this type of planning for the future. He looks forward to the partnership.

Public Comments. There were none.

Comments from the Commissioners or Other Elected Officials. Mike Morris said he had received an email from the Attorney General advising the County would be receiving another opioid settlement. Chris Switzer said a lot of feedback had been received after the County update last week where it was announced that they would be seeking \$4.5 million in funding to demolish the old county jail, the main question being why that much money to demolish the jail. They have worked with Garmong Construction and DLZ to commission a study on what the best use of that former jail would be. After weighing all options and discovering that any option chosen would cost an inordinate amount of money to renovate the building into usable condition, the conclusion was reached that demolition would be best. They feel a decision on how best to use the property

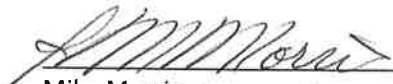
should be made after demolition. There was also discussion about the tower that is currently located there. It will stay there for now but there are conversations happening about a study to move it. There probably needs to be a tower on the east side in addition to this tower wherever it is relocated to. Currently, all operations for that tower are in the basement of the jail, so that will have to move. Cost estimates are being obtained for a portable building to put next to the tower until a decision is made about what to do with the tower. If the building is purchased now, it will go with the tower wherever it goes along with a small generator. Insurance on the old jail is \$45,000 per year and utilities are about \$125,000 annually. Insurance will not allow power to be shut off to the building. There has to be security and water in the event of a fire. Also if the loss occurs and the building has been vacant for 60 consecutive days, only 15% of the building's value would be covered. He also explained that they would like to use LIT/Special Purpose as the funding source. That fund can be used for demolition of the old jail. He then enumerated the costs associated with demolition that would also be required such as traffic control, signage, street cleaning, tree and plant protection for the memorial trees that are on site, etc. The demo will have to go to bid so all the local contractors will have the opportunity to bid on that demolition. They do have a \$100,000 contingency built in for cost overruns along with various other contingencies for other parts of the project. Mark Clinkenbeard agreed that there had been a lot of feedback mostly wanting to know why the cost appeared to be so high. That is one reason why they have tried to give a cost breakdown today and are putting it out with the media so that people will know where the money is going.

The meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m.

Attest:


James Bramble, Auditor


Chris Switzer


Mike Morris


Mark Clinkenbeard