

DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL

May 18, 2020

The Dubois County Council met on Monday, May 18, 2020 in the Commissioners/Council Room in the Dubois County Annex. Present at the meeting were Board Members Jerry R. Hunefeld, Michael Kluesner, Mary E. Beckman, Charmian R. Klem, Sonya Haas, Craig M. Greulich, and Auditor Sandra L. Morton. Doug Uebelhor was present via teleconference. A quorum was declared present and President Hunefeld called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

RE: MINUTES

President Hunefeld asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes from the April 20, 2020 meeting. On motion made by Charmian Klem, seconded by Sonya Haas, following a roll call vote, the minutes were unanimously approved 7-0.

RE: TAX ABATEMENTS

Auditor Morton presented the personal property tax abatement forms for International Paper. Upon review, it was determined that the abatement is in compliance for tax year 2020 pay 2021. A motion was made by Michael Kluesner to approve the abatement, was seconded by Mary E. Beckman and carried unanimously.

Auditor Morton presented the real property tax abatement forms for SIC Properties. The abatement is in the final year at 25%. Upon review, it was determined that the abatement is in compliance for tax year 2020 pay 2021. A motion was made by Mary E. Beckman to approve the abatement, was seconded by Michael Kluesner and carried unanimously.

RE: RESOLUTION 47

Auditor Morton informed the members that at a Commissioner meeting in February, Kevin Manley, Visit Dubois County, presented a framed House Concurrent Resolution No. 47 recognizing Dubois County on the occasion of the 200th anniversary of its founding. The Resolution was introduced to the Indiana General Assembly by Representatives Shane Lindauer and Stephen R. Bartels and sponsored by Erin M. Houchin and Mark B. Messmer.

RE: PSC NEXT LEVEL CONNECTION 2 BROADBAND GRANT - LETTER OF SUPPORT

Indiana's Next Level Connection 2 Broadband Grant Program has been announced and PSC is hoping to provide fiber-based Internet/Phone services to rural/unserved census block areas in Dubois County. PSC has invested significantly into deploying fiber optic-based infrastructure for thousands of subscribers both within and outside of its cooperative territory, and believes that both State and Federal grant programs will now allow them to offer high quality, high-speed broadband services to many more unserved Dubois County residents who desperately need these services for work, school and quality of life. As part of the application process for Next Level 2 funding, the State has asked for letters of support from community leadership. A letter of support was presented and signed by the members.

RE: JUSTICE PROJECT – ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

President Hunefeld opened discussion on the Justice Project funding. A history of the project was given. Each member was given the opportunity to speak. Commissioner Elmer Brames and Senior Judge William Weikert also provided comments. Consensus of the members was to place a pause on the Justice Project due to the uncertainty of the economy due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

An additional appropriation for the Rainy Day Fund in the amount of \$1,000,000 was tabled at the previous two meetings. A motion was made by Charmian Klem to deny the appropriation and seconded by Doug Uebelhor. The motion carried 7-0.

An additional appropriation for the LIT-ED Fund in the amount of \$4,000,000 was tabled at the previous two meetings. A motion was made by Craig Greulich to deny the appropriation and seconded by Charmian Klem. The motion carried 7-0.

RE: HIGHWAY FUND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Highway Fund Supplies for Bituminous in the amount of \$150,000. A motion to approve the request was made by Mary E. Beckman, seconded by Michael Kluesner. The motion carried 7-0.

RE: SOLID WASTE (STICKER) FUND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Solid Waste (Sticker) Fund Other Services for Highway Reimbursements in the amount of \$20,000. A motion to approve the request was made by Doug Uebelhor, seconded by Charmian Klem. The motion carried 7-0.

RE: COMMUNITY CROSSINGS ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Auditor Morton requested an Additional Appropriation in the Community Crossings Grant Fund Capital Outlay for Road Preventative Maintenance in the amount of \$1,450,000. A motion to approve the request was made by Craig Greulich, seconded by Michael Kluesner. The motion carried 7-0.

RE: TRANSFER

Auditor Morton requested a transfer of appropriation in the amount of \$15,500 from General Fund Sheriff Department Personal Services Deputy Sheriff to Sheriff. On motion made by Mary E. Beckman, seconded by Sonya Haas, the transfer was unanimously approved.

RE: 2021 BUDGET

President Hunefeld opened discussion on the 2021 budget preparations. Consensus of the members was to have the department heads request a 1.5% wage increase while preparing budget requests.

RE: FUTURE MEETINGS

The Council will meet at 4:30 p.m. in the Dubois County Annex Commissioners/Council Room on the following dates: June 22, 2020; July 13, 2020; September 21, 2020 and October 26, 2020. The Council will meet at 8:00 a.m. on August 10, 2020 and at 6:00 p.m. on October 14, 2020.

RE: ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to conduct, a motion to adjourn was made by Charmian Klem, seconded by Mary E. Beckman. The meeting was adjourned at 6:28 p.m.