

## **DUBOIS COUNTY COUNCIL PUBLIC MEETING**

**June 10, 2019**

The Dubois County Council met on Monday, June 10, 2019 in the Commissioner/Council Room in the Dubois County Annex. President Hunefeld called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Board Members Jerry R. Hunefeld, Charmian R. Klem, Doug M. Uebelhor, Craig M. Greulich, Mary E. Beckman, Michael W. Kluesner and Sonya Haas. Also present were Auditor Sandy Morton and County Attorney Gregory S. Schnarr. A quorum was declared present.

### **RE: ORDINANCE # 2019-01 PUBLIC READING**

County Attorney Greg Schnarr presented Ordinance #2019-01 - Ordinance Modifying Local Income Tax Rates in Dubois County, Indiana. The ordinance gives consideration to increase the Local Income Tax for Correctional and Rehabilitation Facilities 0.2000% beginning on October 1, 2019 per IC 6-3.6-6-2-7. The tax will remain in effect until modified by ordinance of the Council. The rate imposed under IC 6-3.6-6-2, as amended from time to time, may not be in effect for more than any statutorily limited time period or until a date upon which all debt obligations and/or costs or expenses associated with such debt obligations that are payable from revenues generated by the tax rate for correctional and rehabilitation facilities identified above have been paid and satisfied in full, whichever is sooner.

### **RE: FINANCIAL ADVISOR**

Matt Eckerle, of Baker Tilley, presented the projected revenues and the impact to taxpayers that the tax increase could bring to the County. He explained the current debt limit of the County and provided examples of debt service and lease rental revenue bonds.

### **RE: PUBLIC COMMENT**

Gil Eckerle, County resident, questioned how the tax increase could be used. This ordinance can only be used for the Correctional and Rehabilitation facilities use only. Depending on the date of adoption, the 20% cap for operational use may or may not be in effect.

Chad Blessinger, Commissioner, commented on the use of the ordinance revenue. The Justice Study has many arms, not just bars and concrete. If the County should choose to renovate the Courthouse as well as construct a facility, this tax cannot be used for such purpose. The legislation is unclear on the coverage of the LIT-CR.

Nancy Eckerle, Jasper City Councilwoman, questioned the intent of the legislation and wondered if the legislators would be revisiting this in the next session.

Councilmember Doug Uebelhor questioned if user fees could be generated as a revenue stream.

Community Corrections Director Megan Durlauf questioned the use of the 20% operational portion of the tax and the dependency of such tax when the tax comes to an end. She also was concerned about user fee revenues.

Huntingburg Mayor Denny Spinner asked if the documents presented would be made available to the public. He also made comment on the implementation of the LIT-Public Safety Tax which could be adopted by the County Income Tax Council.

Commissioner Chad Blessinger commented on the needs of the current facility, the transportation of the prisoners to the Courthouse, and the needs at Community Corrections. According to the State findings, we need to correct these issues. He supports adopting the Ordinance.

Discussion was held by the Councilmembers.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

With no further comment or questions from the public, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.