

## JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

May 14, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Mike Gerth, Dave Woodall, Mandy Creech, Gene Rudicel, Howard Malcomb, and Jerry Lamb were present. Tina called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance. Tina asked the council members to read the prior meeting minutes. Howard made a motion to approve the minutes, Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Steve Pennycuff came to council on behalf of the Fire Chief's Association; Steven is also Chief at the Vernon Fire Department. Steven is proposing an increase in LOIT Funds. The volunteer fire departments have been supported with LOIT funds since 2018 and have never received an increase. Campbell, Geneva, Lovett, Montgomery, Spencer, and Vernon have been receiving funds in the amount of \$31,333.33. The department in Westport has been receiving \$8,000.00 and the department in Dupont has been receiving \$4000.00. Steven is asking the council to increase the funding for the department in Westport to \$10,000.00, and the department in Dupont to \$6,000.00. He is also requesting an adjustment to the funding to the rest of the departments across the county to \$18,666.67 to bring the total funding to \$50,000.00. Currently \$199,999.98 in LOIT funds are paid to fire departments across the county and they are asking for an additional \$116,000.02 to be allocated to assist the departments in dealing with increased costs, such as testing, training, fuel, and utilities. Also being requested is an increase of two percent to begin this year and each year going forward. Dave said that this is a decision that cannot be made tonight, and it will have to wait until budget time. Dave and Gene both agree there is a need for more money.

Tracy Jones provides an update of collections. Currently they are a little over \$50,000.00 ahead in collections compared to this time last year. Tracy said that they are also applying for grants next year, and this includes a grant for a new ambulance. Tracy also said that her part time budget is depleted due to sickness, etc. and that she will need approximately \$27,000.00 to finish out the year. John, Tracy, and Paige are covering hours as needed. Mike made a motion to approve \$27,000 for Tracy's part time budget line, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Cody Low is requesting the salary ordinance to be amended due to promotions and filling the K-9 position. Cody is asking for these increases to be retroactive back to Jan. 1, 2024. Cody is requesting that Ben Seastrom (Sergeant) receive an additional \$1.00 per hour. As a result of an additional \$1.00 per hour, an additional \$2,080.00 for the year. Tina had met with Cody previously and explained to him that the only way you can receive an increase in pay, after the budget is set, would be for a qualifying event. Cody said that the previous sergeant had left and that they moved Ben into that position. Diana Gee explains that they are not asking for additional money, they are only asking that the salary ordinance be changed. The second employee is Max Marcoux, a K9 officer. His additional pay would be \$.75 per hour, which would be a total of \$1,560.00 for the year. Cody said that it is additional to what is in that line, but it is not an additional appropriation. The Auditors office said that the money that is being requested is not in that employee's line item. Cody said, regardless of whether it is additional, that is what

he is requesting. Tina explains that it does matter how they handle it. Diana explains that they moved lines and employees around. Tina asked if Max was in a K9 position prior to the promotion. Cody said that the K9 that was in the original budget had resigned. Dylan Smock is the third employee for whom a raise is requested. Cody is asking for an additional \$.59 per hour, which would total \$1,227.20 for the year. Cody states that Dylan filled a vacant position last year and did not require any additional training. Tina is asking if this would be an additional appropriation because he came in with more experience than the budget was approved for. Cody said that he has been moved to a line that has enough money. Tina asked Cody when Ben, Max, and Dylan moved into these new positions, and he replied, last fall. Why wasn't this brought to our attention last fall if that is when these employees received the promotions? Cody replies, "that is for another meeting. I would prefer not to open another can of worms until this issue gets resolved." Howard made a motion to approve the change in the salary ordinance to reflect \$2080.00 for Ben Seastrom, retro back to Jan 1, 2024, for the qualifying event of being promoted to Sergeant. Dave seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Gene made a motion to approve the change in the salary ordinance to reflect \$1560.00 for Max Marcoux, retro back to Jan. 1, 2024, for the qualifying event of being promoted to K9 officer, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Howard made a motion to approve the change in the salary ordinance to reflect \$1227.20 for Dylan Smock, retro back to Jan. 1, 2024, for the qualifying event of experience. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Amy Thompson came as a formality. The clerk's office received a grant from the State that was mistakenly deposited into the wrong account. This grant was for new election equipment. The election machines were purchased out of the Riverboat fund and Amy is asking for the fund numbers to be able to reimburse the county in the amount of \$100650.00. The Auditors office told Amy that the numbers that she will need to use for the reimbursement to the Riverboat are 1191.00990.0000. The Auditors office explained to Amy that there have been ACH deposits from the state on tax warrants and she said that they account for that but asked if we can send her the notices of these deposits. The general fund paid for cases, wires, cords, etc. in the amount of \$9859.16. The only remaining amount that she has gone over is in her Election fund which totals \$2682.00. Howard made a motion to direct the clerk to make a check for \$100650.00 to the Jennings County Treasurer to reimburse the Riverboat for election equipment. There will be a second check wrote to the treasurer in the amount of \$9,859.16 to reimburse county general and the third check payable to the treasurer will be in the amount of \$2,682.00 that will be deposited into the clerks' election fund. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Alex came on behalf of the commissioners. Alex has presented the council with an ordinance/resolution to authorize the commissioners to proceed with all steps necessary to acquire real estate. A survey will need to be completed before appraisals can be completed. Without a legal description, the property cannot be appraised. There is no dollar amount in this resolution because we currently do not have a price. Dave made a motion to approve the resolution/ordinance, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

In new business there is a quote for Eagle Point for a new projector in the conference room. Area Plan uses the projector in a lot of their meetings. Gene made a motion to approve the quote for \$1,642.45 and to pay it from the Riverboat fund. Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously. A quote for No limit paint was also submitted. This quote is for painting at the jail in the kitchen and needs to be completed to pass inspection. Dave made a motion to approve the

invoice for \$4882.00 and to pay it out of the safety LIT fund. Mike seconded the motion, passed with a vote of 6-1.

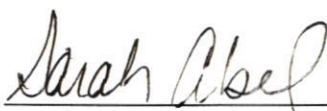
In old business, Reedy Financial invoices were discussed again. Sarah had a conversation with Reedy on invoices that the county had received by RFG. Anything that pertained to the budget would not have been billed. This would be included in our monthly contracted amount. Anything outside the perimeters of the budget will be billed separately. Dave said that he called and spoke to Matt and was told they would not be charged for phone calls asking simple questions. Gene said that only the council needs to call Reedy and department heads should not be calling. Dave made a motion to pay the RFG invoices in the amount of \$11,000.00, Gene seconded the motion, passed with a vote of 6-1.

Dave made a motion to appoint Jeremy Oaks to the Alcohol Board, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The auditor will send Jeremy a letter.

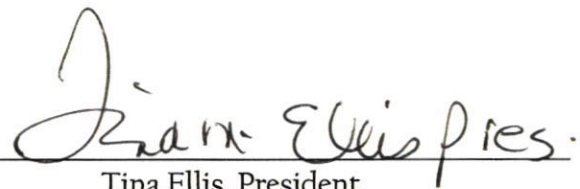
Tina read the notice that was advertised in the paper regarding the Cumulative Capital Development Fund (CCD). Reedy is suggesting that the county establish this fund. The county currently does not have a capital projects fund. Dave said that he thinks we need to eliminate the Cumulative Courthouse fund. The council discussed using CEDIT for big projects. There will be no vote on the CCD due to lack of motion.

Mike made a motion to sign the additional appropriations resolution in the amount of \$83,280.00, Howard seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Gene made a motion to adjourn, Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.



Sarah Abel, Auditor



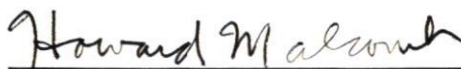
Tina Ellis, President



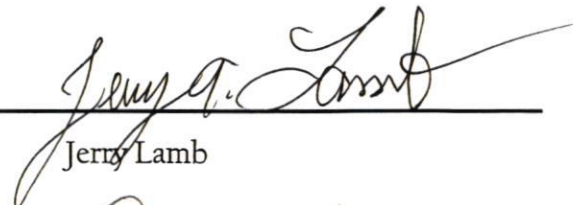
Mike Gerth, Vice President



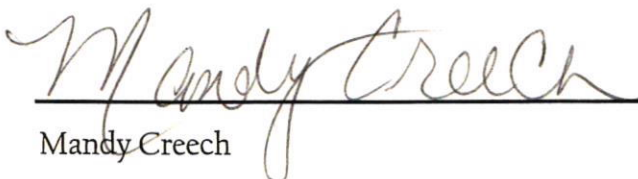
Gene Rudicel



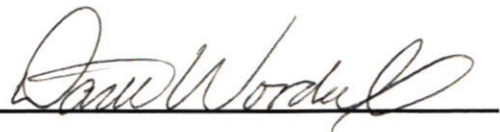
Howard Malcomb



Jerry Lamb



Mandy Creech



Dave Woodall