

JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

February 13, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Mike Gerth, Dave Woodall, Gene Rudicel, and Jerry Lamb. were present. Tina opened the meeting with The Pledge of Allegiance.

Ellie Bright came before the council in August with a presentation of PERF. Ellie is requesting that the county allow Reedy Financial Group to perform a feasibility study of the county funds to see if the county can afford PERF. Ellie has spoken with Brandon and Matt from Reedy and they are estimating \$7500-\$10,000.00 to perform this study. She also explains that different departments have the capabilities to help with this cost. There are several departments that receive excess revenue that is not budgeted money. Ellie says that to keep and retain good employees and to get up to par with the other counties, we need PERF. The county can pay 14.2% or pay 11.2% and require that all employees contribute 3%. The employee will not be fully vested until year 10. Brown County is currently trying to get out of PERF because the cost is increasing. Dave is concerned about the budget. He says that the county struggles now, and that if PERF happens, the county will have to make cuts somewhere. He doesn't want the county to be put into a bind. Dave says that if you move money around, departments will start to suffer. Ellie is asking when will "we" stop saying we are a poor county, we can't do it! Mike states that it isn't an opinion, numbers don't lie. Mike said he is very skeptical about what the results of the analysis will be. Mike is suggesting that a survey be handed out to employees. Tina said that the council could fund some of the study, but commissioners would need to be on board. Mike made a motion to fund a maximum of \$3500.00 for the study. Dave seconded the motion and stated that he is only making the motion for education. Gene would rather do the employee survey before funding the study. Jerry states that he is not a Reedy supporter and has not been for years.

Dan Brookbank is asking the council members for a new copier. The copier he is currently using started having issues and he found out that there are no replacement parts available for his copier. This copier has been used for 12 years and has had a good life. The quote from the Office Shop is \$729.99. There is a maintenance contract for an additional \$300.00. Dave made a motion to approve the purchase of a new copier. Gene seconded the motion for \$729.00 with no maintenance contract included. Passed unanimously.

Randy Shepherd explains to the council that each year people can file an appeal on their assessed values if they do not agree them. Wal- Mart has filed an appeal on their assessed value. Wal-Mart's representative for this area used to work in the assessor's office so therefore he knows both sides. He is now a tax rep for Integrity Tax. Wal- Mart has 120,700 square feet in the building and the current assessed value is \$62.13 per square foot. Wal- Mart is asking this to be reduced to \$48.46 per square foot. Randy stated that most assessors just give in and allow Wal- Mart to basically name their price. He does not want to do this, so he is discussing the options with the county. First, this will go to the PTBOA in our county. This meeting will be on Wednesday the 21st at 9 am. The board will hear Wal-Mart's appeal and if they were to approve the appeal, the county could take it to the next level which would be IBTR. The county would lose \$50,000 in tax revenue per year if this appeal is approved. Jerry said that in his opinion, he is figuring that we may be about \$630,000.00 higher than we should be. Mike said that he appreciates Randy for fighting this.

Randy discussed Level 2 and Level 3 pay. Randy said that he doesn't know when and why the pay was decreased. In May, the amended salary ordinance was approved by the council, but each department that had actual changes, was not discussed individually. Tina said that the

salary ordinance needs to be sent out every time that it has any changes. Randy said he respects the board and is not going to argue, but he feels that his employees were short changed. Tina said that the council needs to be more specific on any changes to the salary ordinance. Tina said that she is willing to sit down with Randy and the auditor and work this out.

Sherri says that the highway department needs two pieces of new equipment. The current GradAll is a 2012 model and they have obtained one quote so far for repairs. The quote from Southeast for a brand new GradAll is \$480,000.00. The delivery date from Southeast would be April. Leasing was discussed but Shane said there are no benefits to the county to lease equipment. Sherri said that they also need a paver. The paver they have now is a 1995 model. The replacement parts have been discontinued for this model. Gene asked if there is any value to our paver and Shane said that they could possibly get \$10,000 for it. Shane said that we sub out most of our paving so therefore we do not need a high-end paver. Sherri explained that the county does cold mix, but they sub out the hot mix. The paver that they obtained a quote for is \$115,000.00. Dave made a motion to approve the purchases but not to exceed \$600,000.00 and the monies will come out of the CEDIT fund. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The sheriff is asking for the following funds be appropriated:


- 4101 Sheriff Donations - \$7027.99
- 1192 Sex & Violent Offender - \$19331.71
- 4946 Sheriff Forfeiture - \$33284.43
- 1130 Non-Reverting Prisoner Reimbursement - \$28944.66
- 1208 Vehicle Inspection - \$5009.48
- 1156 Firearms Training - \$41,269.00
- 1101 Accident Report - \$4387.54
- 1174 Inmate Medical Care Reimbursement - \$8648.89
- 1175 Misdemeanant Fund - \$149,750.00
- 4015 Sheriff Continuing Education - \$8459.13
- 9108 Vest Grant - \$387.23

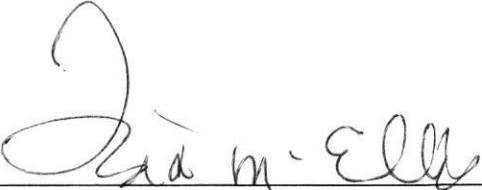
Mike made a motion to approve the appropriations to the above funds, Dave seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

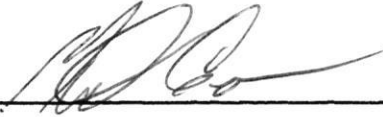
The Riverboat (1191), ARPA (8963), and The Rainy Day (1186) will need appropriated also. Any expenditures out of these three funds will need council approval. Dave made a motion to approve the appropriations, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Jennifer with the Clerks' office asked if the Election Non-Reverting Fund has been set up yet. Tina said that she asked the Auditors office about that, and it has not been set up yet. Tina explained to Jennifer that the reimbursement check for new election equipment from the state would go back into the counties fund, not the election fund. Jennifer asked about the balance of the election funds from 2023. Amy said that she is still in the process of cleaning things up from 2023. Amy asked what part of the election budget is being carried over into a non-reverting fund. Jennifer explains that there is almost \$70,000 left in the election budget that should be carried over. Tina said that the entire balance from the election budget should be carried over.

Dave said that the county has got their money's worth on the water rescue equipment. Gene made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

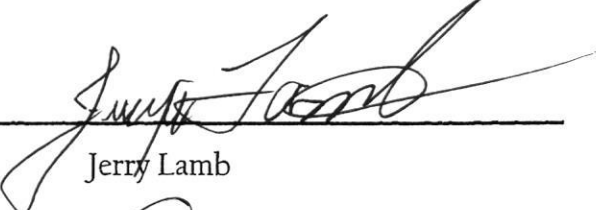

Sarah Abel, Auditor


Tina Ellis, President

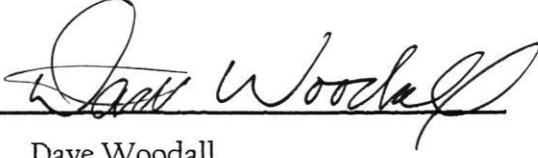

Mike Gerth, Vice President


Gene Rudicel

Howard Malcomb


Jerry Lamb

Mandy Creech


Dave Woodall