

JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

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

The Recorder comes before the Council to discuss her part time pay salary for 2025. The council informed Mary that all part time employees will be paid \$18.00 per hour in 2025. If any additional appropriations are needed after the first of the year, the recorder will come back to council. The recorder also explains that she was budgeted for more than she will need in her computer services line and is asking to move that money to another fund. Tina said that they will leave the money in the computer services line and if it is not used, it will just revert to county general. Tina asked the recorder to get her the hours that her part time person will be working, and she will get that information to RFG.

Sherri with the county highway department and Derek from USI Consultants come before council and ask for the councils blessing on applying for federal aid for three of the bridges. Sherri explains that she does not know if they will receive aid on all three but hope to receive it on at least two of them. Dave asked Sherri why she needed the council approval. Sherri responded that the state requires council approval because there is a 20% match. David from USI explains that there is a financial commitment letter saying that in year 2030, those funds will be there. There will be funds that will be needed along the way, such as engineering fees. Jerry asks how does USI know the number on the financial commitment letter will be correct in 2030? David said that the engineers looked at the numbers and averaged an amount of 3 ½ percent per year. He says that they also inflated the number to make sure there was plenty of monies available. David said that they looked at three different ways to do these projects; Local plans only, local funds and community crossing, and then federal funds. Based on the findings, it was better to go with the federal funding than it was to replace the bridges with local money. David said it is much cheaper to go with the federal aid at 20% than it would be to pay 70% of what normally would be paid. Dave Woodall asked Sherri how she proposes to have that 20% by the time the match money is due. Sherri said that if they get federal aid for all three bridges, she will need \$1.5 million, which is about \$300,000 per year. The application process started on November 7, 2024, and will go through December 6, 2024. The county will not get any results until March 2025. The commissioners have already voted on this and approved it to go to the council for funding. Dave made a motion to move forward with the federal aid process, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously. David with USI said that Jennings County has 133 bridges and that the life expectancy of the bridges are 50-75 years. The county should try to repair/replace the bridges every 3 to 4 years.

Tracy with EMS has noticed some unforeseen things with her payroll. Tracy explains that she will be short in some of her salary lines. The reason for this is that the budget is set on an 80 hour pay period. Some EMS employees work 24-hour shifts, and when they take a day off, they will not receive any overtime for that week. They will be compensated for 48 hours of straight time for that week. Tracy is not asking for additional appropriations; she is asking to transfer money from her overtime line to the pay lines that will be short. There are 2 employees that will be promoted after the 1st of year and will need additional appropriations. Gene made a motion to

approve the request for transfer from the overtime line to the standard pay line only for the remainder of this year. Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Marie Shepherd is asking to transfer funds. One of her clerks' computers needs replaced. Tina asked Marie why she did not include this in her budget? Marie said that she is not requesting additional money, she wants to transfer money. Gene made a motion to allow Marie to transfer \$1400.00 from 31200 to 11108 and \$1000.00 from 30802 to 20100. Dave seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tina reads the ordinance created for the issuance of the Go Bond. Howard made a motion to accept the ordinance as read, Dave seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The commissioners have already adopted so this is the second reading.

The commissioners have appointed Britt Burgmeier as their designee for JRAC (Justice Reinvestment Advisory Council) and the council will need to appoint a person to be their designee. Dave made a motion to appoint David Cheatham as designee for JRAC, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Seth Jones with the Parks office is asking to transfer funds. Seth is asking to transfer \$500.00 from building and grounds over to his fuel line to cover fuel for the remainder of the year. Seth said that will leave approximately \$2000.00 left in his building and grounds account. Tina thanked Seth for stepping up and helping the county out by stepping into that position. Dave made a motion to approve the transfer, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The county attorney drafted an interlocal agreement between the county and the Town of Vernon. Howard made a motion to sign the interlocal agreement between the council and the Town of Vernon for \$101,000.00, giving the auditor authority to write a check for \$101,000 to the Town of Vernon. Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tina shares with the council members an invoice received by RFG in the amount of \$2006.45. This is in addition to our monthly contracted agreement with them. Tina said her understanding of the additional invoice was because RFG had to redo numbers for the budget in Gateway because they were changed. No one knows exactly what happened, but RFG called and said they had to enter all the budget numbers in for a second time. Dave made a motion to pay the RFG invoice for \$2066.45, Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Michelle with Animal Control is asking to transfer \$1500.00 from firearms training to her supplies line and \$1000.00 from training and education to office supplies. Animal Control is looking for a computer and a docking station that can be used in the field and it is close to \$1000.00. Gene made a motion to approve the transfer, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The Assessor comes to council to discuss the 2025 budget. The additional appropriations did not get included in the 2025 budgeted amount. Randy will have to come back to the first meeting of the year and request additional appropriations. Randy said that his biggest problem is that elected officials' salaries cannot change so January will be to late. Tina asked if he would give her time to investigate it.

In a previous meeting the county highway wanted to buy two pieces of equipment, and they had \$824,000 in their CEDIT account. The council approved the request but not to exceed

\$600,000.00. Tina spoke with Matt (President/Commissioner) and Matt had said that they were building that fund to build a new building. Tina said she was in shock and that the council was not aware of this. Shane said that the county highway uses the CEDIT fund for extra paving when needed. The Auditors office made the council aware of the fund running into the negative if we write a check for a piece of equipment. Shane made the council aware that they had an opportunity with O'Mara to get some paving done and that the highway has been paying for this out of the CEDIT fund. Dave said his problem is that they are wanting to give that position more money, but you cannot award the overspending. Dave said that there needs to be some accountability. Gene said that they knew what they were approved to spend. Tina said that her understanding is that the county highway has appointed Josh Yeager as superintendent, and they did not budget 2025 for a superintendent. Dave said that council did say that if they filled the position, they would fund it. No further discussion needed.

Gene made a motion to approve the 2025 Council Meeting Dates. Mandy seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

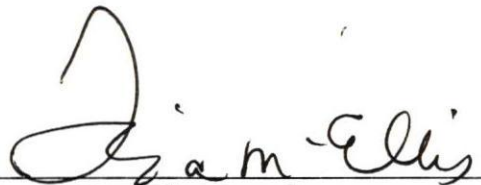
Tina reported that last month the money market with Indiana Trust made \$4,900.98. The Treasurer added \$73,000 to that account.

Mandy discussed the 55 and older credit. The council does not feel that they have enough accurate information to vote on this.

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



Sarah Abel, Auditor



Tina Ellis, President

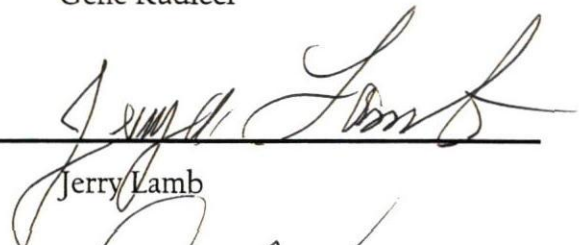


Mike Gerth, Vice President

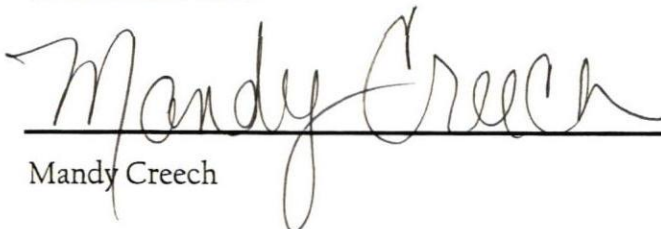
Gene Rudicel



Howard Malcomb



Jerry Lamb



Mandy Creech



Dave Woodall