

JENNINGS COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

April 8, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m.

Annex Building

Tina Ellis, Mike Gerth, Gene Rudicel, Dave W., Jerry Lamb, Mandy Creech and Dave Cheatham were present. Tina Ellis opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance. Dave Cheatham followed the Pledge of Allegiance with prayer.

Jerry Lamb made a motion to approve March 11, 2025, meeting minutes with corrections. One of the corrections is \$60,000 instead of \$600,000 for a grant. The second correction concerns the TIF appointments. The council have three appointments, and the commissioners have two. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed 6-0. Dave W. abstained from voting.

Kathy Ertel submitted the compliance forms for Decatur Mold. They exceeded all expectations. Dave W. made a motion to approve the compliance forms, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Andy Judd discussed the grants that the Probation office has received and the grants that the Probation office has applied for. Mike would like to sit down with Andy before the next meeting and discuss the grants and the costs.

Sherri with the county highway brings a list of appropriations that are needed. First is \$120,000 out of the CEDIT (General) fund to purchase a mini excavator. Second is \$21,000 for salt because it was higher than expected. This is being requested to be paid out of fund 1176. Third is \$100,000 in fund 8163 for bridge 44. This was included in the budget for 2025 but was zeroed out. Fourth is \$830,000 (20% Match) out of fund 1173 for construction on the O & M/Brownstown project. This was also included in the 2025 budget but was zeroed out. Fifth is \$27,937 for a new salt building. The old one collapsed earlier in the year and was not turned into insurance.

Equipment repair and the fairground's mowing service was moved to the restricted fund for the 2025 budget. The State Board of Accounts was contacted and said that these two items cannot come out of the restricted (1173) fund. They will need to be moved back to fund 1176.

Dave W. made a motion to approve \$120,000 for a new excavator out of fund 1169 (Local Road & Street). Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dave W. made a motion to approve an additional appropriation of \$100,000 in fund 8163 for Bridge 44. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dave W. made a motion to appropriate \$830,000 out of the restricted fund (1173) for the Brownstown/O&M project. Gene seconded the motion. Passed on a 6-1 vote. Mike voted no because he is trying to get his head around that account. The report given to the council from Reedy shows a balance of \$310,000 in the 1173 fund. There is a big discrepancy in these figures. Mike made a motion to appropriate \$21,000 for salt out of fund 1176, Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Dave W. made a motion to appropriate \$27,937 out of the general CEDIT fund. Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

There are two salaries that need additional appropriations. The first one is 1176.11604.530 (General Laborer) and needs an additional \$38.00. The second one is 1176.11805.530, and it will

need \$38,480.00. Mike made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$38.00, Dave W. seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Gene made a motion to approve the additional appropriation of \$38,480.00, Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Tina will discuss the equipment repair and the mowing service with Reedy.

The council members signed the additional appropriation ordinance that was approved in the last meeting. Dave W. abstained from signing due to absence.

Mike Gerth shared the TIF report with the council members.

An invoice from Reedy was submitted to be approved for payment. The auditor called Reedy to discuss the Cyber Insurance renewal, so this is accurate on the invoice. Regarding the disclosure research, this was for the 2024 Go Bond. Mike made a motion to approve the invoice for \$1624.85 to Reedy. Dave W. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Reedy will continue the disclosure portion of the bond and bill as a special project. Reedy estimated that the cost would be \$5-\$10,000 yearly. Dave W. made a motion to approve; Dave C. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The council discussed a final bill from Barnes & Thornburg. This is for legal fees for the Department of Labor audit. Dave W. made a motion to pay the invoice of \$3,487.31 and Mike seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The council is discussing an invoice that is due to Dave O'Mara for paving completed in November 2025. The invoice in question is for \$111,000.00. Some investigation needs to be completed to find out exactly what is owed to Dave O'Mara. Gene made a motion to allow Tina to work with Sarah to go back and research the minutes from December. If it is found that an invoice is owed, the council approves to pay up to \$111,415.16. Dave W. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

The monthly treasurers' report shows the total amount invested in the Indiana Trust account is \$14,392,172.10. The average interest rate is 4.3%. The county has received \$32,489.00 for the month of March, and the year-to-date interest total is \$68,000.00. Since the start of investing last May, the county has made \$2,390,479.58 in interest. Dave W. made a motion to allow the treasurer to invest \$5 million more. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

One invoice from Appraisals Inc. and one invoice from Taylor Reality has been submitted for payment. Mike made a motion to approve both invoices for \$2500.00 each. Gene seconded the motion, passed unanimously. The invoices will be paid from the Recycling Center's budget.

The council members discussed a few things: The Shoemaker quote that was presented in the last meeting. The commissioners tabled it and are seeking another quote. Also discussed was the need for a council attorney. Council members would like to speak to local attorneys before hiring an out-of-town attorney.

At 8:02 pm, Gene made a motion to adjourn, Dave W. seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Tina Ellis
Tina Ellis, President

Sarah Abel
Sarah Abel, Auditor

Gene Rudicel
Gene Rudicel

Mike Gerth
Mike Gerth, Vice President

Dave Cheatham
Dave Cheatham

Dave Cheatham

Jerry Lamb
Jerry Lamb

Dave Woodall
Dave Woodall

Mandy Creech
Mandy Creech

Mandy Creech