

October 27, 2020

Commissioners' Conference Room
Vigo County Annex
Terre Haute, Indiana

Roll Call:

Present: Judy Anderson and Brendan Kearns

Others Present: County Attorney Michael Wright, Auditor James Bramble, Cheryl Loudermilk, Tammy York-Allen, Kevin Gardner, Larry Robbins, Nancy Allsup, Stacey Todd, Joey Lehman, Jeremy Snowden, and Howard Greninger.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Judy Anderson called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Cell Phone Stipend Request – Vigo County Auditor. The first matter on the agenda concerned a request from the Auditor's Office for a cell phone stipend for three employees who frequently worked from home, probably will continue to work from home on a frequent basis in the foreseeable future, and use of their personal cell phones for business being required at all hours of the day and evening and weekends. This matter was discussed at great length. During the discussion, it was decided that the request should be amended to two employees (Jewellyn Andis and Judy DeLisle) due to the fact that Chief Deputy Auditor Cheryl Loudermilk already receives a phone stipend and was not requesting an additional one. The Commissioners felt that they did not want an avalanche of requests and another solution should be able to be found. Input on solutions was sought from IT. Other department heads in attendance were questioned with regard to their cell phone usage and stipends that exist within their departments. The question was raised if the Auditor had requested money in his budget for this type of thing and if it had been approved by the Council. Cheryl Loudermilk advised that there was enough in the budget and it had been appropriated. It does not specifically say it is for cell phone stipends. Stipends needed to be granted/approved by the Commissioners. Further discussion followed. Brendan Kearns suggested covering both employees for the next six months and then see where we are at. More discussion took place including establishing protocol and future guidance. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve a \$100.00 per month stipend, without time limitation, for each of Jewellyn Andis and Judy DeLisle. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Review of Burn Ban – Vigo County Commissioners. The burn ban for the County was set to expire this Friday, October 30, 2020. However, talks with Emergency Management revealed that they feel comfortable with lifting the burn ban now. Brendan Kearns made a motion to lift the burn ban effective at noon today, October 27, 2020. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Request from CASA for support letter – CASA. This is an annual request from CASA regarding putting a rental value on the space provided by the County to CASA for offices. A reasonable rental rate for an office of this size with utilities included would be \$16.00 per square foot. If CASA were leasing this space in an open market, they could expect to pay \$2,421.00 per month in rent with all utilities included. So with CASA having approximately 1,815.74+/- square feet, the annual in-kind donation would be \$29,051.84. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the acknowledgement of the in-kind donation to CASA in the amount of \$29,051.84 for the office space provided to them by the County. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Resolution for CARES Act resources – Vigo County Commissioners & Auditor. The next item concerned the adoption of Resolution 2020-07 which addresses the guidelines set forth by the Indiana State Board of Accounts, Indiana Office of Management and Budget, Indiana Department of Local Government Finance and Indiana Finance Authority regarding the submittal process and distribution of Coronavirus Relief Funds received under the CARES Act to replenish the qualifying funds expended during the pandemic. This Resolution states that the funds will be placed back into the General Fund of Vigo County where it will be subject to the same budget and appropriation processes as set forth by the Common Council of Vigo County. Jim Bramble, County Auditor, explained that the rules had recently changed. Initially, we were told to submit claims for individual items related to the CARES Act. In order to streamline the process, they now are requiring that one claim be submitted for public safety salaries from March 30 forward to claim the entire \$3.48 million CARES Act funding in one fell swoop. That money would then go into the General Fund for the appropriation process to the various departments. A lengthy, in-depth discussion followed about how this will work. After much discussion and decision to look further into how this will all be accomplished, Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve Resolution 2020-07. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote of 2-0, the motion unanimously passed.

Acknowledgement from REACH Services – Vigo County Commissioners. The Commissioners recently received a letter from Sarah Chandler, the Program Manager for REACH Services acknowledging the recent \$20,000.00 contribution from the County that read as follows: “We at Reach Services would like to thank you all so much for your continued support of our homeless day center, Pathways. The funding that you have approved for our center to receive is going to help us progress in so many ways. There is nothing we could say that could amount to the respect we have for the commissioners and everything you do for the community, especially the homeless population. With the Winter months quickly approaching, the funding will assist us in ensuring the homeless have somewhere warm and safe to sleep at night. We, as well as those we serve, are so very grateful. Thank you for the support of our mission and efforts. We are grateful to have you as part of the Reach Services’ family.”

Review of Minutes/Claims. Auditor James Bramble presented regular meeting minutes for October 20, 2020 for approval. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the minutes. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion unanimously passed.

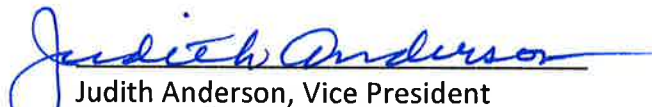
Auditor James Bramble then presented the Board with expenditures for the period of October 17, 2020 through October 23, 2020 in the amount of \$853,377.35. Brendan Kearns made a motion to approve the claims from October 17-23, 2020. Judy Anderson seconded the motion. Upon a voice vote, the motion unanimously passed.

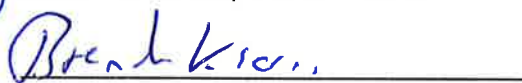
Comment from Commissioners or other Vigo County Representatives. Brendan Kearns asked whether the Auditor's Office had noticed any significant increase in the claims for transportation of corpses during the pandemic. The question arose whether it would be possible to recoup some of the transportation expense from the CARES Act. It was thought that issue would be worth looking into.

Stacey Todd expressed concern about a situation that was occurring with regard to people entering the building without a mask when the security officer was away from the entry delivering packages to various offices throughout the building. It was noted that he had masks to provide to those entering the building without a mask but that unless he were there to enforce the mask policy, there were individuals who were able to get in without one. This matter and possible solutions were discussed. Jeremy Snowden, Director of IT, advised that he believed his department could hook up an internal phone where the officer could call the individual departments so they could send someone from their office to pick up any deliveries for their respective offices.

Public Comment. There was no public comment.

Brad Anderson, President


Judith Anderson, Vice President


Brendan Kearns, Secretary

Attest:


James Bramble, Auditor