

VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
Sunshine Meeting Minutes
Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 5:00 P.M.
Council Chambers, Vigo County Government Center

Pledge of Allegiance

President Todd Thacker called the meeting to order at 5:00.

Calling of the roll

Aaron Loudermilk – present; Nancy Allsup – present; Vicki Weger – present; Marie Theisz – present; Travis Norris – present; David Thompson – present; and Todd Thacker – present.

Communications from elected officials, other officials or agencies of the County

Commissioner Mike Morris thanked the Council for the cooperation shown in 2023 and looked forward to continuing working together in 2024. Mark Clinkenbeard spoke briefly about the joint committee suggested at the end of last year to discuss the remaining ARPA funds and how best to proceed. He said he had met with Councilpersons Thacker, Weger and Norris in the last few weeks and identified several items of mutual interest. He pointed out that these were items agreed upon to be presented and voted on by the full Council. He looked forward to working together in the coming year. He also gave a brief update about E911 and its new location along with the new director, Brian DeHart, and on the status of the new maintenance building which is projected to be finished in July of 2024. Norm Loudermilk, Executive Director of the Vigo County Juvenile Center, announced that they had applied for a Covid 19 Detection and Mitigation in Confined Facilities grant from the State Department of Health several months ago. They have been awarded a grant of \$183,000. He described some of the approved expenditures that could be made with the grant funds. They had also had a recent high school graduation ceremony. They have had 6 graduates earn their diplomas since 2020. Auditor James Bramble distributed a copy of the 2023 encumbrances totaling \$15,730,972.61 to the Council. He pointed out that a little over \$12,000,000 of that was ARPA funds for last year's approved projects.

First reading by summary reference of proposed ordinances and resolutions

Due to a large agenda, President Thacker bypassed the first reading in order to get through business in a timely fashion.

Reports from committees

There were no reports.

Resolutions and Ordinances other than appropriations. In order to accommodate two requests that have a conflict with other matters tonight, the order for discussion has changed for the Courts and Vigo County School Corporation.

i. Salary Ordinance 2024-21A: Courts – Budget Adjustment

Hon. Chris Newton said they had been asked during the past year to transfer their IT person to the County's payroll rather than the Courts. Although this had been agreed to, he is an employee of the Courts and for security and other reasons, it is important that he remain under the Courts. They are requesting that he be transferred back under the Courts budget. Council had no questions.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2024-17: ARPA Grant Fund – Vigo County School Corporation Mental Health Program

Chris Hemsel, Vigo County School Corporation Superintendent, had distributed a handout summarizing their request for this project. A request is being made for ARPA funds to help support activities that were previously funded by the Project Aware Grant. Megan Kirk has been employed to coordinate many mental health services to help promote mental health among the students. They have had great success but the grant has now ended. They are requesting \$150,000 which would get them through at least the next year to be able to continue Ms. Kirk's employment as well as to supplement the things they are doing to support the kids. He gave statistics regarding increasing child abuse in the county, bullying and the programs being used to help with these issues and the mental health of all involved. There was a brief discussion with Council members.

iii. Resolution 2024-05: Council – Authorizing Advance Payments for Goods and Services

Council Attorney Michael Wright explained that the Indiana General Assembly changed a law last year that recognized the legitimate purposes under which bills could be prepaid. This proposal has already been adopted by the Capital Improvement Board for Vigo County. The Auditor's Office felt like it made good sense for their purposes to get that same opportunity at the county level. He gave some examples how this would work and the restrictions that are set out in the document.

iv. Resolution of Reallocation 2024-01: Vigo County Juvenile Court – Out-of-Series Transfer

Deb Kesler said their attorney who is on the Drug Court team was being paid out of contractual services but as of January 1, was hired as a public defender. Consequently, they need to switch the money for his services into the proper account so that he can be paid as a county employee and not as an independent contractor. This would need to be retroactive to January 1. She also noted that they had recently graduated two individuals from Drug Court.

v. Resolution of Reallocation 2024-02: Area Planning – Out-of-Series Transfer

Jared Bayler gave a brief presentation about a continuing education course an employee had attended at the end of last year. A floodplain simulation box was purchased to use after this training to be used for staff training, demonstrations, clinics, conferences and for use at school programs. It had been planned to pay for this simulation box from their Ed, Counseling Training line item but discovered it would need to be paid from the New Equipment line item. The total purchase was \$1,801.66. They are asking to transfer the

funds from their Ed, Counseling and Training budget to the New Equipment budget in order to pay for this equipment.

vi. Resolution of Reallocation 2024-03: EDIT – Parks – Land Acquisition – Out-of-Series Transfer

Adam Grossman, Park Superintendent, distributed a map to show the project area involved. Funds previously received from Council were going to be used in conjunction with an LWCF grant which became increasingly cumbersome and they elected not to move forward with the grant. They are asking for that same money through an out-of-series transfer for the land acquisition (which is addressed under Resolution of Reallocation 2024-03) and for improvements (which is addressed under Resolution of Reallocation 2024-04) that can be done in-house by the park staff for about the same amount of money along with some assistance from Riverscape. It will also get done significantly sooner than if it had been done under the grant.

vii. Resolution of Reallocation 2024-04: EDIT – Parks – Improvements – Out-of-Series Transfer

This was addressed by Adam Grossman in the prior paragraph.

Ordinances relating to appropriations.

i. Additional Appropriation 2024-01: Local Public Health Services – Contractual Services

Joni Wise, Health Department Administrator, said this and the next two requests all tie into one program and to what Dr. Hensel of the School Corporation talked about earlier by dovetailing into the program they are trying to do with Dr. Megan Kirk. Collaboration for Contractual Services between Chances and Services for Youth, Vigo County School Corporation, Family Service Association Counseling and Division 2 Family Court will employ social workers to provide services with the courts (working with children and families going through divorce and custody disputes) and to provide life skills, health and wellness education, therapy and other services in the Vigo County schools. Funding will be used for staffing, benefits, training, supplies and overhead. The entire cost is \$175,000 and funding sources for that can come through Health First Indiana funding, their Trust Fund, and Local Health Maintenance fund.

ii. Additional Appropriation 2024-02: LHD Trust – Contractual Services

This was addressed in (i) above.

iii. Additional Appropriation 2024-03: Health Maintenance – Contractual Services

This was addressed in (i) above.

iv. Additional Appropriation 2024-05: Alternative Dispute Resolution Fund – Disburse Funds

Judge Reddy explained that this was an annual request she makes for an additional appropriation for the \$20.00 collected from dissolution of marriage filing fees except when a waiver is requested and approved. She explained the restrictions in place for the use of this money.

v. Additional Appropriation 2024-04: EDIT – Community Crossing Grant Match

Larry Robbins, Vigo County Engineer and Highway Director, gave a brief history of the Community Crossing Grant Match. Vigo County has been awarded a grant every year except 2018. One of the stipulations for the 2018 grant was that the 2016 grant had to be completed before you could submit again. That was one of the first things Mr. Robbins did when he started the job was to get the 2016 grant completed. \$13.6 million dollars in road improvements have been accomplished since inception of the program for a total of 139 miles of road improvements out of 826 total miles. 127 of those miles are gravel. 20% of our total road miles have been touched with this program in 8 years. Previously, the max award was \$1 million. In December of 2023, INDOT approved an increase to match up to \$1.5 million for 2024. Therefore, the request is for an additional \$500,000 for matching dollars.

vi. Additional Appropriation 2024-06: ARPA Grant Fund – Recreational Trails Project

It was noted that this request along with the following for culvert and drain projects had been appropriated in 2023 but with no contract entered into for the funding at the end of 2023, the money could not be encumbered to the following year. Larry Robbins, Vigo County Engineer and Highway Director, said \$2.1 million in culvert and drain work and \$1 million in recreational trails had been awarded last year. He had been able to accomplish one crossing in Riley with the trails project so he is not requesting the full \$1 million be reappropriated for it. He is currently working on contracts for the trail project but does need the reappropriation. He also said he is close on contracts for the culverts and drains. He actually signed paperwork this week for the permitting for that and will probably bid it next month.

vii. Additional Appropriation 2024-07: ARPA Grant Fund – Culvert & Drainage Projects

This was addressed in the previous paragraph.

viii. Additional Appropriation 2024-08: ARPA Grant Fund – Hasselburger Bridge Improvement

Larry Robbins, Vigo County Engineer and Highway Director, said this bridge has been identified as a good project for additional ARPA funding. The bridge was built in 1919 and reconstructed in 1973 with superstructure work to widen the bridge at that point. There are now concrete issues with the bridge. He explained what the issues are and how some of them are caused along with what efforts had been made to fix them. Rehab versus reconstruction had been considered and cost was pretty close. This is the best

opportunity to rebuild the bridge completely. It is set to bid in October and cost estimate is about \$1.8 million. There is some contingency built into that so there is a little bit of wiggle room. He is requesting \$1.5 million in ARPA funding. He might have to request additional money at budget time to cover any shortfalls that might occur. This has become more urgent due to work that is planned for the north side of the county which will require this to become a detour for the planned construction. He is also working with INDOT for the reconstruction of the interchange for the intersection of US 41 and Clinton Road. This will also be a detour route for that area when that project begins. He would like to have the Hasselburger issues addressed before all that major traffic occurs. There was a brief discussion about the possible shortfall of funding and how to fund it. It was noted that construction would take about a year but some pre-work could begin before actual construction would start in April.

**ix. Additional Appropriation 2024-09: ARPA Grant Fund –
Courthouse Dome Cleaning Painting**

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard said they were requesting \$128,000 from ARPA funds to clean, paint and apply sealer to the dome and other metal corners of the Courthouse. This job is very dangerous and will require the workers to rappel from the cupola to accomplish the cleaning and painting. This was painted in 2015 but did not last as it had been planned due to a sealer problem. There was a brief discussion. We will be using the same painters as previously. There are very few people who do this kind of work. It was also noted that it was not the fault of the painters that the previous work had not lasted as anticipated but was a product defect.

**x. Additional Appropriation 2024-10: ARPA Grant Fund –
Courthouse Roof Repair**

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard then explained the need for the roof repair at the Court House. There is a leak in part of the roof. An estimate of \$2,000 has been obtained.

**xi. Additional Appropriation 2024-11: ARPA Grant Fund –
County Annex Parking Lot Seal & Stripe**

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard explained the need for the sealing and striping of the parking lot. They have obtained two estimates and both are under \$30,000. The contractor will apply two coats of sealer and restripe everything. The newer portion has never been done. If parking lots are not maintained in this fashion, you shorten the life of the asphalt.

**xii. Additional Appropriation 2024-12: ARPA Grant Fund –
Community Corrections**

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard said they will be coming out with a plan in partnership with the City later in the Spring to tackle the litter problem. Community Corrections supplies the labor to pick up the litter. They have one vehicle that is worn out and need a newer vehicle to get the crew out there. Director Bill Watson gave information on this request. The vehicle they want to replace is 32 years old and has been maintained for as long as possible but it is to the point that it is a safety concern to send people out in it.

They picked up approximately 2,700 pounds of trash last year and that does not include other trash clean-up projects by other groups and the Highway Department.

xiii. Additional Appropriation 2024-13: ARPA Grant Fund – Sheriff

Derek Fell, Chief of Operations with the Vigo County Sheriff's Office, said they have approximately 60 vehicles in their fleet. Every 5 years, they try to replace about half of their fleet through a lease program due to the high mileage put on the vehicles. They are asking for 2 jail vans (one large 15-passenger van and a minivan) and 2 patrol vehicles with the ARPA funding. There was a short discussion about the number of transport vehicles they currently have (7). Two of the oldest vans cannot leave the county due to their high mileage and safety concerns.

xiv. Additional Appropriation 2024-14: ARPA Grant Fund – Veterans Point Tiny Homes for Vets

Debby Sullivan, Director of Terre Haute Association of Realtors and Co-Chair for Veterans Village, along with Board President Kyle Shultz, talked about this request. This funding request is not for a specific item but the money would be used to keep the project moving. This project is ongoing and foundations for the homes have already been installed. The homes will be placed on the foundations as soon as the weather breaks. Their target is for the 100-150 unhoused veterans in the county for transitional housing. The veterans would reside there for 12-18 months for the purpose of reacclimating back into society and become whole again. They have been working on this for a couple of years. They have done fundraisers and received some private funding and community efforts. Very little public funds have gone into it. The ARPA funding would provide finishing touches on the project. The Veterans Village board is made up of all volunteers. There was a short discussion.

xv. Additional Appropriation 2024-15: ARPA Grant Fund – Vigo County Historical Society

This request had originated in 2023. Marla Flowers recapped the need for this funding. A capital campaign was launched last November and through community support was able to raise \$51,945. A private foundation is also making a generous donation along with this funding and would get them to the \$150,00 mark of the \$300,000 project.

xvi. Additional Appropriation 2024-16: ARPA Grant Fund – Vigo Rural Water Study

Commissioner Mark Clinkenbeard spoke about the clean water issue in a portion of the county. He introduced Bionca Gambill, President of Sullivan Vigo Rural Water Corporation, to talk about this project. She gave a brief history of how this company came about and where their funding came from. Due to some unforeseen circumstances (i.e. Desert Storm among others), initial funding was \$2 million less than originally awarded. This required elimination of 22 miles of pipeline. They are requesting \$60,000 of ARPA funds to help initiate a preliminary engineering report. This would allow them to look at their system and see what would need to be done to be able to service more people who need to be connected so that further funding could be obtained.

xvii. Additional Appropriation 2024-17: ARPA Grant Fund – VCSC Mental Health Program

This was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

xviii. Additional Appropriation 2024-18: E-Share Asset Forfeiture – New Equipment

Officer Derek Fell, Chief of Operations at the Sheriff's Department, said they are asking for \$32,395 to be transferred from their E-Share Asset Forfeiture account for red dot sights for their handguns to improve accuracy, faster charger acquisition, and make it easier to find the target. This fund can only be used for equipment and this request would qualify.

xix. Additional Appropriation 2024-19: E-Share Asset Forfeiture

Officer Fell said the second part of the request from the E-Share Asset Forfeiture Fund is for \$41,229 in order to provide a vehicle for the deputy in their Investigations Division that was added to this year's budget. An estimate for the cost of the vehicle was provided but did not include the police package pricing. There was a brief discussion. It was noted that the E-Share Asset Forfeiture Fund had a balance of \$76,865.18 and could cover these two requests.

xx. Salary Ordinance 2024-20A: Sheriff – Captain Position

Officer Derek Fell then explained that they were asking to increase the number of supervisors and would like to swap a sergeant position for a captain position. It would also include adding one captain stipend but eliminating one sergeant stipend. An additional detective stipend was being requested due to the omission of adding in a stipend for the new detective that had been added for this year's budget. There was a short discussion.

xxi. Salary Ordinance 2024-21A: Courts – Budget Adjustment

This was addressed at the beginning of the meeting.

xxii. Salary Ordinance 2024-22A: Local Public Health Services – Stipends

Chief Deputy Auditor explained that separate salary ordinances for certain departments had been split apart. Section 5 of the Vigo County Health Department Ordinance needs to be amended for certain positions paid from the Local Health Fund to receive a stipend paid from the Local Public Health Services Fund to add to their base pay to increase salary to the midpoint range as determined by the Baker Tilly Study. There was a brief discussion for further explanation.

xxiii. Salary Ordinance 2024-23A: Prosecutor – Amend Legal Secretary Position

Chief Deputy Prosecutor Rob Roberts said this was a request that had been previously made. This involves moving a Child Support Legal Secretary spot to a Criminal Legal Secretary spot. The salary is the same for either position so this would not be any fiscal

impact with the change. This will take care of the additional need in their Criminal Division and they do not believe it will impact the Child Support division negatively.

xxiv. Salary Ordinance 2024-24A: Courts – Salary Adjustment for Case Managers

Director of Court Services Bill Watson explained that the case management positions of the pre-trial screeners were not a part of the Baker Tilly study. 2 of the screeners are paid by the County and 2 are paid from the Indiana Office of Court Services. During the budget process, Mr. Watson did not want to increase the salary of the 2 paid for by the County unless he could be sure that the 2 paid for by Indiana Office of Court Services could also be increased. The funding award from the State comes long after the County budget is approved. The State did allow a 3% increase for the State-paid employees. Therefore, Mr. Watson is now requesting a 3% increase for the 2 screeners paid from county funds to balance everyone out. At this point, none of the screeners have received any increase until it is determined what the Council will do.

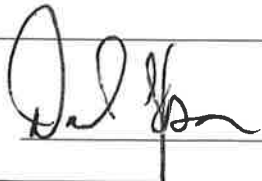
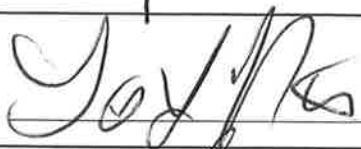
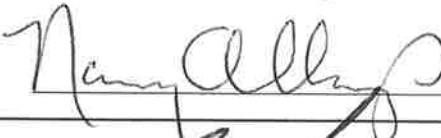
Public Comments

There were none.

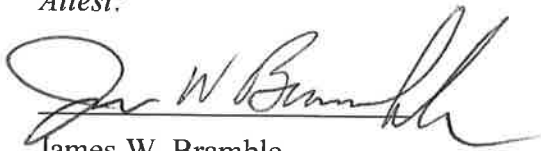
Nancy Allsup made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m. Marie Theisz seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

MINUTES OF THE VIGO COUNTY COUNCIL
SUNSHINE MEETING
FEBRUARY 8, 2024

Presented to the Vigo County Council, read in full and adopted as written this 12th day of March, 2024.

Aye ☒	Absent ☐	David Thompson	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		
Aye ☒	Absent ☐	Travis Norris	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		
Aye ☒	Absent ☐	Marie Theisz	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		
Aye ☒	Absent ☐	R. Todd Thacker, President	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		
Aye ☒	Absent ☐	Vicki Weger	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		
Aye ☒	Absent ☐	Nancy Allsup	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		
Aye ☒	Absent ☐	Aaron Loudermilk	
Nay ☐	Abstain ☐		

Attest:


James W. Bramble
Vigo Auditor