

The Adams County Council met February 11, 2020, 8:30 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, Steve Bailey, Tony Mellencamp, Stan Stoppenhagen, Dennis Bluhm, Yvette Weiland, John Schultz, and Cory Sprunger; County Council Attorney, Julie Marie Brown; and County Auditor, Mary Beery. Commissioners, Doug Bauman and Kim Fruechte were in attendance as their meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, seconded by John Schultz, the January 14, 2020 Adams County Council Minutes were approved. Motion carried.

IN RE: AUDITOR REPORT

Encumbrances

Office Manager, Deb Stevens, presented the 2019 encumbrances for the Solid Waste District.

Upon a motion by Yvette Weiland, to approve the 2019 encumbrances, seconded by Tony Mellencamp. Motion carried.

Auditor, Mary Beery, requested approval of the 2019 encumbrances for Adams County.

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, to approve the 2019 encumbrances, seconded by John Schultz. Motion carried.

IN RE: SAVE ON ENERGY COSTS

Rick Anderson of Johnson Melloh Solutions, met with the board to seek funding for an energy savings project to help save on energy costs. Mr. Anderson had met with the Commissioners and was given approval to complete the report.

The objective is to collaborate with Adams County to develop energy conservation measures that decrease energy usage, produce sustainable energy, reduce utility costs, and provide substantial benefits to their buildings and community.

His company would put together energy conservation programs and Adams County could borrow money to complete the programs. If monies are borrowed the loan can go out up to 20 years. They were just awarded solar work at the Fort Wayne airport. They are dealing with Jay, Blackford, and Randolph Counties, and talking with the Decatur Mayor after this meeting. The solar panels last for 25 to 30 years. The funding will have no effect on the bonding we currently have with the jail bonding. Johnson Melloh Solutions will look for grants to help with funding. Johnson Melloh Solutions completes 50% to 75% of the work and would welcome other companies that the county would like to use locally. The cost of the solar panels will be recouped in 8 to 12 years. Maintenance is included into the costs. If they say they are going to save Adams County a \$1.00 and they only save \$0.90; Johnson Melloh Solutions writes us a check for the difference. Solar panels will take care of electricity demands.

Solar Array Systems give an expressed commitment to sustainability, increased facility or property value, 20-year full service maintenance, labor, and insurance, and reduce utility bill costs.

Mechanical upgrades would have to be completed as follows:

Highway Department - replace the existing with tube type gas fired infrared heaters.

Service Complex - add VFD's to the pumps and replace existing 8 gas fired boilers with high efficiency condensing boilers. Building control system. Solar requires ground or roof space. The Service complex would require a roofing test to be completed to make sure the roof could support the system.

Mr. Anderson will forward the RFQ (request for qualification) and RFP (request for proposal) to the County Auditor and Attorney and they are included at no extra charge. The project can be budget neutral where your utility savings funds the project. There are no upfront expenses until a contract is signed.

Upon a motion by Steve Bailey, to encourage Commissioners to move forward with investigating solar energy as an alternative solution to our energy needs, seconded by Tony Mellencamp. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ENGINEER

County Engineer, Tim Barkey, met with the board to discuss his 2020 salary. He felt the proposal from the State warranted an increase but there was no increase to his salary due to the additional \$20,000.

Stan Stoppenhagen was approached by the Commissioners to evaluate Tim's pay and Stan investigated other counties on what they have done. Stan Stoppenhagen addressed the board stating Mr. Barkey has multiple degrees he has obtained and the board should consider the knowledge and work ethic that he brings to the county. Stan Stoppenhagen felt that Tim Barkey was undervalued. Some counties offer benefits and others do not. The average of counties in 2020 is \$98,684 and in 2019 it averaged at \$86,196.

Cory Sprunger stated the position is non-categorized.

Steve Bailey mentioned that Council has always said that we do not let funding drive compensation. Steve added with that said Tim has done a great job and he does not want to lose him. We must remain competitive and retain talent and we would struggle to retain Tim. He added it is hard to retain people on the value of benefits.

Yvette Weiland mentioned she had contacted Jay and Wells Counties and we are comparable.

Doug Bauman said when the Commissioners submitted their recommendation they considered the additional funding. He added when you compare to other counties, you need to consider the number of bridges.

Motion by Dennis Bluhm, to establish a salary of \$92,000 retroactive to January 1, 2020, seconded by Steve Bailey. Tony Mellencamp, John Schultz, and Yvette Weiland opposed. Stan Stoppenhagen had to break the tie and he opposed to look for a better offer. Motion died.

Cory Sprunger addressed Tim Barkey several times asking if there is any kind of guidance as to an amount that Tim would commit to on continuing his employment with Adams County.

Tim Barkey responded every time that he did not have an amount. He mentioned that he does have his application out in the private sector. He said he will not have an amount until he knows what is out there.

Stan Stoppenhagen stated it would be fair to offer Tim what we would offer a new applicant to get them to work with the county. Tony Mellencamp responded there is no way to determine or come up with a figure to answer that question.

Tim Barkey told Council he appreciated the discussion.

Motion by Cory Sprunger to establish a salary of \$96,000 retroactive to January 1, 2020, seconded by John Schultz. Motion carried. Yvette Weiland opposed.

IN RE: SALARIES & BENEFITS – APPOINTED DEPARTMENT HEADS

Commissioners, Doug Bauman and Kim Fruechte, met with the board to discuss the proposed hire date and training for a new Highway Superintendent. They interviewed candidate’s for Lonnie’s replacement and offered the position to Brad Yoder and he accepted. Brad Yoder will start with superintendents pay on February 18, 2020 and Lonnie Caffee’s pay will remain the same. The Commissioners recommend Brad receive 1-week vacation in his first year. Effective April 15th the assistant will be chosen. This proposal ends in a wash due to the assistant position being vacant since January 2020.

Motion by Tony Mellencamp, that Lonnie Caffee stays on and be paid the same that Brad Yoder is paid until April 3rd moving forward after Lonnie has retired and his wage to begin on February 18th, seconded by Steve Bailey. Motion carried.

IN RE: ELECTIONS

Clerk, Jim Voglewede, Wes Kuntzman, Election Board Member; and Micro-Vote Representative. Steve Shamo, presented the new micro-vote VVPAT (Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail) machine and demonstrated how it works. The system will print a header, voter, votes, and after the verify button is hit the program gives the voter a paper ballot to look at their choices. This system will help prevent a compromise. Mr. Shamo stated the Secretary of State VSTOP came up with the program which compares electronic ballots with paper trail ballots. Grant money has been granted and the county will receive 20 machines mid-March. The total of these machines would have cost the county \$36,000 to purchase. Mr. Shamo will meet with the Election Board to decide where to employ these. Estimating 240 votes on each machine given the calculation of voters and the amount of time it takes to vote.

Mr. Voglewede stated no decision is needed they are just letting the board know what is coming down the line.

Mr. Shamo reported the Clerk’s office programs the voting machines and most counties have Micro-vote program them at \$60 a machine.

IN RE: SHERIFF

Sheriff, Dan Mawhorr, requested permission to hire a part-time facility maintenance person. They lost the full-time maintenance person and put him into a part-time position that they do not have any longer. He is asking the part-time position be approved at a wage of \$15.36 per hour as it is categorized as a NE4 band.

Motion by Dennis Bluhm, to approve filling the part-time position at a wage of \$15.36 per hour, seconded by John Schultz. Motion carried.

Sheriff Mawhorr brought up a discussion on the jailer’s positions. The pay fits in the NE 4 band and he understood that they would be non-categorized and compensated with their pay matrix.

Motion by Tony Mellencamp, to approve the jailers be non-categorized and compensated with their pay matrix, seconded by Dennis Bluhm. Motion carried.

IN RE: PRE-TRIAL SERVICES

Judge, Pat Miller; Prosecutor, Jeremy Brown; and Chief Probation Officer, Jack Odle, met with board to discuss Pre-Trial Services. The Justice Partners Judicial Grant will open a second round for \$60,000 and can be applied for and renewable for two years. The grant is earmarked for Adams County as long as we utilize the monies for one of the categories that it can be used which Pre-Trial is acceptable. They will take advantage of this opportunity and file for a second grant. The grant would be written to cover Rhonda McIntosh’s salary. She does Pre-Trial part-time and Probation part-time. These are Federal monies given to Indiana and the grant specifically says that the court has to write the grant.

Mr. Odle stated the negative amounts take away the administrative assignment. They will increase the user fees by \$5 which will increase the income by \$1,300 monthly.

Bond Agent, Adam Eguia, addressed the board with information on pre-trial release (on file in the Auditors Office). They want everyone to believe that if you go through risk assessment there will be no more criminals. There are problems with failure to appear but it is not a mandate.

IN RE: SALARY ORDINANCE

	<u>REQUESTED BI-WEEKLY</u>	<u>APPROVED</u>
Surveyor (0006)		
Maintenance Operator Full Time (NE6 + \$.60)	\$19.56/hr.	\$19.56/hr.
Maintenance Operator Part Time NE4)	\$13.82/hr.	\$0.00/hr.
Drainage Board (0063)		
Maintenance Operator Full Time (NE6 + \$.60)	\$19.56/hr.	\$19.56/hr.
Maintenance Operator Part Time NE4)	\$13.82/hr.	\$0.00/hr.
General Drain (1158)		
Maintenance Operator Full Time (NE6 + \$.60)	\$19.56/hr.	\$19.56/hr.

Maintenance Operator Part Time NE4)	\$13.82/hr.	\$0.00/hr.
Drainage Maintenance (2700)		
Maintenance Operator Full Time (NE6 + \$.60)	\$19.56/hr.	\$19.56/hr.
Maintenance Operator Part Time NE4)	\$13.82/hr.	\$0.00/hr.
Perpetuating Cornerstones (1202)		
Maintenance Operator Full Time (NE6 + \$.60)	\$19.56/hr.	\$19.56/hr.
Maintenance Operator Part Time (NE4)	\$13.82/hr.	\$0.00/hr.
Jail (0380)		
Jailer (NE4)	\$1,355.00	\$1,355.00
Gabe Schwaller - Retro 1/25/2020		
Part Time Maintenance (NE4)	\$15.36/hr.	\$15.36/hr.
Kriss Affolder - Retro 1/15/2020		
Assistant Jail Commander (NE6)	\$1,691.36	\$1,691.36
Nicholas Yoder - Retro 1/1/2020		
Golden Meadows (0622)		
Food Service Supervisor (NE5)	\$1,364.80	\$1,364.80
Angela Hall		
Highway (1176)		
Garage Mechanic (NE6 + \$1.20)	\$1,612.80	\$1,612.80
Robert Braun		
Adult User Fees (2100)		
Assistant Chief Probation Officer	\$0.00	\$0.00
Rhonda McIntosh - Retro 1/13/2020		
**There was \$144.23 being paid from this fund that will not be now		
LIT Public Safety (1170)		
Deputies		
Trevor Callahan	\$2,010.56	\$2,010.56
Peter Amstutz	\$1,713.92	\$1,713.92
Daniel Heckard	\$1,713.92	\$1,713.92
Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, seconded by John Schultz, the above Salary Ordinances for 2020 were approved by Council. Motion carried.		
Indiana State Opioid Response Grant (8105)		
Case Manager/Probation Officer	\$1,460.50	\$1,460.50
Jaime Loshe - Effective 2/27/2020		

Upon a motion by Yvette Weiland, seconded by Tony Mellencamp, the above Salary Ordinance for 2020 was approved by Council. Motion carried.

IN RE:

OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY PRESENTED

Employee Paid Time Off Policy

County Council Attorney, Julie Marie Brown, presented a draft of the employee paid time off resolution.

County Attorney, Mark Burry, stated the Commissioners adopt the policy manual but if there is a proposal to make a change it requires both boards to agree on the policy. Paid time off is a more flexible way to provide employee benefits which is currently based on the employees' anniversary date. The new paid time off policy would change that. Implement in a manner that no one loses days. Council reviews the draft and look at the fiscal value then kick it to the Commissioner for them to approve.

Steve Bailey advised the policy be discussed at the next meeting and Council make a recommendation to the Commissioners.

Attorney Burry stated if the Commissioners get it back after the April meeting to be adopted in June and the policy could become effective in July.

Regional Sewer District

County Attorney, Mark Burry, reported the Sewer District is in middle of financing for the next project. Council has agreed to promise \$500,000 to be borrowed from the Rainy Day Fund. Council should be reimbursed interest. Council will work with the Treasurer to come up with a fair interest rate. A proposal will be presented at the next Council meeting.

Judicial Center

Attorney, Mark Burry, stated an executive session will be scheduled to discuss the improvements to the new jail.

Information Systems

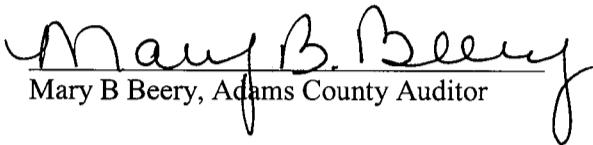
Attorney, Mark Burry, reported the IT Committee has developed a rough draft policy on how department heads should move forward with IT purchases

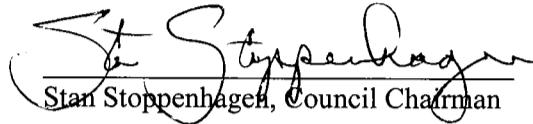
IN RE:

ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, seconded by John Schultz, for adjournment of the February 11, 2020 meeting of the Adams County Council. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Mary B Beery, Adams County Auditor


Stan Stoppenhagen, Council Chairman