

The Adams County Council met September 10, 2019, 8:00 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, Steve Bailey, Tony Mellencamp, Stan Stoppenhagen, Dennis Bluhm, Yvette Weiland, Cory Sprunger, and John Schultz; County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; County Auditor, Mary Beery; and Claims Deputy, Brianna Brodbeck. Also present were Commissioners, Doug Bauman, Rex Moore, and Kim Fruechte as their meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by John Schultz, to approve the August 13, 2019 Adams County Council minutes. Motion carried.

IN RE: RECESS COUNCIL MEETING

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Steve Bailey, to recess the Adams County Council meeting to go into the public hearing for the 2020 budgets of Solid Waste. Motion carried.

IN RE: SOLID WASTE PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020 BUDGET

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by John Schultz, to open the public hearing for the 2020 budgets of Solid Waste. Motion carried.

Adams County Council President, Tony Mellencamp, opened the floor to hear budget inquires for the 2020 Adams County Solid Waste District. Adams County Solid Waste District Director, Jeff McIntosh; Office Coordinator, Deb Stevens; and Solid Waste Attorney, Tim Baker, were in attendance and taxpayers present made no comment.

Motion by Steve Bailey, to have Solid Waste District Director, Jeff McIntosh, look at the bands adopted by Adams County and assess the employees to fit within the bands and bring back to the board. Motion died for lack of a second.

Upon by Stan Stoppenhagen, to approve the budget as presented, seconded by Dennis Bluhm. Motion carried. Steve Bailey opposed.

IN RE: CLOSE THE PUBLIC HEARING OF SOLID WASTE

Upon a motion by Steve Bailey, seconded by John Schultz, to close the public hearing on the 2020 budget of the Adams County Solid Waste District. Motion carried.

IN RE: ADAMS COUNTY PUBLIC HEARING ON 2020 BUDGET

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by John Schultz, to open the public hearing for the 2020 budgets of Adams County. Motion carried.

Adams County Council President, Tony Mellencamp, opened the floor to hear budget inquires for the 2020 Adams County Budget. Adams County taxpayers that were present made no comment.

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Stan Stoppenhagen, to close the public hearing on the 2020 budget of the Adams County. Motion carried.

IN RE: RESUME COUNCIL MEETING

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Steve Bailey, to resume the September 2019 meeting of County Council. Motion carried.

IN RE: SOIL & WATER

Soil & Water Conservation Director, Sandy Voglewede; Commissioner, Doug Bauman; County Surveyor, Paul Norr; Soil and Water Conservation District for Wells County, Kyle Lund; and Chairman of Upper Wabash River Commission, Doug Sundling, approached the board on erosion issues within Adams County. Adams, Huntington, Wells, and Jay Counties are in the same district of the Upper Wabash River Commission. They have been approved for a grant to do an assessment of the Wabash River to look for erosion. Two spots were found one in Wells County and the other in Geneva located on county road 1100. The commission has been awarded \$40,000 for design work and decided to focus on the location in Geneva. They are on a deadline to sign off on the grant and will apply for a third grant which they are anticipating an amount of \$160,000. Doug Sundling reported that once they have the area shovel ready, they can work on design. The match is usually 20% with 10% in kind which will be the services by the Surveyor's Office. The other 10% is financial and they are looking at approximately \$125,000 to complete the project. Kyle Lund stated once it falls into a county designated area, the county should be responsible for fixing the issue. The third grant would be applied for in 2021 at which time the engineering work would be completed. Sandy Voglewede closed stating they wanted to make sure the Council and Commissioners were on board.

IN RE: PROBATION

Chief Probation Officer, Jack Odle, met to discuss transferring money from adult user fees to urinalysis.

Motion by Stan Stoppenhagen, to approve the transfer of monies, seconded by John Schultz. Motion carried.

IN RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Barry Scherer, Regional Sewer District; Nate Rumschlag, Regional Sewer District for Wells County; Dick Lambert and Don Bergdall, members of the Regional Sewer District Board. They are seeking the financing locally instead of going to the public to do engineering work through bonds. There is a chance the grant will not come to fruition. They would need to borrow \$450,000 to complete the engineering to be ready for the bid date for four of the six projects.

Motion by Stan Stoppenhagen, to come to an agreement with the sewer district in 2020 and to fund the engineering costs not to exceed \$500,000 with the borrowed money to come out of the rainy day fund with anticipation of repayment with the grant, seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNCIL ATTORNEY REPORT

County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown, reported the wage scale in the Auditor’s office has now been changed. There is also a wage scale appeals procedure which has been changed. She has created a wage appeals form for consideration. The Council’s revised wage scale was forwarded to department heads along with the wage appeal procedures. She presented Resolution 2019-5 and Resolution 2019-6 for consideration.

Tony Mellencamp stated it has been a process that we have worked hard on. If a department head feels an employee should be in another band, they will have to submit an appeal. The job descriptions were approved by the department heads and the county. The board discussed changes that need to be made to the resolutions and directed Julie-Marie Brown to make the changes.

Resolution 2019-5

A resolution of the Adams County Council adopting a revised wage scale was introduced for consideration.

Motion by Cory Sprunger, to approve Resolution 2019-5 subject to appropriations as amended to eliminate all columns except the minimum wage column, seconded by Steve Bailey. Motion carried.

Resolution 2019-6

A resolution of the Adams County Council adopting a revised wage scale appeal procedure was introduced for consideration.

Motion by Cory Sprunger, to approve Resolution 2019-6 as amended to eliminate high and low options, seconded by Stan Stoppenhagen. Motion carried.

Motion by Yvette Weiland, to approve the submission of the job description signed by the department head and employee along with appeals, seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

IN RE: OTHER MATTERS PROPERLY PRESENTED

Indiana Court of Appeals

Council President, Tony Mellencamp asked the board to make a decision on the November meeting as to moving the date and/or time due to the Indiana Court of Appeals program called Appeals on Wheels. This would allow the board to see how the appeals process works. Councilman Sprunger stated if the Court of Appeals is inviting us, it is nice to accept their invitation.

Motion by Stan Stoppenhagen, to change the November 12th meeting to 1:30 p.m., seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

IN RE: SALARY ORDINANCE
REQUESTED BI-WEEKLY APPROVED

Jail (0380)

Jailer

Michaela Hanni (effective 10/5/19)	\$1,364.00	\$1,364.00
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Upon a motion by Stan Stoppenhagen, seconded by Steve Bailey, to approve the salary ordinance. Motion carried.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Steve Bailey, seconded by John Schultz, for adjournment of the September 10, 2019 meeting of the Adams County Council. Motion carried.

Budget hearings of the Adams County Council began Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

IN RE: ENTER BUDGET HEARING

Upon a motion by Cory Sprunger, seconded by Stan Stoppenhagen, to enter into the 2020 budget hearings. Motion carried.

Budget hearings resumed Wednesday, September 11, 2019

Those present were Council Members, Steve Bailey, Tony Mellencamp, Stan Stoppenhagen, Dennis Bluhm, Yvette Weiland, Cory Sprunger, and John Schultz; County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; County Auditor, Mary Beery; and Claims Deputy, Brianna Brodbeck.

Budget hearings resumed Thursday, September 12, 2019

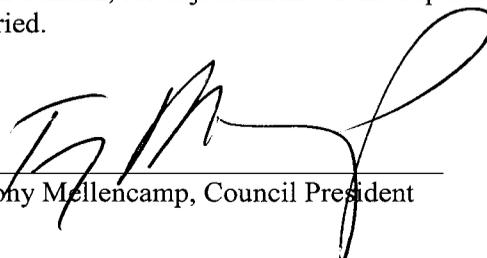
Those present were Council Members, Steve Bailey, Tony Mellencamp, Stan Stoppenhagen, Dennis Bluhm, Yvette Weiland, Cory Sprunger, and John Schultz; County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; County Auditor, Mary Beery; and Claims Deputy, Brianna Brodbeck.

IN RE: ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Dennis Bluhm, seconded by John Schultz, for adjournment of the September 10, 11, 12, 2019 budget hearings of the Adams County Council. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Mary B Beery, Adams County Auditor



Tony Mellencamp, Council President

The Adams County Council held a special meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, 7:00 a.m., in the Council room of the Adams County Service Complex located at 313 West Jefferson Street in Decatur to discuss the following:

- 1) Request by Superior Court to apply for grant and pay for grant writing services.

Those present were Council Members, Steve Bailey, Tony Mellencamp, Stan Stoppenhagen, Dennis Bluhm, Yvette Weiland, Cory Sprunger, and John Schultz; County Council Attorney, Julie-Marie Brown; County Auditor, Mary Beery; Also present were Commissioners, Doug Bauman, Rex Moore, and Kim Fruechte as their meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. Superior Court Judge, Pat Miller, and Drug Court Coordinator, Kelly Sickafoose were also present.

Tony Mellencamp opened the meeting stating Council decided not to fund the additional probation officer position. There will be a State meeting on October 4, 2019 and he suggested waiting until after this meeting to see what is actually needed.

Julie-Marie Brown explained the grant is specifically for pretrial and opioid cases. The grant was written with the intention to defray expenses. The Federal grant allows \$60,000 in 2019 and \$60,000 in 2020.

Stan Stoppenhagen expressed concern with not having a plan in place. He warned against moving ahead with something that may or may not be needed. We don't know specific needs or purposes and we need to know more.

Tony Mellencamp stated the county has to absorb the position after the grant ends.

Kelly Sickafoose addressed the board stating a lot of needs have been identified. She stated the consensus of the stakeholders is a full-time manager is needed and offset funding for the public defender.

Pat Miller stated his court is doing pretrial with the help of Community Corrections. He warned that the Department of Corrections is not going to want to keep funding for pretrial. The grant monies can be used for behavior health, Probation Department, Drug Court, and help control the opioid crisis.

Steve Bailey expressed concern with funding for long term positions with short term money.

Tony Mellencamp raised the question if approving this would set precedence for other departments to be paid to write grants. He stated he does not understand why they put such a deadline on the grant, adding taxpayers pay for grant monies. In the future, it will be absorbed into county funds. He noted the board is hearing different things from other counties and he is hesitant on approving without knowing the details.

Pat Miller responded that Kelly Sickafoose is different because she does not work for pretrial.

Stan Stoppenhagen stated we have heard a wide range of solutions. He shared the emails from Kelly Sickafoose on reducing the county judgment against her by \$12,000.

Kelly Sickafoose explained the 10% fee encompasses everything; administration, writing, and reporting. There is a certification process which could be a model for other counties. She added that once she is certified in pretrial services the rate would be negotiable. Kelly noted she could write for Jamie Loshe's position.

Cory Sprunger shared two issues that he had with approving the request. 1. Putting the cart before the horse. 2. How do we apply for the grant? Do we pay someone or not? When we tie the 10% fee to the judgment, we open up a mess and everything goes through the roof. He felt the county should separate the fee from the judgment as a one-time payment if the request is approved.

Pat Miller stated the grant has to be acquired in 2019 to receive the 2020 grant funding.

Tony Mellencamp stated there might be additional grants in the future if the government sees the situation as an issue.

Dennis Bluhm stated he is not in favor of applying for the grant without knowing who will write or administrate it.

Steve Bailey questioned if we don't go down this path today and decide in the future, would we have to go through this process? He added that he is not comfortable growing \$60,000 just because this grant is available.

Pat Miller stood up stopping the conversation and stated gentleman, clearly you are not going to approve this so we will write a grant for something court related and left abruptly.

Tony Mellencamp asked for input from the Commissioners.

Doug Bauman questioned whether current employees could be used and wanted to know the feeling of Circuit Court.

Motion by Stan Stoppenhagen, not in favor of applying for this grant under these circumstances, seconded by Steve Bailey. Motion carried.

Cory Sprunger questioned to what extent is mandated and where is the mandate? Which part do we have to do?

Kelly Sickafoose responded the assessment tool is mandated which covers a large group of people.

IN RE:

ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Yvette Weiland, seconded by John Schultz, for adjournment of the September 24, 2019 special meeting of the Adams County Council. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


Mary B Beery, Adams County Auditor


Tony Mellencamp, Council President