

## **TIPTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING: APRIL 18, 2023**

### **REGULAR SESSION**

The Tipton County Council Board met in Regular Session on Tuesday, April 18, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room, 101 E. Jefferson Street, Tipton, IN.

Present: Those in attendance were Jim Ashley, Jim Purvis, Joe Van Bibber, Jan Smith, Michael Terry, Brad Nichols, Kirk Retherford, and County Attorney, Mark Regnier.

The Council meeting was opened by Jim Ashley with Pledge of Allegiance.

### **APPROVAL OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:**

Meeting Minutes for March 21, 2023, were tabled to the next meeting in order to give the Council the opportunity to review. The motion was made by Councilman Purvis and seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried.

### **DEPARTMENT BUSINESS AND REPORTS:**

#### **Sheriff's Department:**

Sheriff Tebbe addressed the position of the SRO for Tri-Central School District. He stated that Tri-Central would be covering \$38,020.50 of the \$53,550 salary currently being paid for one of his officers. Sheriff Tebbe would like to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Tri-Central School Corporation to provide a SRO with Tri-central paying 71% of the overall salary and compensation package for the SRO. The SRO would revert back to the sheriff's office to serve as a deputy when school is not in session. The Tri-Central SRO has not been a county employee in the past; however, Sheriff Tebbe would like to accommodate Tri-Central and work together to ensure a trained officer is in the school serving as the SRO. Sheriff Tebbe stated that he is currently hiring two replacement deputies and has been understaffed since January. Council members discussed the need for officers and the coverage that is required to staff the department adequately. There was conversation regarding training new officers and an SRO. Councilman Nichols asked if Sheriff Tebbe had a sufficient budget to hire an SRO for the fall school season. Sheriff Tebbe stated that he did have the budget for the SRO through December. As well, Councilman Ashley stated that the Sheriff's request to have Council consider and employ an additional officer in 2024, was not applicable until budget session later in the fall. This commitment could not be made prior to budget sessions and a public hearing to adopt a budget. He recommended that the Sheriff consider entering into a calendar year contract at this time if he desired to move ahead with an SRO. Since budget sessions are in the fall, this would give Sheriff Tebbe time to discuss with the school system as to whether or not the additional staff budget would be available. No decision to provide additional support staff was made by the Council at this time.

#### **Highway Department:**

Highway Superintendent, Bret Morris addressed the Council regarding the award of the CCMG Matching Grant that he applied for. Payment for the CCMG Matching Grant is due sometime in May of 2023. This will be for Old State Road 28 to 560 West to 300

West and a mile of 300 West to State Road 28. Relinquishment money will be used to maintain this section of roadway. There was discussion as to where the matching portion of the CCMG Grant would come from. The match is approximately \$335,000. The \$200,000 was not approved by the Commissioners from the EDIT Plan. It was decided that \$135,000 of the CCMG Matching Grant should come from the 1173 MVH Restricted Fund and the remaining \$200,000 would need an additional appropriation from the 1176 Hwy Fund. A motion to advertise for public hearing for an additional appropriation in Fund 1176 was made by Joe Vanbibber and seconded by Mike Terry. All were in favor, and the motion carried. There was discussion regarding the salt barn and the Edit Fund in the sum of approximately \$200,000. Councilman Ashley Stated that the Commissioners had not asked for the salt barn funds to be replaced in the Edit Fund.

**Economic Development Coordinator:**

Abbie Smith addressed the Council with a follow-up for the agricultural tax abatements. In 2022, the State of Indiana signed into law extended tax abatement related to agricultural equipment. She has had several meetings with Veridus as well as met with Kirk Retherford. She would like to gather governing documents to make sure they are available for tax abatement use. The task force met with Alaina Shockwiler from Veridus as a consultant, to discuss the application scenarios for tax abatements for farm property and equipment. She addressed working with counties that are leading the abatement process and resources available for education on abatements, should the Council desire a work session. Alaina Shockwiler has inquired with Lake County who has already experienced the new tax abatements for farm equipment in order to determine their process. A key item to consider is the process flow regarding all entities who are involved with the tax abatement process. There will be another task force meeting sometime in April or May to further discuss the new tax abatement process. Kirk Retherford wanted to reiterate that the tax abatement process is still in the information gathering stage. Joe VanBibber requested there be consideration in a baseline for minimum project cost in consideration during the abatement process. This would be applicable to ensure that the abatement application fee not exceed the actual abatement that an individual may obtain. Jim Purvis would like to make sure the standards of consideration on abatements is consistent.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION CC2023-05:**

**RESOLUTION NO. CC 2023-5 TRANSFERS**

WHEREAS, the County Council may approve the transfer of money from one major budget classification to another within a department or office, if the transfer does not require the expenditure of more money than the total amount set out in the budget as finally determined and if the transfer is approved at a regular public meeting and by the proper ordinance.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Council of Tipton County, that it is desired and deemed necessary that the following transfers be made within the accounts of the designated funds as set out below:

	<b>Transfer From</b>		<b>Transfer To</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Approved</b>
✓	<b>1000</b>	<b><u>COUNTY GENERAL</u></b>			
✓	<b>0068</b>	<b><u>COMMISSIONERS</u></b>			
✓	21100	Official Records	1000 44200.000.0068, Equipment	\$ 495.00	\$ 495.00
				<b>\$ 495.00</b>	<b>\$ 495.00</b>

Presented to the Council of Tipton County, Indiana and read in full for the first time this 18th day of APRIL, 2023.  
Read in full for the second time and adopted this 18th day of APRIL, 2023.

**The Tipton County Council:**

Jim Ashley, Council President

Michael Terry, Council Vice President

Brad Nichols, Council Member

Jan Smith, Council Member

Jim Purvis, Council Member

Joe Vanbibber, Council Member

Kirk Retherford, Council Member

**Attest:**

Melissa D. Pickering, Auditor

The Resolution for transfer within the Commissioner budget is requested to transfer funds out of series which requires Council approval.

Resolution CC 2023-5, Transfer within the Commissioners budget, from account line 1000.21100.000.0068, official records to 1000.44200.000.0068, equipment in the sum of \$495, was approved on a motion made by Brad Nichols and seconded by Mike Terry. With a vote of 7-0, the motion carried.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **BOT Project:**

County Engineer, Phil Beer, addressed the Council with the request funds for the BOT Project with the estimate of incurred costs for plans to renovate the Old Jail. The total, not-to-exceed, anticipated cost for the plan project is \$373,250. The rehab anticipated cost for the Old Jail will be approximately \$3,000,000. The plan project will be done by Envoy. At this time, there are no fees owed to Ratio for the drawings and Exhibit "D", as presented to the Council.

County Engineer, Phil Beer addressed the BOT Project, bonding requirement and why utilizing Ratio and Envoy is beneficial to the county. Engineer, Phil Beer stated that Ratio was familiar with prior projects in other counties specifically related to rehabilitation of old jail facilities. Councilman Ashley had concerns regarding the cost of the project plan. Councilman VanBibber inquired as to whether or not this plan submitted was the final plan for rehabilitation of the old Jail. Phil Beer stated that it was. Councilman VanBibber wanted to know if the not-to-exceed cost on Exhibit "D", would be the guaranteed maximum price. Phil Beer stated that it was. Councilman Nichols wanted to know how the Commissioners plan to proceed with the plan and where proceeds to pay for the project will come from. Phil Beer stated that there are \$1.6 million remaining in the ARP Funds that are not committed. As well, the old historic museum would be sold, and proceeds realized from the sale of that property. He stated that the county may consider bonding through Bondry for the initial phase of construction. This initial phase cost of \$373,250, does not include the Doctor's Park, Fairgrounds and the Courthouse which is in the BOT Project for future renovation. The \$373,250, is for the plan process and does not cover any reconstruction or build cost.

Councilman Nichols wanted to know if the Historic Society was committed to the project. Engineer, Phil Beer stated that the Historic Society would cover their portion of the building space in the old jail once renovated. The renovation of the old jail would begin most likely in September of 2023.

The Council discussed the overall build project, the location of the facilities and where offices may potentially be located. Storage for the county was discussed as well as the need for climate control.

Commissioner Cline addressed the Council with the need to move forward with the initial phase of plans for renovation project of the old jail. Two priorities of the BOT Project, are the old jail and the doctor's park. The health department and community corrections need more space and have decided they prefer to move into the Doctor's Park. Commissioner Cline on behalf of the Commissioner's, would like to request approval of the Council to utilize the ARP Funds for the initial phase of the plan to renovate the old jail.

There was further discussion by the Council regarding the amount of funds to be appropriated at this time for the BOT Project. Phil Beer stated that he and the Commissioners would oversee the plan and the project to ensure that the project is moving forward cost effectively. County Engineer, Phil Beer stated that he believes that the ARP Funds are able to be used for the renovation of the old jail. There was further discussion regarding Ratio and the payment of \$45,000, in the past for project review. According to Phil Beer, the plans submitted to the Council are the plans that Envoy and Ratio intend to implement.

Councilman Vanbibber inquired as to how involved Ratio and Envoy would be and exactly what the guaranteed maximum cost would be for the planning stage. Phil Beer discussed the potential of utilizing Bondry for a Bond if the reconstruction of the jail and doctor's park comes to fruition. The cost may be in the ball-park of \$6,000,000, for these two projects alone. There were concerns regarding spending \$300,000 before knowing the maximum guaranteed price, where moving forward may not be an option due to the cost of the renovation of these two locations. There was further discussion by the Council. Phil Beer stated that Attorney, Conner Sullivan who is the BOT Attorney believes that the ARP Funds have become more relaxed and this project would be covered under the regulations of the ARP Funds. Phil stated that the project would begin sometime in November.

A motion to set the BOT Project Old Jail Renovation Plan for public hearing and advertise for an additional appropriation from the ARP funds in the sum of \$373, 250., was made by Councilman Terry, and seconded by Councilwoman Smith. The motion carried.

**Bank Account accrued Interest:**

Auditor Pickering addressed the state statute requiring an Auditor to receipt all bank account interest into the county general fund unless there is a Resolution by the Council to receipt bank account interest into specific county funds. Per the State Board of Accounts, Auditor Pickering would like to draft a Resolution with the county attorney in order for the county council to adopt a Resolution determining the funds to receive interest. A Resolution will be drafted with the various funds listed for the receipt of bank account interest including Fund 4508; wherefore, the Council can make the decision to determine the funds and adopt a Resolution. Phil Beer discussed the importance of Fund 4508 receiving interest in order to support the fund for future use.

**OTHER COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Discussion of the prior additional request in Resolution CC 2023-2 for Additional Appropriations in the sum of \$200,000 in cum cap development that was tabled in the meeting of February 21, 2023, was addressed. Joe VanBibber made a motion to "Table" the request for additional appropriations until the next regular council meeting. The motion was seconded by Kirk Retherford. With a vote of 7-0, the motion carried.

Jim Purvis addressed the County Planning meeting held on April 6, 2023, in regard to a committee formed due to interest in a stone quarry in the county. There is a goodwill committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the City Hall if any council members are available and would like to attend. Jim addressed the discussion regarding an electronic meeting resolution. He addressed the county recap of permits which was down from 2021.

Joe VanBibber gave update on the solid waste meeting and stated that the finances are in good order and well managed.

Kirk Retherford stated that Steve McKinney was willing to come in to give education to the Council. Abbie Smith stated that there are resources available for training for the Council. Mike Terry would like to see a work session for abatement discussion.

Joe VanBibber would like to see the Council have work sessions. He stated that the school board holds work sessions which are helpful.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Cory Parish, resident of Prairie Township addressed the Council. He had a question in regard to the discussion with the Sheriff. He wanted to know where his county taxes are being spent. He commended the Council for their attention to public service.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Jan Smith and second by Kirk Retherford. The motion carried.

Tipton County Council

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James D. Ashley, President

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Michael Terry, Vice President

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Kirk Retherford, Member

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Brad Nichols, Member

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Janice L. Smith, Member

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Joe Van Bibber, Member

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Jim Purvis, Member

Attest:

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Melissa Pickering, Auditor  
Tipton County Council Meeting: April 18, 2023.