

The Adams County Council met October 13, 2020, 8:30 a.m., in the Adams County Service Complex. Those present were Council Members, Dennis Bluhm, Stan Stoppenhagen, Yvette Weiland, Tony Mellencamp, Cory Sprunger (left early), and Steve Bailey; County Council Attorney, Julie Marie Brown; County Auditor, Mary Beery; and Claims Deputy, Brianna Brodbeck. Commissioners, Doug Bauman, Kim Fruechte, and Rex Moore were in attendance as their meeting begins at 11:00 a.m.

IN RE: MINUTES

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, seconded by Dennis Bluhm, the September 8, 9, & 10, 2020 Adams County Council Minutes were approved as amended to reflect Sildain to be changed for 2021 instead of 2020. Motion carried.

IN RE: ORDINANCE 2020-9 ADAMS COUNTY SOLID WASTE

Upon by Yvette Weiland, for approval of the 2021 budget as presented as long as it is the same as presented in September, seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

IN RE: ADAMS COUNTY BUDGET DISCUSSIONS

Attorneys

Will not be on payroll until Council receives the budget numbers from Mark Burry and Adam Miller.

Motion by Steve Bailey, to move all of the attorney line item dollars to the legal fees line item in the Commissioners budget for all except Council and Building and Planning, and would request from the attorneys in writing a request to clarify their salary verses hourly breakdown for 2021, seconded by Cory Sprunger.

Probation

Motion by Steve Bailey, to zero out the pretrial budget line item on the salary ordinance for 2021, seconded by Yvette Weiland. Motion carried.

Court Security Officers – They are not categorized nor are they on the Sheriff’s matrix. Should they be included in the wage adjustments and what cost of living increase should they receive? 1%

Motion by Steve Bailey, to give the court security officers a 1% increase and they are not qualified for the salary adjustments and are non-categorized, seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

IT – Have their higher wages been approved? \$70,000 was budgeted, does that need to be reflected on the salary ordinance? Commissioners have approved the job description.

Community Corrections – They are not categorized, what kind of increase should they be receiving? Are they included in wage adjustments? They will receive a 2% increase.

Highway Assistant Superintendent – This position is not categorized; what kind of increase should they get? Are they included in wage adjustments?

Drug Court Administrator – Council first agreed to a salary of \$43,800 and as categorized as an NE7 making her follow the guidelines.

Cory Sprunger said if the requested wage is given it busts the county system if she is a part of it. He is against the raise as she is already \$10,000 over the amount.

Pat Miller informed everyone that Kelly’s salary in 2020 is \$60,777.60 and in 2021 \$62,608.00.

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, to approve what the judge submitted instead of what Council agreed on, seconded by Steve Bailey. Motion carried. Yvette Weiland and Cory Sprunger opposed.

Treasurer’s Office – The part-time line item and deputy line item are two different lines.

Motion by Steve Bailey, to put \$12,000 into part-time and \$71,858 for the full-time deputies, seconded by Cory Sprunger. Motion carried.

IN RE: ORDINANCE 2020-10 & 11 ADAMS COUNTY BUDGET & WAGES

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, seconded by Steve Bailey, for approval of the 2021 Adams County budget by passage of Ordinance 2020-10, an ordinance or resolution for appropriations; and tax rates and Ordinance 2020-11, an ordinance fixing the salary rates for full-time and part-time personnel for 2021. Motion carried. Cory Sprunger and Yvette Weiland were opposed.

Cory Sprunger stated he is proud to get the wages rectified and pay based on performance. He is also proud of all the work the board has done. He suggested revisiting why expenses have gone up 77% since 2012.

IN RE: SHERIFF

Sheriff, Dan Mawhorr, and One America Representative, Stan Brown, met to discuss the sheriff pension. The Merit Board made changes in the pension and retirement plan (on file in the Auditor’s Office). Dan asked Council to approve the changes and Stan Brown will write up the changes and Dan will bring the document back next month for signature.

Sheriff Mawhorr discussed purchasing a facility wide water softener. He presented pictures of the deteriorated pipes that are currently in place along with quotes to fix the situation. The pipes have buildup of sludge and hardness. This is a hardness issue and Barry Scherer recommends going with the higher quote of Hattersley. The City of Decatur installed double size of the lead by adding 6” tile and the department only needed 3”.

Hattersley & Sons, Fort Wayne, IN	\$70,846
Midwest Step Savers, Avon, IN	\$55,394.70

An additional appropriation will be needed for Hattersley’s quote to get completed before the end of the year. The lower quote from Midwest is vague and does not say how they are doing it and what they are doing. Midwest did not supply the appropriate specifications for the project. The quote is not complete and thorough as requested.

IN RE: GOLDEN MEADOWS HOME

Golden Meadows Home Administrator, Kristina Nichols, requested approval for replacing the kitchen counter. The current one was built around 1997 and she is receiving quotes to replace the kitchen island. Mrs. Nichols needs the work to be completed now but will have to wait until November to get the additional appropriation approved. Council informed her to come back in November for approval.

IN RE: COVID-19

Attorney, Adam Miller, updated the board on COVID-19 in Adams County. He stated numbers are going up here in the county daily. The Health department has been taking a lot of calls on complaints on Adams County residents not wearing masks.

Mr. Miller asked if there was something that can be done to pay or give the health department time off for all the time and battles with COVID. Stan Stoppenhagen said that Holly had discussed last month of taking night phone calls or on weekends. Yvette Weiland questioned Deputy Auditor Brianna Brodbeck if the health department has been documenting their extra hours on their time cards? Ms. Brodbeck stated she would have to verify with Deputy Auditor Eran Hackman if this is being done. Councilman Cory Sprunger stated we still want to do something for the extra time and not necessarily the extra hours. Yvette Weiland pointed out this is your job and this is what you train for, if they do something they are setting precedence and you should be happy that you have your time to shine. Councilman Tony Mellencamp thanked them for all the hard work they have done responding to COVID-19. Environmentalist, Nathan Scherer, pointed out that the Health Department is without a food inspector also right now, so they have had to pick up those responsibilities. Councilman Stan Stoppenhagen did agree that the Health Department has been hit with a lot this year. Dr. Smith, Adams Memorial Hospital, was questioned on what the on call pay is at the hospital. Dr. Smith stated it just varies by the position but it is common in health care to have an on call pay. Stan Stoppenhagen asked Adam Miller if that was something they could do, Adam stated it wasn't his place to speak on this that the Health Department staff would need to speak on that. Public Health Nurse, Holly Degitz, stated with me being a department head I have to have 50 hours to turn in the hours in order to receive any overtime or comp time. It's not worth the paperwork and barely get anything.

IN RE: CARES ACT

Sheriff, Dan Mawhorr, and Claims Deputy, Brianna Brodbeck, updated the board on the COVID-19 finances. They requested an ordinance or resolution be adopted to create a fund to be used for COVID expenses. Dan putting in fiber as there is not enough to cover data if employees have to work from home. Allowing the monies to be used for payroll which gives counties a way to spend monies before December 31, 2020; so they do not lose it. Consensus of Council is yes.

IN RE: HOSPITAL

Hospital Attorney, Adam Miller, Barnes & Thornburg, Rick Hall, and Executive Director of Adams Memorial Hospital, Dr. Scott Smith, met with the Commissioners to go over the proposed resolutions for refinancing the hospital bonds. Refinancing the bond to \$2,170,000 with a 1.2% rate approved by the Indiana Bond Bank.

Rick Hall the county has outstanding 2012 bonds. The Indiana Bond bank would issue bonds to purchase local bonds. Savings received at bond bank is passed down to the local level. Savings would be \$1.3 million over the course of the loan. Must be an amendment to the lease to lower the lease rate to 1.2%. Commissioners, Council, and Hospital Board must approve the amendment.

Resolution 2020-18

Resolution 2020-18, a RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF ADAMS COUNTY, INDIANA APPROVING THE REFINANCING OF THE ADAMS COUNTY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION LEASE RENTAL REVENUE REFUNDING BONDS, SERIES 2012 AND AUTHORIZING OTHER ACTIONS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, was introduced.

Motion by Steve Bailey, to adopt Resolution 2020-18, seconded by Dennis Bluhm. Motion carried.

IN RE: COUNTY ATTORNEY

County Attorney, Mark Burry, presented an Inter Local Agreement with the City of Berne. This is for County Road 150 West from a point 750 feet north of State Road 218 to the Wittwer #1 Ditch. The City of Berne is applying for a Community Crossings Grant. In order for the City of Berne to apply, the County would have to give the maintenance to the City of Berne. County to transfer right-of-way and maintenance of a portion of County Road 150 to Berne if they get the grant they are applying for. Consideration of Interlocal Agreement between Adams County and the City of Berne concerning County road 150 West.

Upon a motion by Steve Bailey, seconded by Tony Mellencamp, to approve the Inter Local Agreement with the City of Berne. Motion carried.

IN RE: INFORMATION SYSTEMS

IT Committee member, Stan Stoppenhagen, updated the board on the mechanical aspects on the old server room. He reported that the move went very well. We need to do an update to the Mitsubishi units because they moved everything over to the server room and it is overheating. They want to check with Rick Burkhalter also. They have the doors shut to help with cooling the server room.

IN RE: REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT

Steve Bailey reported the sewer district should be closing on the bonds later this month.

IN RE: SALARY ORDINANCE

FUND #/DEPT.	REQUESTED BI-WEEKLY	APPROVED
Prosecuting Attorney (0009)		
Legal Assistant - Nicole Meyer (NE4) (Retro to 1/1/2020)	\$15.36/hr	\$15.36/hr

Public Defender (0271)

Office Manager (NE6) - Sildain Atienzo (Retro to 9/8/2020)	\$1,516.80	\$1,516.80
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Jail (0380)

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Austin McCord (Retro to 6/27/2020)	\$1,418.56	\$1,418.56
Braxton Haight (Retro to 6/27/2020)	\$1,418.56	\$1,418.56
Aaron Stronczyk (Retro to 9/5/2020)	\$1,418.56	\$1,418.56

Community Corrections (1122)

Case Manager

Madison Hake (Retro to 7/1/2020)	\$1,179.61	\$1,179.61
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Motion by Tony Mellencamp, to approve the above Salary Ordinance, seconded by Steve Bailey. Motion carried.

IN RE:

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

Community Corrections Executive Director, Ian Gilbert, came to Council to address his 2021 budget and salaries. He read to the Council, Adams County Ordinance 2007-6, which established Adams County Community Corrections. Mr. Gilbert also read IC 11-12-7-3 and IC 36-2-5-3, which explained budget appropriations and compensation of officers. He explained that his advisory board goes over this budget and approves budget and salaries before it is presented to the Council. Mr. Gilbert was confused as to why his budget was approved by his advisory board for 2021 but was not approved by council. When he took this position he has always done what is best for Adams County, if there is an inmate that isn't well he will put an ankle bracelet on them so that the county isn't paying the health expenses. Why in thirteen years for the first time you changed a budget that my advisory board passed? Councilwoman Yvette Weiland stated Mr. Gilbert didn't want his department to be in categories last year. Mr. Gilbert replied that state code says you can't categorize Community Corrections employees. Council Attorney, Julie Marie Brown, stated that Councilwoman Yvette Weiland came back with something totally different from a conference so that she may want to explain that. Mr. Gilbert explained he didn't do anything that he wasn't asked to do, he was told to put in 3% and he did, he was told to do evaluations and degrees and he did but now those things don't matter and they are only given 1%. Councilman Steve Bailey, addressed Mr. Gilbert, you have worked very well with council for years and council didn't do very good communicating with your department for budgets this year. Councilwoman Yvette Wieland asked Mr. Gilbert, why don't you want to go to classifications? Mr. Gilbert replied Ms. Weiland, it was never brought to my attention and discussed with me. Councilman Tony Mellencamp was not in favor of this wage adjustment and felt Council rushed into it. Motion by Steve Bailey, to give a 2% raise to Community Correction employees that are uncategorized for 2021, seconded by Dennis Bluhm. Yvette Weiland opposed. Motion carried.

IN RE:

PROBATION

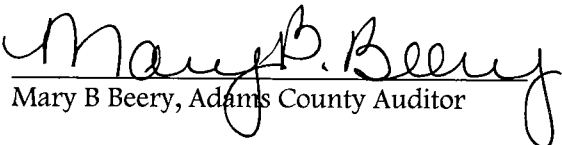
Chief Probation Officer, Jack Odle, addressed Council that they are still waiting on approval on the grant to cover Rhonda McIntosh's pay. Councilman Stan Stoppenhagen, reminded Mr. Odle that Council agreed to pay Rhonda until the grant was approved. Mr. Odle said they are hoping they get the approval this week for the grant. Council asked that Mr. Odle come back in November for an update.

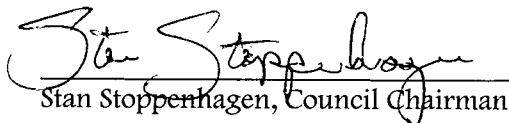
IN RE:

ADJOURN

Upon a motion by Tony Mellencamp, seconded by Steve Bailey, for adjournment of the October 13, 2020 meeting of the Adams County Council. Motion carried.

ATTEST:


 Mary B Beery, Adams County Auditor


 Stan Stoppenhagen, Council Chairman