

FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, March 20, 2018

Meeting called to order following Pledge to the Flag at 6:30 p.m. with Phyl Olinger, Randy Sutton, Barry Hazel, Ron Dittman, Lorie Hurst, Jim Widman and Deputy Auditor Ashley Geller present.

ASSESSOR – Judy provided the council with a list of the bids that she received for the cyclical reassessment. The bids ranged from \$300,000 to \$455,000. All bids cover the same bid specs. It is a full walk-around assessment of each parcel and submission to DLGF. It covers data collection, all commercial and industrial construction and each company will represent the county if there is an appeals process. Each company will also develop the land order. The Assessor's office will do all the data collecting that the outside company picks up and enter it in house. Judy's preference is AVS because she feels that they represent the best fit for Fulton County. Her second choice would be Tap Co. Neither of these companies have worked for Fulton County in the past. Judy reports that she does not have the man power to handle all the information and work that these outside companies do and that it would cost the county more to hire the man power as opposed to hiring an outside company. The prices that were quoted in the bids cover a four-year long contract. The Council approved for Judy to send the bids to Greg Heller for review and she will appear before the Council in April with a final decision.

FEDCO – Bryan Goodman was present and presented Council with a new 2018 Economic Development Work Plan and asked them to review it. The changes that were made in the work plan consist of reprioritizing the list of focuses for FEDCO. The benchmarks have not been addressed yet and the hopes were that by changing the priorities for FEDCO that the benchmarks would then follow. Commissioner Lewis asked that FEDCO be present for the bi-monthly meeting. The County Council will contribute half (\$107,526.92) and the city council will contribute the other half. There is desire for FEDCO to move their sources outside of the downtown area since there is a group to focus on the downtown area now. Barry Hazel entered a motion to accept the agreement, second to motion was Lori Hurst. It was voted 6 to zero to approve the agreement. The agreement was signed by the council.

HIGHWAY – John overviewed the current work projects including renting the brush cutter when possible, PASER rating roads, creating sign inventory using GIS, replacing culverts damaged by the flooding, repairing other flood-related issues, and grading gravel roads. As of Friday the 9th of March, all roads were opened back up for traffic that were closed due to flooding. During the event there were four larger pipes damaged; as of today, all of those have now been replaced. The pipes that were damaged were on 1100 W between 550 S and 625 S, 900 E between St Rd 14 and Division Rd, 400 S between 100 W and 200 W, and 400 N between St Rd 25 and 450 E. The county has already spent \$112,000 in efforts to repair flood damage. It is estimated that another \$30,000 of work is still left to do. They have sent out RFPs on the two bridges that are sought out to be repaired. Bridge #45 on 600 E will be repaved in August by Northern Indiana contractors. Wabash Road is set to be paved in April. Ideas for the 2019 Community Crossing Grant are starting to be considered. The salt this year was exhausted. Last year 420 tons were contracted for and all of that was used in addition to another 200 tons. The plan is to bump up the salt contract for next year to 600 tons. The minimum contracted amount is 480 and the max is 720 tons. John would like to use money from his equipment fund and highway general fund to purchase a tractor and mower. He would have to appropriate \$27,000 out of highway general to buy this equipment. Randy motioned for approval, Phyl seconded; passed 6-0. John discussed that he would like to keep the old tractor and not trade it in; Council approved. Midwest bid to spray for all bridges is for \$3,100.00. INDOT requested a

detour between 14 and 19 for detour while 14 is closed for construction; INDOT will pay for all damages that are done due to this detour.

SHERIFF – Sheriff Chris Sailors discussed the monthly report for February. The jail maintained 134 average daily inmate population. The contract with Miami County for housing was discussed. This morning there were 127 people in the jail: 18 females, 109 males, and 31 are out of county in other jails leaving 96 in the Fulton County jail. Sheriff would like to guarantee beds at the Miami County Jail and proposes a contract for \$40.00 per day with a guarantee of 30 beds. The agreement that was submitted was dated February, he would like to implement it in April and expires in December. It is automatic renewal until either party does not want to participate in the agreement. It does require a 30-day written notice to abort the agreement from either party's side. Next month there will be an appropriation coming through for housing. \$75,000.00 that was budgeted for housing this year for the jail has already been spent within the first two months. In the contract with Miami county the county does have to pay for medical for their inmates that are housed there. Miami County and Fulton County use the same medical company this saves a lot of paperwork and extra steps in the process. Sheriff Sailor's reported that the jail is still 20 people over what it should be at. Three weeks ago, the jail was at an all-time high of 141 and it has come down some since then. If the contract was approved it would be \$328,000 for the remainder of the year versus \$400,000.00 that would be paid out if the county kept paying at the rate they are now. The Jail committee had a meeting to finalize their response to the DOC that is due the 25th and they formulated the response at their meeting. House Bill 1263 gives every county the option to implement a 0.20 percent income tax if they were not at the cap on their income tax. Fulton County was also granted a 0.25 percent local income tax. There must be an ordinance in by November 1 to collect. If implemented, the tax hike would generate about \$800,000 more for the jail. Council would like Umbaugh to show numbers so Commissioners and Council can agree on the tax increase. The cameras put in jail, courthouse, and sheriff station have had a lot of problems and the company guaranteed to fix them and make it right but they want a new contract signed for the next five years and want the Sheriff to pay for the courthouse cameras also. The contract is proposed to be done in the next 90 days and the equipment should be transferrable to a new jail or within a renovated jail if needed. He waited for quotes from local dealerships but they did not get back to him so he got a quote on a 2017 Dodge pickup from an auto group out of southern Indiana that does only police vehicles; they came in \$2,100.00 cheaper than other quotes he got. This would replace a vehicle that is 8 years old. Another county offered a vehicle for \$5,000.00 that is already set up. There have been personnel issues as they have overworked some part-time people full-time hours.

EMA – Larry Hoover reported they have been dealing with the flooding issues and believes we will get individual assistance for the people that had flood damage. The county has exceeded their \$70,000 threshold to spend on flooding so they should easily qualify for the assistance from the federal government from declaring state of emergency from the flooding. Larry will be attending a grant meeting with the state; they are going to try release grants in April and he will have more information in the April meeting on what will be available to the county.

MINUTES – The minutes from the February 21 meeting were motioned for approval by Jim Widman, Lori Hurst second; passed 6-0.

TRANSFERS – Approved as presented.

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account
		Travel Expenses-\$500	Contractual Services-\$4,000
		Publications-\$2,350	Memberships & Subscriptions-\$650
Tourism	Tourism	Research & Grants-\$3,800	Advertising-\$2,000
For museum contract, ITA membership, and website contract.			
Barry motioned to approve, Randy seconded; passed 6-0.			

OLD BUSINESS – (none)

NEW BUSINESS – (none)

ADJOURN – Randy motioned to adjourn at 7:51 p.m., seconded by Barry; passed 6-0.