

## FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, July 18, 2017

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER** at 6:40 p.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Gary Sriver, Lorie Hurst, Jim Showley, Barry Hazel, Jim Widman, Randy Sutton, Phyl Olinger and Auditor Christina Sriver.

**UMBAUGH** – Todd Samuelson discussed the financial options for the proposed jail construction projects. Umbaugh will look at resources available to the county: funds of the county, generated revenue, operating costs, revenue sources. On the Capital side: should a bond issue be supported by income taxes or property taxes? Rules apply to property taxes: a referendum would apply for a project this size. The increase in circuit breaker credits/losses would need to be considered on property taxes. On the income tax side, Todd predicts they are not adequate. Most often in surrounding counties, similar projects were funded through a special income tax. The rate and dollars collected can only be used on a correctional facility. They special income tax dollars can also be used to operate the facility. The council does not have the authority to implement; authority would come from legislature. If using this funding method, need a legislative sponsor to carry through the state house. The state does not implement the rate; they give authority to the council to implement the tax levy. The process will begin in legislation at the first of the year. Todd will present graphs and scales of cost in a future meeting and in the near future. It can be beneficial to find other counties that are looking to do the same thing to jump on-board with. Jim Widman expressed concern of what the effect of this size of debt will do to the tax caps. Umbaugh will research and report on the effects as part of the process of funding research.

The second topic of discussion is refinancing the EDIT Bonds of 2010. The current interest rates range from 4.1% to 5.1% over the life of the bond. The average P & I payment is around \$210,000. The new bond would be for \$1,375,000 with an interest rate at approximately 2.3%. The estimate is to save around \$30,000 per year by refinancing. By the termination of the bond the total savings are estimated to be around \$252,450. Some of the revenue generated from the bond will have to be used toward the refinancing. Jim Showley motioned to have Todd pursue the refinance, Gary seconded; passed 7-0. Jim Widman requested that Umbaugh also begin looking into financing the proposed jail.

**PARKS & REC** – Bill Walsh discussed the Additional Appropriation before the Council tonight. Motioned for approval by Randy, seconded by Phyl; passed 7-0.

**FEDCO** – Terry Lee presented a Resolution Creating the Unsafe Sidewalk Replacement Program in Akron. He is requesting \$10,000 from the CEDIT money to use toward the project. The town will remove and dispose of the sidewalks and provide fill if necessary. The requested funds will not fully pay for new sidewalks, only helping with the cost of replacing unsafe sidewalks, estimated 40-50 houses. The landowner will still pay a portion of the costs. Jim stated that Council will need the written Appropriation Request before it can be approved.

Terry reviewed the minutes from the July meeting of the Board of Directors of the Fulton Economic Development Corporation. The 5-year plan for US 31 includes paving and bridge repair; no major changes. He has requested a 20-year plan. Rick Ranstead stated that Roger Rose (31 Coalition) is still trying to fight

the J-turns. The RES Corporation (Wind Development) for Fulton, Cass and Miami Counties is looking at the largest wind operation in Indiana. The wind company needs an amendment to the current zoning ordinance; Plan Commission will meet on August 28<sup>th</sup> to consider amending the ordinance and if passed will go to the Commissioners on September 18<sup>th</sup>. Jim Widman stated that Todd Samuelson (Umbaugh) had not yet been contacted to discuss the financial side. Terry stated that the commissioners were not comfortable entering the financial agreement until the zoning is amended. Gary stated that the expenses will be reimbursed; Steve Metzger added that the reimbursement will only be done the project moves forward and that is dependent on the zoning ordinance being amended and the project moves forward.

**DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER PARTNERSHIP** – A grant was issued for tourism videos which will be used on the new website. Bike racks and benches are being worked on currently. The Living Local Fest was a partnership with the Chamber and Downtown Rochester Partnership, looking at a 21<sup>st</sup> century model to replace the Round Barn. The Block Party last year was not well attended; there was three times the attendance this year at the Living Local Fest.

**HIGHWAY** – John Geier reported on activities including mowing, chip sealing and working on installing a new fuel injection pump on the chipper. The department will be paving Old Southway 31 this week or next and EMA will direct traffic so they don't have to shut the road down. Lucas Street is currently being milled, the railroad has replaced the tracks, and the pavement will be started on next Monday at the earliest. The paver is still about two weeks from delivery. The Community Crossings call for projects were timely submitted. John has updated the PASER asset management plan and submitted to INDOT. John looked into the Old 31 bridge with DLZ; their suggested was to pump in concrete to level the plates, the soil is deteriorating. He will be following up and report. There is an area near a public access that continues to flood near NW Lakeshore Drive that is threatening entering a home; the surveyor suggested a tile across the access site into the water to drain the area.

**ADA** – Rick Ranstead announced that there are some funds being held back until the final punch list is completed. He encourages all contracts have a completion date going forward.

**SHERIFF** – Chris Sailors reviewed the June reports. Currently the jail is overpopulated and some are being held in Miami County. Chris gave jail population stats: average population 65.75 in 2014; 70.92 in 2015; 76.17 in 2016; in the first 6 months of 2017 the average was 84.3. A project manager will be appointed to work with Eric (DLZ) on follow-up with the proposed project. He will be getting together with Josh to look over and discuss the quotes. Chris discussed the awards provided by PETA given last night to Deputy Utter and Deputy Atkins for involvement with an animal cruelty case. A deputy had a car/deer accident involving approximately \$8,000 in damage. Last night another car was damaged. He is still working on getting a quote for a vehicle. He has had 2 full-timers quit, has only replaced one so far. He is also down a part-timer. A water line burst in the ceiling recently; Hermann and Goetz repaired. He will need to present an Additional Appropriation for utilities at some point.

**E-911** – Gail asked if Bill Walsh would like to give a quote from Bill Walsh on grounding the tower at the courthouse. Gail thanked Lorie and Phyl for the Job Classification Committee meeting. Gail will let Council know when she is feeling well enough to discuss her budget following her surgery. Rochester City wanted

to add two modules to the CAD system under their users and submitted a new proposal. Gail stated that the county needs to write a universal MOU for the city and townships to sign if they enter into an agreement with the county for the CAD system. Gail reviewed the cost of having one dispatcher that she currently provides to the city for night calls. The cost for providing the service for 2017 is \$98,327.74. The new servers will have to be installed for the new CAD system.

**ESTIMATED WHEEL TAX REVENUES** – Christina presented the Wheel and Sur Tax revenue estimates for 2018. Estimates were figured by comparing the first six months of last year and the first six months of this year to figure a percentage of increase or decrease. The percentage was applied to the second six months of last year to estimate the revenue for the second six months of this year. The annual estimate for this year was then figured at a 10% reduction for next year due to the lack of historical information. The submitted report contained estimates for 2018 to be:

2018 Estimates	<u>Wheel Tax</u>	<u>Sur Tax</u>
Fulton County	\$85,520	\$496,766
Rochester City	\$9,690	\$56,288
Town of Akron	\$1,681	\$14,083
Town of Fulton	\$558	\$5,239
Town of Kewanna	\$1,111	\$10,422

**TRANSFERS -**

Department	Fund	From Account	To Account	Amount
		Other Services & Charges (Commissioners)	Supplies (Coroner)	\$2,135
Commissioners/Coroner	County General			

To pay for Coroner supplies; DLGF did not approve previously requested additional appropriation. Motioned by Phyl, seconded by Barry; passed 7-0.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS -**

Department	Fund	Account	Amount
Highway	MVH	Supplies	\$570,000
Additional monies for chip/seal matching money for Community Crossings Grant. Motioned for approval by Randy, seconded by Barry; passed 7-0.			
Park & Rec	1179	Supplies Other Services & Charges	\$4,000 \$5,000
Grant money received to do projects at Aubbee Landing & Prairie Edge. Motioned for approval by Randy, seconded by Phyl; passed 7-0 (voted on previously in meeting)			

**MINUTES** - Phyl motioned to approve minutes from April 18<sup>th</sup>, May 16<sup>th</sup>, and June 20<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Jim Showley; passed 7-0.

**OLD BUSINESS** – Amy Roe introduced the new Tourism website [www.county25.com](http://www.county25.com).

**NEW BUSINESS** – Coroner Jeri Good discussed some of the requirements and reporting essential to her position. Each case requires filing a report, so far this year 24 have been filed. With any violent death, a full report is given and an autopsy may be given. Jeri is trying to bring knowledge of what the Coroner’s job entails to the community. She plans to attend and report on a quarterly basis.

Budget Hearings will be held on August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9:00 a.m.

**ADJOURN** – Barry motioned to adjourn at 8:48 p.m., seconded by Phyl; passed 7-0.

FULTON COUNTY  
COUNCIL

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Christina Sriver, Fulton County Auditor