

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL
25 NORTH BROADWAY
PERU, INDIANA 46970
June 22, 2021

Councilman Duckwall – Present
Councilwoman Chittum – Present
Councilman Donaldson – Present
Councilman Wood – Present
Councilman Wiles – Present
Councilman Sailors – Absent
Councilman Nutt-Present

President Duckwall called the meeting to order.

Councilman Wiles led the group in prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

MINUTES

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the May 18, 2021 minutes.
Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION/TRANSFERS

The Council received a request for additional appropriation of \$1,400,000 from ARP Funds for broadband project with Miami-Cass REMC. Rob Schwartz and Matt Mavrick REMC came before the board to present the proposed broadband project throughout Miami County, which initially will help the underserved students. Between North Miami and Maconaquah Schools, they have found approximately, 147 students who are considered underserved for internet services. This means these students cannot afford or have access to internet. Peru Schools have not provide their information at this time, but the numbers would likely increase. Mr. Mavrick stated that the fiber ring would cover 63.28 miles, with a project completion date of 12-18 months. Total cost of the project for the county would be \$1.4 million dollars and recommending paying from ARP funding. There are grant opportunities coming from the state, but it is undetermined the amount of time or the amount of money each unit might qualify for. Mr. Schwartz explained this would help all underserved in the community, not just students. Students are just one part of the project as there about 400 Miami-Cass REMC members signed up and waiting for the service. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the additional appropriation request of \$1,400,000 from ARP funds for the broadband project. Councilman Wiles 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ITEMS FOR COUNCIL ACTION

SALARY ORDINANCE UPDATE

Auditor Brown the salary ordinance needed updated to reflect adding the part-time bridge crew at \$20.00 per hour. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the change to the salary ordinance to reflect the part-time bridge crew at \$20.00 per hour. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

ILLEGAL DUMPING

Auditor Brown explained the Trash Committee met last week regarding a plan for illegal dumping. The committee recommends purchasing a skid steer for \$71,000 and a dump trailer for \$12,000 to use for the program. All complaints would go through the Highway Department and Superintendent Worl will be responsible for making a schedule for pickup. The program would use Highway employees, which would be paid overtime through the Commissioners at a maximum of 12 hours per week. The committee recommends running the program on a 1-year trial basis. Auditor Brown noted that the program will require tweaking after started, but the committee feels they have a good start. Total cost the 1st year with equipment investment would be about \$110,000 and then about \$20,000 per year thereafter. Auditor Brown stated the Board of Commissioners approved the proposed plan at their meeting yesterday. The Trash Committee is requesting the Council consider the additional appropriation for July. The Council requested Auditor Brown advertise the additional appropriation for July.

PLAN COMMISSION SOFTWARE REQUEST

Corey Roser, Miami County Plan Commission Administrator came before the board to request the purchase of Schneider Software for his office. Administrator Roser explained due to the change in staff over the last few years, patrons have had an unpleasant experience. Recordkeeping has not been consistent, the lack of information readily available has caused delays and other problems, and this would help in organizing the office and moving it forward. Kyle Johnson, Miami County Plan Commission Assistant Administrator spoke about the software capabilities, which would allow for online permitting, uploading of documents for a particular parcel, contractor registrations and allow a streamlined process with other offices. The program is user-friendly, easy to navigate and will allow real-time data from the inspectors for each parcel. Administrator Roser stated the goal is to increase communication in the Courthouse, provide unlimited access and a single source of truth. The cost of the project is \$31,960 for an initial set-up and a yearly maintenance fee of \$7,380. The fee also includes going through historical documents and uploading them to the system. Plan Administrator Roser is requesting the Council consider the additional appropriation for July. The Council requested Auditor Brown advertise the additional appropriation for July.

TRANSFER

The Council received a request to transfer \$2,000 from Unsafe Buildings to Attorney to cover the shortfall due to increased attorney charges. Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to approve the transfer of \$2,000 from Unsafe Buildings to Attorney to cover the shortfall. Councilman Nutt 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0

REQUEST FOR AUDIENCE

None

COUNCIL DISCUSSION & COMMITTEE UPDATE

President Duckwall spoke to the Council about holding another meeting for the ARP funding. The Council and Board of Commissioners will meet Friday, July 2, 2021 at 9 am. The Council requested Auditor Brown invite Jim Tidd, MCEA to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Councilwoman Chittum made a motion to adjourn. Councilman Donaldson 2nd the motion and it passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Brown

Miami County Auditor