

Owen County Council
Minutes-July 10, 2023

Meeting was called to order by President Polly Chesser.

Opening Prayer was led by Nick Robertson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Polly Chesser, Verl Keith, Andy Wood, Anton Neff, Amy Casebeer, Nick Robertson and Steve Carrell.

Minutes were tabled as requested by the auditor.

Copies of the LOW Monthly Financial Report were given for review for 2021, 2022, and 2023 in preparation for the upcoming budget workshops in August. A cumulative Claims Docket was also provided to see all the expenditures for 2023.

Old Business

Council Funds are still pending reimbursement for the Coroners Van from the Commissioners. Motion made by Wood; seconded by Neff to have Chesser follow-up with the Commissioners for a decision be made for the \$45750 that was used until an additional appropriation could be made.

Holiday Pay, Maternity/Paternity Leave Ordinance was tabled again pending legal review from the attorney. Chesser opened the Public Hearing-Owen Valley Winery Abatement ERA at 6:08pm. Members reviewed the proposed Resolution 2023-008 confirming Resolution 2023-006 declaring an Economic Revitalization Area (ERA) that was approved at the June 12th meeting. Neff read the Resolution to confirm and approve the statement of benefits and authorizing an abatement period for the new manufacturing equipment of the winery. Chesser read a public request that had been received from Pam Rogers in opposition. A motion to approve the Resolution was made by Wood; seconded by Keith. Motion carried 7-0. Hearing closed at 6:28pm.

Public Hearing-Additional Appropriation Requests was opened at 6:29pm.

Correctional Facility Fund#1170-Cash \$6350.00 to 1170-20700 Equipment

Cum Cap Fund#1138-Cash \$60000.00 to 1138-37000 Contract Services

Prosecutors User Fund#2500-Cash \$6500.00 to 2500-20700 Equipment

Court Interpreter Grant Fund#1000-Cash \$75.00 to 1000-232-38000 Interpreter

Covid Reimbursement Fund#9165-Cash \$100000.00 to 4911-37000 Contract Services & other negative lines.

LIT Fund #1112 Cash \$45750 to contract services.

A motion to approve the requested appropriations as advertised was made by Neff, seconded by Robertson.

Motion carried 6-0-1 Abstention Carrell. Hearing was closed.

Building Dept-Pay Gov Credit Card system was requested by Suzanne Simmerman-Building Administrator.

Motion was made by Neff to approve the system for the Building/GIS/Storage; seconded by Wood. Carried 7-0.

911 Department-Kathleen Lamb first presented a request for an additional employee based on potential staffing issues and anticipated vacancies and turnovers. Neff reviewed her financial balances that would allow the request. Wood asked if a timeline should be attached to this; Lamb asked to hire as soon as possible for the rest of this year and up to the first quarter of 2024. Wood made a motion to approve through March of 2024 with an amendment to re-discuss in February 2024. The second was made by Robertson. Motion carried 7-0. Lamb presented a packet for Hyper-Reach, a mass emergency notification system. The system information had also been presented to the Commissioners at their last meeting. Following lengthy discussion about different items, purchases, and the value of each system and noting that Sheriff White, EMS-Cris Lunsford and Highway-Greg Melton were at that meeting and supported the request. A motion was made to allow the system at the cost of \$5450 was made by Robertson; seconded by Wood. Carried 7-0. An additional appropriation request from her budget 911#1222 will be made for the August meeting.

Coroner's Office-no one present

Additional Appropriation Requests were presented and read by Wood for the following:

Statewide 911-Fund #1222 Cash \$5450.00 to 1222-37000 Contract Services

Clerk 1000-001 Cash \$824.00 to 1000-001-39100 Registration & Conference

Court Interpreter Grant 1000-232 Cash \$308.00 to 1000-232-38000 Interpreter

MVH 1176 Cash \$10000.00 to 1176-30100 Other Services

MVH Restricted 1173-Cash \$300,000.00 to 1173-23700 Bituminous
MVH Restricted 1173-Cash \$55,000.00 to 1173-30101 Special Projects
Local Road & Street 1169-Cash \$100,000.00 to 1169-23500 Stone
Cumulative Bridge 1135-Cash \$50,000.00 to 1135-30300

Melton reviewed his items, fund balances and requests relating they had obligations and a lot of road work projects pending. Neff had concerns with the large number of requests and being able to sustain financially through the end of the year and just wanted to be cautious. Melton and Reeves reviewed the amounts available and revenue coming in for his funds and expenditures from ARPA. She also noted that they were minimizing expenditures up to the June 30th for 2024 budgeting. ARPA Funds are still pending claims/transfers by the auditor's office and that loose ends are tied up by the end of the year to cover the negative Community Crossings/Payroll Clearing amounts.

A motion to approve the requests was made by Wood; seconded by Casebeer. Motion carried 7-0.

A motion was made by Neff; seconded by Wood to add and approve the Auditors requests:

Riverboat 1191-Cash \$5400 to 1000-002-30100 Other Services

Auditor1000-002-Cash \$3000.00 to 1000-002-34300 Copy Machine

Storm Damage Assessment Lists (to date) were provided for review.

Salary Ordinance Confirmation Summaries-

Following an update given by Neff relating that the Sheriff/Chief Deputy/Jail Commander changes would be needed for updating their salary ordinance, adjusting the pay schedule and reflecting % per the State Schedule starting July 1st. A motion to approve these three was made by Neff; seconded by Robertson. Carried 7-0.

Additional appropriations may be needed to support the increases. A motion to approve and allow Chesser to sign the other Salary Ordinance Confirmation Summaries was made by Neff; seconded by Wood. Carried 7-0.

Elected Official

Highway Greg Melton related that they would be laying cold mix compared to the surface of blacktop, and the product being at a cost savings to the county. He invited members to come join them to observe/look at.

EMS Director

He related that they had started on the roof today related to the storm damage.

He then related to members that he needs to replace Patient Care Tablets and will be asking for additional funds at their next meeting. It was further discussed and added to the August Public Hearing advertisement list in the amount of \$5000 from #1151-20100 Supplies. Motion was made by Wood; seconded by Neff to advertise the request.

Auditor Comments-

Reeves reviewed Insurances IU Health and Proactive MD would be attending the Budget Workshops to present their services and estimated costs for 2024.

Reeves related the Sheriff's Pension Fund. Basically 2022 total amount had not been paid in full, so Sheriff White will be asking for an additional appropriation-\$18,203.13 will be requested at their next meeting.

She next related that the Alcohol Beverage Board appointment that was made at their last meeting appointing Amy Casebeer is not allowed per the State. A motion to un-appoint her to the Board was made by Neff; seconded by Wood. Motion carried 7-0. Members will continue to seek candidates.

She provided information on the upcoming AIC Conference and to let her know as soon as possible.

Council Comments-

Reminder that the 2024 Budget Workshops are scheduled for August 2-3.

Robertson asked if they will be considering COLA increases for 2024. Neff offered that they should look at the Gaps from the prior year where some got significant raises while others were not brought up. Wood asked if projections could be done to help guide them. Neff will prepare some projections looking at possibilities.

A motion to adjourn was made by Wood; seconded by Robertson. Carried 7-0.