

DAVISS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AND COUNCIL JOINT MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 10:00 A.M. EST

Daviess County Commissioners Room, Daviess County Government Center

300 E Hefron Street

Washington, Indiana 47501

Roll Call

Present: Marilyn McCullough, Matt Meredith, Mike Myers, Mike Sprinkle, Tom Schaffer, Vice President, Tony Duncheon, President (Not voting).

Darin Holder absent.

Roll Call

Present: Michael Taylor, Vice President, Nathan Gabhart, President, Ron Arnold, Secretary.

Courthouse Renovation Funding

Tony Duncheon, Daviess County Council President, opened the meeting up for the Council and Nathan Gabhart, Daviess County Commissioner President, opened for the Commissioners. The special meeting was open to public to discuss details regarding Courthouse renovations planning and funding. Currently, the bid package is scheduled to go out this year after Labor Day. The Council and Commissioners wanted to get together to discuss the timeline and other important details. After much discussion, a preliminary amount for the courthouse renovation is roughly \$15 million dollars. The \$15 million estimate includes add-ons that can be decided if these add-ons are more of a want or is needed.

Another topic was how to pay for the courthouse renovation. The group discussed using available cash on hand and bonding between \$6 - 8 million. Ron Arnold, Daviess County Commissioner, questioned as to where the funds to repay the bonds would come from? Mr. Duncheon stated the Council will meet with Baker Tilly, financial advisor, and the Auditor's office to see what the best options are. Mr. Arnold stated he wanted to make it be known, he is not in favor of increasing property taxes, but he is in favor of looking at an income tax increase similar to when the jail was built. He expressed interest in participating in a group with a few members of Council to evaluate the tax and funding options. Mr. Gabhart stated he is not in favor of increasing taxes of any kind at this point. Mr. Duncheon and Tom Schaffer, Daviess County Council, stated they want to focus the effort on the Courthouse renovation. Mr. Gabhart stated the solid numbers on the cost of renovations should be available in early October. Mr. Arnold stated he understands that they want to get the courthouse done but is concerned that if you don't start looking at things to increase your tax base, you're going to limit yourself down the road. Mr. Arnold stated he'd like to address it all at once. Matt Meredith, Daviess County Council, asked to keep the scope focused but acknowledge the broader spectrum.

Salt Barn

Ron Arnold, Daviess County Commissioner, brought up that the Commissioners are considering a new salt barn. Mr. Arnold stated the new salt barn would be paid for out of the Commissioners budget (068) (43502). He wanted to make sure the Council had no problem with that. Tony Duncheon, Daviess County Council, inquired if it would be paid for it of budget or out of a CD. Michael Taylor stated he's sat down with Jennifer Welsh, Daviess County Auditor, about using three-line items in the budget to pay for the new salt barn and still have match money to use on other projects. Mr. Duncheon said he is fine either way.

Dan Murrie, Daviess County Prosecutor, stated he'd like for his office to begin moving sooner rather than later. He's willing to help in any way possible. By moving sooner this would give the public time to adjust to a new location.

Honorable Judge Dean Sobbecki, Daviess County Superior Court Judge, stated he has concerns with the function of the Courts if both Courts are using the Commissioners Room in the Government Center. Some court trials take more time and use multiple days, therefore not allowing the other court to schedule hearings and/or trials. It was discussed that there will hopefully be other options for Courtrooms, with an example being the Education Room in the Daviess County Jail.

ADJOURN

Motion: Approve to Adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Matt Meredith, **Seconded by** Mike Sprinkle. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion: Approve to Adjourn, **Action:** Adjourn, **Moved by** Michael Taylor, Vice President, **Seconded by** Ron Arnold, Secretary. Motion passed unanimously.

Absent
President, Nathan Gabhart

C. Michael Taylor
Vice President, Michael Taylor

Ron Arnold
Secretary, Ron Arnold

Tom Schaffer
Tom Schaffer, Vice President

Tony Duncheon
Tony Duncheon, President

Mike Myers
Mike Myers

Mike Sprinkle
Mike Sprinkle

Absent
Darin Holder

Marilyn McCullough
Marilyn McCullough

Matt Meredith
Matt Meredith

ATTEST: Jennifer Welsh
Jennifer Welsh, Auditor of Daviess County