

FOUNTAIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

MAY 23, 2008

8:00 A.M.

The Fountain County Commissioners met on May 23, 2008 at 8:00 a.m. at the Courthouse with the following members present: Janet Shoaf, Lowell Osborn and Terry Ellingwood.

DEPOSITORY

Proposals were received from Old National Bank, MainSource and the Fountain Trust Company. Each banking institution was given the opportunity to explain their proposal. Ron Howard stated that the County had \$12,872,060 invested at the rate of 1.81% as of May 21, 2008.

Old National Banks proposal was to keep approximately \$1 million in checking at the rate of 1.75%; open a savings account which would earn interest comparable to the other proposal and the balance put into an investment account, which is tied to Treasury bills; US Government agencies and repurchase agreements. This account is approved by the State Board of Accounts. There would also be no fees associated with any account.

The Main Source proposal was based upon the structure of the last two years. They would hold any public funds in a general checking account, which would earn interest for the first 90 days at 25 basis points above the fed rate, then at the fed rate for the next 90 days and then for the remainder of the contract at 25 basis points under the fed rate. A minimum balance of \$5 million would be required to offset any fees charges. The remainder of the funds could be invested.

The Fountain Trust proposal would be to keep the money in a checking rate at a fixed rate of 1.75% for two years. There would be no minimum or maximum amount required. The county is free to invest as they wished. They would waive all fees but the wire transfer fee and the stop payment fee.

Susan Coffing stated that she was comfortable with Old National Bank. Ron Howard stated that we are set up with ONB and they have offered us more options. He agreed with Susan. Janet Shoaf made a recommendation to the Commissioners to accept Old National Bank as our depository for the next two years. Lowell Osborn made the motion and was seconded by Janet Shoaf. Vote: 3-0

JAIL

Lowell Osborn wanted to know why they were having this meeting. He stated they had a jail committee to do this job and they should let them do it.

Janet Shoaf said the meeting was to set up a plan to comply with the State of Indiana. Janet stated as Commissioners they need to approve a plan to take care of the six findings from the Department of Corrections. The committee needs the approval from the Commissioners to go forward with the repairs.

Janet Shoaf would like to set a timeline to take care of the repairs at the jail which would include calling for bids and setting a date for new duct work and or a new HVAC system and repair of the roof. She would like to receive sealed bids at the July 7, 2008 meeting. She would like to have a motion to have the carpets cleaned and the carpeting removed from the walls. She then proposed to send a letter to the DOC informing them of our timeline as to what we are doing and also to the Council. She would very much like for the Commissioners to agree on a plan so that they can go to Council for funding.

Terry Ellingwood stated that he would not be in favor to have the ductwork or the HVAC system replaced because the only basis for the request was because of unhealthy air and he has not seen any reports confirming this. Janet Shoaf stated that it did not matter at this point due to the fact that DOC is requiring this in order to stay compliant with the Indiana Jail Code.

Sheriff Bass stated that the Indiana State Department of Health has had two inspectors out and took air samples and their recommendations were based on observation and air samples.

Lowell Osborn stated that he would like to turn it over to the Council and let their consciences be their guide as to what needs to be done. Janet Shoaf stated that the Council cannot act upon anything until the Commissioners come up with a plan.

Janet Shoaf made a motion to request sealed bids to be opened at their July 7, 2008 meeting to replace the ductwork and or the HVAC system and the repair of the roof. She would also request proposals to have the carpeting removed from the walls and the carpeting cleaned. Lowell Osborn seconded the motion. Vote: 2-1

Richard Klage asked how long it would be before a new jail could be constructed. Some say it could be 5 to 8 years. Due to the HEA 1001 any project over \$7 million would have to go to a referendum. He wanted to know what happens if this is voted down. He believes the costs will go up to house prisoners out of county from \$35.00 per day. Mr. Klage stated if the county houses 20 prisoners at \$50.00 per day that will be a cost to the county of \$365,000 per year, which does not include any medical or transportation expenses. The County would have nothing to show for it. Mr. Klage is also concerned about the new Circuit Breaker and the longer we wait to build a jail the more expensive it will become. He wondered about adding on an additional 14 beds to cut expenses. He also would like the county to form a long term plan for the jail.

Rusty Hart, the Sheriff of Warren County, stated that Warren County has been there to help Fountain County but he said that they can not house all of Fountain County’s prisoners. He also believes that no other county will either. He stated that there will be prisoners with medical issues that no one will want. If we have to send them to the DOC it could cost the county \$100.00 per day. He stated that if Fountain County housed their prisoners out of county because they do not want a jail, the cost would have to be raised from the current rate of \$35.00 per day.

Sheriff Hart stated that he has a cleaning crew at his jail at the present time cleaning the ductwork. He invited the Commissioners to come and look at their work. They have done a good job at a ¼ of the price that Fountain County has paid.

There was more discussion heard from the floor.

Commissioner Terry Ellingwood and Commissioner Janet Shoaf each made remarks regarding the zoning ordinance.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE MONDAY, JUNE 2, 2008 AT 9:00 A.M.

Attest: _____

