

# Kosciusko County Council

## January 09, 2025

The Kosciusko County Council met for their regular meeting on Thursday January 9, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. in the Courtroom of the Courthouse, 100 W. Center St., Warsaw, IN. Those present were:

Tony Ciriello, President	Rachael Rhoades
Kathleen Groninger, Vice-President	DeLynn Geiger
Kimberly Cates	Dave Wolkins
Mike Long	Alyssa Schumucker, County Auditor

The meeting was called to order by Mike Long.

### **IN THE MATTER OF INTRODUCTION OF NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Mike introduced the new Council members DeLynn Geiger and Rachael Rhoades.

### **IN THE MATTER OF ELECTION OF 2025 OFFICERS:**

Mike Long, made a motion to nominate Tony Ciriello as Council President for 2025 and to nominate Kathleen Groninger as Vice President for 2025.

MOTION: Mike Long	TO: Approved to nominate Tony Ciriello as President and Kathleen Groninger as Vice President for 2025. Tony Ciriello accepted as President and Kathleen Groninger accepted as Vice President for 2025.
SECOND: Dave Wolkins	
AYES: 6      NAYES: 0	
ABSTAINED: Kimberly Cates	

MOTION CARRIED

Tony Ciriello, congratulated Kathleen Groninger on her recent appointment as secretary to the MACOG Board for 2025.

### **IN THE MATTER OF APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 12, 2024 MEETING:**

MOTION: Mike Long	TO: Approve the December 12, 2024 meeting minutes as presented.
SECOND: Kimberly Cates	
AYES: 5      NAYES: 0	
ABSTAINED: Rachael Rhoades and DeLynn Geiger, due to not being present during the December, 2024 meeting.	

MOTION CARRIED

### **IN THE MATTER OF THE PUBLIC INPUT FROM PUBLIC CONCERNING AGENDA ITEMS:**

Tony Ciriello, President asked if anyone in the public had anything to discuss concerning the agenda items today. No one came forward.

### **IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT - CIRCUIT & SUPERIOR COURTS I & IV:**

Judge Matt Buehler, stated that following his predecessor Judge Mike Reed that they are moving forward with the formation of a Public Defender's Office. It was previously requested to have a stipend for the Public Defender Board members and Judge Buehler concurs with this request. The board is required to meet once a quarter to maintain requirements per State statute. The members of the board are currently Kevin Deardorff, Paul Stolting, and John Hall. It is requested to have a \$250 per member of the board stipend for their work in 2024 and a \$109.67 per board member per each meeting moving forward in 2025.

1000-11565-000-0043	Public Defender Board Members	\$250.00 Stipend
1000-11565-000-0043	Public Defender Board Members	\$109.67 Per Meeting

MOTION: Kimberly Cates  
SECOND: Kathleen Groninger  
AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request for stipend of \$250 per board member for 2024 and \$109.67 per meeting per board member for 2025, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF VOCA GRANT – PROSECUTOR ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

J. Brad Voelz, Prosecuting Attorney, along with Victim’s Assistance Coordinator Linda Giusti stated they were presenting for their annual pilgrimage due to an oversight. They are asking for additional appropriations in the amount of \$50,153.00. In June 2024, they received their notice of award from the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute for granted funds for the Prosecutor’s Victim Assistance program, which is run by Linda Giusti. It’s a two-year grant cycle and is a reimbursable grant. We are just asking for the funds and then will reimburse once the grant pays out.

**Additional Appropriations**

8139-11158-000-0000	FT Wages (Jan-Sept 2025)	\$35,981.00
8139-11601-000-0000	Social Security/Medicare	\$2,753.00
8139-11602-000-0000	Retirement	\$4,030.00
8139-11605-000-0000	Insurance	\$7,389.00

MOTION: Kathleen Groninger  
SECOND: DeLynn Geiger

TO: Approve additional appropriations for the VOCA Grant, in the amount of \$50,153.00 total, as presented.

AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

**IN THE MATTER OF SUPERIOR COURT 1 – APPROVAL TO APPLY FOR FY 2026 JDAI GRANT:**

Judge Karin McGrath stated that she is happy to come before the Council to request permission to apply for the 8<sup>th</sup> annual JDAI Grant. This is an advanced grant and they are seeking \$60,000.00. This funds their teen court and other teen related initiatives and is the only source for teen funding this year.

MOTION: Kathleen Groninger  
SECOND: Kimberly Cates  
AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request to apply for the JDAI Grant in the amount of \$60,000.00, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF SHERIFF’S OFFICE – SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT DISPATCH - 2025:**

Jim Smith, County Sheriff and Chris McKeand is requesting an amendment to the salary ordinance to change a dispatcher from a supervisory position to a daytime position and vice versa. Not a new position, just two employees switching positions and shifts.

1222-10117	E911 Dispatcher	\$66,420.00
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MOTION: Mike Long  
SECOND: Rachael Rhoades

TO: Approve salary ordinance amendment for dispatch, 2025, as presented.

AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE KOSCIUSKO COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

Steve Moriarty, joked with the Council about the Notre Dame game starting at 7:30pm tonight and that he was appreciative of him being at the beginning of the meeting. Steve stated that he had an additional appropriation for grant funds that they have received in the grand total of \$4,221,153.00.

1170-31163-000-0000	Community Crossings Grant 2024-2	\$2,560,153.00
8225-31171-000-0000	2025 HSIP Grant Des#2301654	\$661,000.00
8225-31172-000-0000	HSIP Grant #2401530	\$500,000.00
8225-31173-000-0000	HSIP Grant Des#2401523	\$500,000.00

MOTION: Kimberly Cates  
SECOND: DeLynn Geiger  
AYES: 7      NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request additional appropriations in the amount of \$4,221,153.00, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE AMENDMENT KOSCIUSKO COUNTY HIGHWAY:**

Steve Moriarty, presented the request to amend the salary ordinance to have an Assistant Admin Manager for 2 months. Steve stated that he has 2 ladies that are retiring at the same time and that the part time position would cover vacations and illnesses if needed..

1176-10307-000-0051	Asst. Admin Manager	\$53,975.00
1176-11337-000-0051	Part Time Asst. Manager	PAT VI Range

MOTION: Rachel Rhoades  
SECOND: Mike Long  
AYES: 7      NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request to amend the salary ordinance to cover 2 months of training for assistant admin manager and a part time person to cover vacations and illnesses if needed, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF A REQUEST TO TRANSFER HIGHWAY MVH:**

Steve Moriarty, stated that he needed to transfer \$15,000 to cover the 2 months of the Assistant Admin manager and part time position. This is not an additional request; this is only a transfer from funds already budgeted.

1176-11057-000-0051	Overtime
1176-10307-000-0051	Highway Assistant Admin Manager

MOTION: Kimberly Cates  
SECOND: DeLynn Geiger  
AYES: 7      NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request to transfer \$15,000.00 to cover 2 months for assistant admin manager and a part time person, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR HMEP 2025 - EMA:**

Kip Shuter, Emergency Management stated that he needed to request for appropriations for Grants that were awarded earlier last year (2024) for a total of \$165,431.00. The are reimbursable grants.

8175-36065-000-0000	Training	\$15,950.00
8186-44021-000-0000	Security Cameras	\$149,481.00

MOTION: Kathleen Groninger  
SECOND: Dave Wolkins  
AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request for additional appropriations for HMEP Grants in the amount of \$165,431.00, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF OPIOID RESTRICTED AND UNRESTRICTED FUNDS  
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS:**

Marsha McSherry, stated that this is just transferring the funds from last year to this year to be spent.

1237-37032-000-0000	Opioid Restricted	\$95,000.00
1238-37032-000-0000	Opioid Unrestricted	\$52,500.00

MOTION: Kimberly Cates  
SECOND: Kathleen Groninger  
AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request for additional appropriations Opioid Restricted and Unrestricted in the amount of \$147,500.00, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS -ARPA:**

Marsha McSherry, stated these were projects already approved and they are just moving them from last year to this year to be spent on those projects.

8950-38024-000-0000	PSC Project	\$30,442.00
8950-38026-000-0000	HELP Coordinator	\$587,697.00
8950-38027-000-0000	Launch Pad	\$25,000.00
8950-38035-000-0000	Meraki Access Points	\$3,373.00
8950-38037-000-0000	Secure Email	\$34,795.00
8950-38040-000-0000	HELP Projects	\$786,302.00
8950-38064-000-0000	CASA Training/Fingerprinting	\$6,738.00
8950-38067-000-0000	Justice Bldg Renovations	\$635,333.00
8950-38069-000-0000	Wagon Wheel Renovations	\$61,125.00
8950-38072-000-0000	Jail Parking Lot Cameras	\$11,000.00
8950-38073-000-0000	Work Release Security System	\$64,435.00
8950-38076-000-0000	Justice Bldg Furniture	\$220,000.00
8950-38077-000-0000	County Building Assessment	\$20,261.00
8950-38079-000-0000	KC Fair Repairs	\$27,898.00
8950-38080-000-0000	Justice Bldg Parking Lot	\$718,840.00
8950-38081-000-0000	Justice Bldg Parking Lot Lights	\$62,305.00
8950-38082-000-0000	Fiber Work Release to Hwy	\$125,000.00
8950-38083-000-0000	Court House Chiller Labor	\$85,000.00
8950-38084-000-0000	PSC Tower Bard Systems	\$79,600.00
8950-38085-000-0000	Fiber City of Warsaw to WR	\$65,000.00
8950-38086-000-0000	Justice Bldg Parking Lot Fiber	\$47,500.00
8950-38087-000-0000	Highway 200 S Project	\$128,469.00
8950-38088-000-0000	Webster Lake Hydro Study	\$186,000.00

MOTION: Mike Long  
SECOND: Rachael Rhoades  
AYES: 7 NAYES: 0  
MOTION CARRIED

TO: Approve the request for additional appropriations for ARPA funds in the amount of \$4,012,113.00, as presented.

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE ADMENDMENT FOR COMMUNITY  
CORRECTIONS DIRECTOR'S SALARY FOR 2025:**

Alyssa Schmucker, County Auditor presented on behalf of the Community Corrections salary ordinance amendment for the director's salary.

9168-10131	Community Corrections Director	\$87,839.00
1122-10131	Community Corrections Director	\$87,839.00

MOTION: Kathleen Groninger  
SECOND: DeLynn Geiger  
AYES: 7 NAYES: 0

TO: Approve the request to amend the salary ordinance for the Community Corrections Director's salary, as presented.

MOTION CARRIED

**IN THE MATTER OF SALARY ORDINANCE ADMENDMENT FOR GENERAL PART TIME EMPLOYEES FOR 2025:**

Alyssa Schmucker, County Auditor presented that there was a correction needed for General Part time employees on the salary ordinance.

General Part Time Wage    All Departments                                  \$15.45 Hourly

MOTION: Kathleen Groninger

TO: Approve the request to amend the salary ordinance for General Part Time employees to the amount of \$15.45/hourly, as presented.

SECOND: Rachael Rhoades

AYES: 7                                  NAYES: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Dan Spaulding, from Times Union stepped to the microphone and asked about the status of “Pre-meetings”. Has it been announced or determined by the Council? Tony stated that those had been suspended due to not working out and did not get a lot accomplished. Council decided to just stick with their regular second Thursday of the month meetings. Dan thanked the Council and was seated.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Dave Wolkins went back to ask about the Public Defender’s board stipend amount of \$250 and quarterly payments. It was clarified that the Public Defender’s board will receive \$250 per board member for 2024 and \$109.67 per board member per meeting for 2025.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Dave Wolkins then questioned about the benefits from Reedy Financial. Tony stated that this will be discussed next month and a decision will be made from there. Kimberly Cates requested to have something in front of her prior to the Council meeting and making a decision on the benefits. Discussion was had amongst the Council and they feel that the February meeting will be more of an update but will try to have documentation prior to the meeting.

**IN THE MATTER OF FURTHER BUSINESS:**

Tony Ciriello then acknowledged that Jim Moyer, Kosciusko County Surveyor was sitting in the audience and he was welcomed as a new department head.

Being no further business to come before the Council, the meeting was adjourned.

**KOSCIUSKO COUNTY COUNCIL**

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Tony Ciriello, President

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Rachael Rhoades

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Kathleen Groninger, Vice President

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DeLynn Geiger

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Kimberly Cates

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Dave Wolkins

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Mike Long

Attest:

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Alyssa Schmucker, County Auditor

