

**DECEMBER 9, 2024**

**REGULAR SESSION**

The LaGrange County Council met in Regular Session on Monday, December 9, 2024 at their meeting room, County Office Building, 114 W. Michigan Street, LaGrange, Indiana 46761, at 8:30 a.m., with the following present: Council Members, Harold D. Gingerich, Steven E. McKowen, Ryan J. Riegsecker, Michael G. Strawser and James R. Young; and LaGrange County Auditor, Kathryn Hopper. Mr. Jeffrey L. Brill and Mr. Jeffrey A. Campos were absent. Mr. Mike Strawser brought the meeting to order and led the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**LAGRANGE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION**

Mrs. Octavia Yoder, Executive Director of the LaGrange County Community Foundation, was present. She presented the 2024 annual report of the Community Foundation.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION – STELLAR PATHWAYS GRANT**

Mrs. Emilee Buller, LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation, presented an overview of the Stellar Pathways Program that was presented to the committee in Indianapolis. They are seeking \$7.2 million from the Stellar Pathways Program for Connect LaGrange County.

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER UNENCUMBERED FUNDS TO THE “RAINY DAY FUND” PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-1-8-5.1.**

Mrs. Kathryn Hopper, County Auditor, explained that the Council has the option of transferring unencumbered funds to the Rainy Day Fund at the end of the year. She presented the following Resolution for consideration:

COUNTY OF LAGRANGE  
RESOLUTION NO. 2024-12-09

A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER UNENCUMBERED FUNDS TO THE “RAINY DAY FUND”  
PURSUANT TO INDIANA CODE 36-1-8-5.1.

WHEREAS, Indiana Code 36-1-8-5.1 permits an Indiana county to establish a Rainy Day Fund to receive transfers of unused and unencumbered funds under said Indiana Code; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, an Indiana County Council shall make a finding that the proposed use of the Rainy Day Funds is consistent with the intent of the fund before making an appropriation therefrom; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, in any fiscal year an Indiana county may not transfer more than **fifteen percent (15%)** of its total budget for that fiscal year to the Rainy Day Fund; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said statute, the Indiana Department of Local Government Finance may not reduce the actual or maximum permissible levy of an Indiana county as a result of a balance in the Rainy Day Fund;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNTY COUNCIL OF LAGRANGE COUNTY, INDIANA, AS FOLLOWS:

Therefore, effective this date, the LaGrange County Council approves the transfer of \$750,000 of unused and unencumbered funds from 2023 in the County General Fund to the “Rainy Day Fund”.

The “Rainy Day Fund” shall be subject to the same appropriation process as other funds that receive tax money. The LaGrange County Council hereby intends to utilize its decision-making power regarding fiscal affairs and set priorities for all allocation and expenditure of the “Rainy Day Fund” as deemed necessary to best serve the residents of LaGrange County.

Adopted and Resolved this 9<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2024.

**DECEMBER 9, 2024**

**REGULAR SESSION**

Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the Resolution. Mr. Steven McKowen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE**

Mrs. Jenny Landez, Human Resources Director, explained that the Health Officer is recommending a salary increase for the Health Administrator. The following Amendment to the Salary Ordinance were presented:

**AMENDMENT TO THE SALARY ORDINANCE FOR 2025**

BE IT HEREBY ORDAINED THAT the following changes be made in the LaGrange County Salary Ordinance for the year 2025:

**REQUESTED**

**LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

1161-000-01-1011 Administrator & EHS Supplemental Up to \$125.41/ biweekly

- The above amount is in addition to regular pay and are subject to grant funding and approval

Effective: 01/01/2025

Mr. Steven McKowen made a motion to approve the amendments. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**LAGRANGE COUNTY LIBRARY - ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION**

Mr. Richard Kuster, LaGrange County Library Director, was present. He explained that The Library in Shipshewana is planning to construct a new addition, in the amount of \$557,000. The Library has \$425,000 appropriated for the project and will need an additional appropriation of \$132,000. Since the additional appropriation is over 4%, the approval of the LaGrange County Council is needed.

Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve the Additional Appropriation Resolution . Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Harold Gingerich seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**TRANSFER RESOLUTION**

Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the end of year transfer Resolution. Mr. Steven McKowen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

Mr. Mike Strawser presented the following Ordinance of Additional Appropriations:

**ORDINANCE OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS**

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is now necessary to appropriate more money than was appropriated in the annual budget, now THEREFORE:

Sec 1: Be it ordained by the LaGrange County Council, LaGrange, Indiana, that for the following additional sums of money are hereby appropriated and ordered set apart out of the several funds herein named for the purposes herein specified, subject to the laws governing the same.

	<u>REQUESTED AMOUNT</u>
<u>LIT ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>	
1112-000-04-4033 2024-2025 Road Projects	\$1,360,000.00
<u>LIT PUBLIC SAFETY</u>	
1170-000-04-4009 SAS Security Camera System 2025	385,341.00
<u>PARKS NON-REVERTING</u>	
1179-00-02-2033 Trail of Lights	30,000.00

Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the \$1,360,000 additional appropriation for road projects out of LIT Economic Development. Mr. Steven McKowen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve the Ordinance. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to waive the requirement for second reading. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS**

Mr. Mike Strawser read the following Resolution to Transfer Funds:

	<u>DECREASE</u>	<u>INCREASE</u>
<u>COUNTY GENERAL – SHERIFF</u>		
1000-005-01-1317 Jail Officer/SOR	20,000.00	
1000-005-01-1009 School Resource Officer	10,000.00	
1000-005-01-1510 1510 Extra Hours / Overtime		30,000.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL – COUNTY ELECTION BOARD</u>		
1000-021-02-2010 Office Supplies	750.00	
1000-021-04-4010 Equipment		750.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL – PURDUE EXTENSION</u>		
1000-023-03-3012 Travel / Mileage	71.00	
1000-023-01-1510 Extra Hours / Overtime		71.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL – WEIGHTS &amp; MEASURE</u>		
1000-028-04-4001 Equipment	153.14	
1000-028- 2-2010 Office Supplies		113.14
1000-028-03-3079 Membership & Dues		30.00
1000-028-03-3081 Seminars & Training		10.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL – DRAINAGE BOARD</u>		
1000-026-04-4500 Owner Portion – Storm Water Projects	1,975.00	
1000-026-04-4512 Joest – Westler Lake 2025		1,975.00
<u>COUNTY GENERAL- GIS</u>		
1000-035-03-3012 Travel & Mileage	500.00	
1000-035-04-4010 Equipment	500.00	
1000-035-03-3079 Membership & Dues	50.00	
1000-035-03-3081 Seminars & Training		1,050.00
<u>LIT – ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT</u>		

**DECEMBER 9, 2024**

**REGULAR SESSION**

1112-000-03-3302 Professional Services	8,079.96	
1112-000-04-4024 Courthouse Remodel / repairs		8,079.96
<u>MOTOR VEHICLE HIGHWAY</u>		
1176-003-04-4039 Other Road Equipment	3,382.35	
1176-003-04-4031 Truck Equipment		3,382.35
1176-003-01-1204 Certified Diesel Mechanic 2	10,000.00	
1176-003-02-2021 Tires and Tubes		10,000.00
<u>PARK &amp; RECREATION</u>		
1219-000-02-2035 Repairs Building & Equipment	3,625.38	
1219-000-04-4061 Playground Equipment		3,625.38

Mr. Jim Young made a motion to approve the Resolution to Transfer Funds. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion it carried unanimously.

**LEGAL CLAIMS**

Mr. Harold Gingerich presented the October 2024 legal claims in the amount of \$33,397.15 from Beers Mallers. Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to approve the legal claims. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

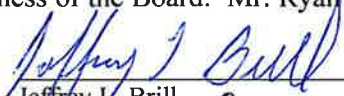
**MINUTES**

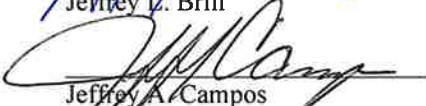
Mr. Ryan Riegsecker made a motion to approve the November 12, 2024 regular session minutes. Mr. Steven McKowen seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.


Mr. Mike Strawser thanked Mr. Steven McKowen for his years a service on the LaGrange County Council.

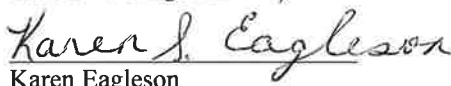
**ADJOURNMENT**

There being nothing further to come before the Board at this time, Mr. Harold Gingerich made a motion to adjourn and meet on any subsequent day necessary to carry on the business of the Board. Mr. Ryan Riegsecker seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

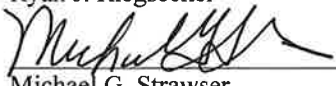
  
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Jeffrey L. Brill

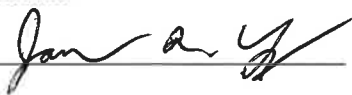
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey A. Campos

  
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Harold D. Gingerich

  
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Karen Eagleson

**ABSENT**

Ryan J. Riegsecker  
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Michael G. Strawser


  
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**DECEMBER 9, 2024**

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James R. Young

ATTEST:

  
Kathryn Hoppert  
LaGrange County Auditor

