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November 18, 2021

Ms. Kaitlyn Holmecki
Public Access Coordinator
Indiana Government Center South
402 W. Washington Street, Room W470
Indianapolis, IN 46204-2745

RE: Your Complaint: 21-FC-185

Dear Ms. Holmecki:

Please be advised that I presently serve as Lawrence County Attorney, and I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Lawrence County Council to your letter of November 12, 2021.

In reviewing Mr. Raines' complaint, please be advised there was no meeting of the Lawrence County Council on October 28, 2021. There was a meeting held on October 26, 2021, and for purposes of this response, I assume this is the meeting Mr. Raines refers to.

I enclose two (2) items with this letter:

1. Notice of 2022 Budget Hearing Schedule issued by the Auditor;
2. Notice of Lawrence County Council Meeting for October 26, 2021.

Originally, the Lawrence County Council was scheduled to adopt the 2022 Lawrence County budget at 6:00 p.m. This meeting had been advertised and notice sent to the media as generally required by statute.

During the day of October 26, 2021, the County Auditor experienced computer problems and was unable to upload data to the Department of Local Government Finance. Because of these problems, DLGF directed the County Auditor to reset the meeting on budget approval. Because there was insufficient time to notify everyone of the problems with DLGF, the Lawrence County Council members appeared at the courthouse for the advertised 6:00 p.m. budget meeting.

Ms. Kaitlyn Holmecki
November 18, 2021
Page 2

The plan was to have the final budget meeting immediately preceding its regular monthly meeting.

I, myself, went to the courthouse to attend the meetings. I arrived about 6:15 p.m. I observed the Lawrence County Council had gone ahead with its regular monthly meeting. The meeting room, itself, was already full with office holders and members of the public. I had to stand in the back of the meeting room as the seats were all taken.

I don't recall when Mr. Raines arrived on that evening.

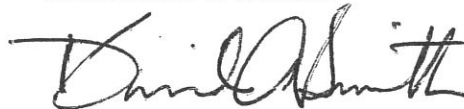
Because the Lawrence County Council had advertised two meetings set to occur back-to-back, they believed proceeding with their regular agenda was a more efficient use of their time and of the members of the public then in attendance. This situation is a one-time occurrence, and is not a custom or habit on its part.

All of the appointments scheduled for the regular business meeting attended the October 26, 2021 meeting, and all matters requiring Lawrence County Council approval were addressed.

I hope this answers your inquiry. If you need further information, please advise.

Very truly yours,

McINTYRE & SMITH

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David A. Smith", written in a cursive style.

David A. Smith

DAS/cml

Cc: Rick Butterfield
Scott Smith
Jeffrey Lytton
Mike Wright
Julie Hewetson
Julie Chase
Janie Craig Chenault
Jessica Staggs