

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 16, 2018, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Judge John Westhafer, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens and Kenny Hooten

County Sheriff Greg Allen led the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

Mr Metz moved to approve the September 18th meeting minutes and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion passes, 7 - 0.

David Israel and Matt Stone, speaking on behalf of the **Decatur County Fire Association** asked if the Council included their request for \$86,000 in the 2019 Public Safety Budget. This money would be divided between the eight township fire departments to help pay for insurance for equipment and volunteer personnel. Mr Hooten moved to approve \$43,000 to be divided between the eight township fire departments. Mr Meyer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0. Council did offer the option to come back in 2019 to request additional funding once the jail operations are more certain.

Ryan Maddux, President of the Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Board, requested \$28,000 in additional funds to the 'grant account' in the Tourism budget due to giving some grants to the **Parks Department, Fair Board and Main Street Greensburg**. Council advised Mr Maddux his request will need to be advertised in the local newspaper before they can act on his request; however, they did give him a 'gentlemen's agreement' to approve the additional once it has been advertised. Mr Maddux requested an increase in the Director's Salary appropriation in 2019. His Board is looking to hire a director who has a marketing experience; so depending on the applicant's qualifications Mr Maddux is asking to increase the salary up to \$48,000. Mr Metz moved to let the Tourism Board pay a Director's salary up to \$48,000 and Mr Owens seconded the motion. Due to the 2019 Budget already being advertised, Mr Maddux will submit a request for additional monies in 2019.

Mr Hooten asked why part of the salaries for Child Support 4-D is paid from the incentive funds when if all of those salaries were paid out of County General, the Feds would reimburse the County at 66%. Several departments have 'discretionary funds' which are used to supplement their employees' salaries; while other departments do not receive such funds. Employees whose salaries are supplemented with those discretionary funds will receive a \$1,000 raise while the rest of the employees will receive a \$2,000 raise in 2019. There are several County employees who are paid more than the elected officials, which the Council would like to decrease that 'gap' each year.

Mr Owens moved to include the **Youth to Yellowstone** program by granting them \$5,000 out of the County's Share of Riverboat monies in 2019. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 7 – 0.

County Commissioner Rick Nobbe asked for clarification on a proposal to spend monies out of the Special Purpose Tax-Jail, Fund 1114. The Council adopted the special LIT tax last October to pay for building a new jail and operations He then asked Council to develop a policy to not take the jail's operational costs out of Fund 1114. He asked Council to reverse a proposal to use some monies for 'prisoners meals and medical and dental for inmates' out of the Special Purpose Tax and take those monies out of County General. Auditor Chadwell reminded Council they need to fully fund the employees' health insurance and using other available funds will keep County General from being 'in the negative'.

Jail Commander Tony Blodgett told Council members the 'numbers submitted back in July for the 2019 budgets' were based on current inmate census and before the Pods were approved; so he will need additional monies once next April or May. Mr Nobbe stated the Pods were approved to help lower the jail population; in no way should the jail population be increasing with the Pods. Mr Blodgett has met with both Judges and the Prosecutor on the jail overcrowding and releasing lower level offenders on house arrest to keep the inmate numbers manageable.

After some discussion, Mr Hooten said let's move the \$160,000 for Medical and Dental and the \$140,000 for Prisoners Meal back to the Jail Budget in County General. Mr Peters agreed and state if they need to go back to the Special Purpose Tax-Jail for funds, they will.

County Extension Agent Jeff Hermes told the Council every county in the state was asked to increase their level of financial funding for Purdue University Educators, according to the annual contract. Mr Metz moved to put the Extension Office's appropriation for the educators back at the requested \$107,345. Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to increase the **Soil and Water's** appropriation, 24107, for education and public information back to the requested \$7,100. Mr Peters seconded the motion; motion carries 7 – 0.

After Council reviewed various departments request to transfer monies within their budgets, Mr Meyer moved to approve the transfer requests and Mr Peters seconded. Motion carries 7 – 0.

Mr Nobbe told Council the Courthouse Improvement Loan has been paid off on August 13th, 2018, saving the county over \$90,000 in interest. **Arsee Engineers and Bulley & Andrews Masonry Restoration** submitted a final invoice for \$223,144.75 on September 11, 2018. An additional request out of EDIT funds for \$223,144.75 was advertised timely for the Council's consideration to approve for payment of that invoice. Mr Peters moved to approve the request for the \$223,144.75 in additional EDIT monies. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carries, 7 – 0.

Economic Development Commission Executive Director Bryan Robbins presented his EDC quarterly report: our rural areas are underserved by broadband and this a major handicap when schools opt to go to 'e school days'; exploring options to develop Rebakah Park as a community activities center; attracting folks to live here especially directly marketing to 'soon to be discharged' veterans- Honda is one of the first supporters of the program.

The Council has reviewed and adjusted the following 2019 budgets under their fiscal responsibility and subject to approval by the **Department of Local Government Finance**:

Riverboat, Fund 4903- \$59,500	County General, Fund 1000- \$10,754,104
Reassessment, Fund 1224- \$290,700	Local Income Tax, Fund - \$720,000
Visitors, Recreation & Tourism, Fund- \$291,600	Highway, Fund 1176- \$2,973,809
Local Road & Street, Fund 1169- \$1,425,000	Cumulative Bridge, Fund 1135- \$850,000
Health, Fund 1159- \$379,792	Statewide E911, Fund 1222- \$380,861
Public Safety LIT , Fund 1113- \$960,222	Parks & Recreation, Fund 1219- \$625,215
Cumulative Capital Development, Fund 1138- \$280,000	

Mr Peters moved to adopt Decatur County's 2019 Budgets of \$19,990,803 and the Solid Waste Management 2019 Budget of \$521,219. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion passes, 7 – 0.

The Council's next meeting is November 20th, 2018 at 9:00 am.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Meyer moved to adjourn and Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____