

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

County Departments presenting their 2023 budget requests

Tuesday, August 15, 2022, Room 106

Present: Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ashley Hungate, Deanna Burkart and Ernie Gauck

President Peters opened the 2023 budget discussions stating the Administrative Assistant for the Commissioners will primarily be Human Resources plus being responsible for agendas and minutes. He also told Council to 'zero' out the operating supplies in the Commissioners' line item 21402.

County Clerk Adina Roberts and Clerk-elect Janet Howell- via phone- asked for monies be put in the Clerk's budget as well as the Election budget. Council asked Clerk Roberts to reduce the requested Clerk's Record Perpetuation Fund by \$3,000.

County Coroner Doug Banks told Council his 'run volume' is up which is something he does not control.

County Recorder Dottie Robbins does not agree with the Salary Committee's recommendations for elected officials. Mrs Burkart said the numbers used for those recommendations are clear-cut.

County Surveyor Andy Scholle stated his responsibilities include maintaining section corners, business verification location reports on **Alcoholic Beverage Commission's** licenses, County's Comprehensive Plan, Drainage Ordinance and Tech Review Committee. Mr Scholle is a licensed land surveyor but he isn't considered a full-time surveyor so he doesn't need an office as the public goes to his business office for County information.

Circuit Court Judge Tim Day, Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey and Public Defender Board Member Bill Smith told Council the State is mandating public defenders' compensation is to be at \$40,000 annually by 2024. Those attorneys cannot have more than 100 cases per year The current public defenders are not full time and each has an annual contract with the Courts. The County receives 40% reimbursement for eleven of the twelve public defenders for 2022. Judge Day asked the salaries for both Courts' court reporters be paid the same and he is asking for a second Juvenile Probation Officer. The State has increased the qualifications/requirements for probation officers as more of today's young people are having mental health and drug issues. Judge Bailey would like to start a Drug Court, he's not asking for funds, would use existing resources and grants. The County Prosecutor has agreed to work with the Superior Court on a Drug Court.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr and Interim Highway Superintendent Todd Houk are asking for a \$1.00 an hour raise hoping to attract those with CDL's due to businesses paying higher wages. Income for the Highway Department is controlled by the State, so Mr Mohr asked Council to raise the Cumulative Bridge fund levy due to several big projects in 2024 going forward. County Commissioner Mark Koors praised Mr Mohr on his past 5 years of applying for and receiving INDOT's Community Crossings Grants for road projects and he expects Mr Houk to continue doing that.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe presented an adjusted budget request after receiving the recommendations from the Salary Committee and talking with her 2 deputies she would not replace the third deputy position. Ms Greiwe has hired a part time person to take on extra responsibilities and is asking for more in the part time and over time appropriations.

Minde Myers, Director of Animal Control, is requesting 2 full time kennel techs as her budget shows what it take to keep the doors open. She discussed having the Animal Control Officer as part time with 'on call' pay.

Chris Fogle, Purdue CED, told Council Purdue has hired a 4-H Educator who will start September 1st and an offer was made to an Ag Educator, but Purdue hasn't received a reply so they may rescind that offer.

Council questioned if 3 educators are needed, would 2 suffice? Mr Fogle said the office is very busy and with the lack of 2 Educators during the Fair, county employees Lana Martin and Bonita Hellmich had to step in to get the work done. Mr Peters asked Mr Fogle to report the actual number of kids participating in the 4-H programs.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Philip Deiwert is looking to rebrand Tourism’s presence by redoing the website. Brad Fox has been contracted to assist attracting people and events to Decatur County-Greensburg. Mr Deiwert told Council Daniel Fayette chose not to renew his marketing contract effective September 1, 2022.

Parks and Recreation Director Teresa Kovacich, Brad Fox and Park Board President Sue Fortman shared a one of their goals for 2023: working with Mr Fox on bringing back softball tournaments- hosting tournaments. Mr Peters told Mrs Kovacich her request for the Maintenance III position is denied since that position was abolished when former Director Bob Barker requested that position’s salary be divided among himself and the 3 positions. Ms Kovacich doubts whether the pool will be open next year as the liner is not stable, really need a new pool.

County Prosecutor Nate Harter thanked Council for giving him another Deputy Prosecutor in 2022 and a part time investigator using American Recovery Plan funds.

County Sheriff Dave Durant, Jail Commander Dana Parker, Administrative Supervisor Ashley Wilson and Administrative Assistant Teresa Reiger discussed with the Council the 8% raises requested by the Sheriff in addition to requesting another administrative officer, 3 new jailers and one more Courthouse Security Deputy.

Emergency Management Director Brad Speer told Council the Court Services Building maintenance is taking too much of his part time Assistant’s time.

Board of Health President Dr James Howell, Health Department Director Sean Durbin and Office Manager Amanda Bates are working to develop programs to make the Health Department better and may include permits for hotels, pools and tattoo parlors.

Soil and Water Board members Fred Fry and Gordon Smiley told Council their operating supplies request increased due to the number of trees given out plus tee shirts given to Fourth Graders on Ag Day.

IT Network Engineer Josh Tressler is asking for another Desk Top Technician as his department is definitely doing more than 40 hours a week serving both Decatur County and Greensburg. He would also like to move the computer room out of the Courthouse basement due to some recent flooding issues. County Commissioner Chuck Emsweller said by adding Dave Henderson in 2022, IT started using the State’s QPA as a cost savings which could more than pay for a new tech employee.

The next regular Council meetings are August 16th at 9:00 am.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mrs Burkart moved to adjourn and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____