

Decatur County Council Meeting

Monday afternoon, August 16, 2021, Room 106

Present: Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

The Decatur County Council invited all Department heads/Elected Officials to come and present their 2022 budget requests including any information as to why any particular budget line item should not be cut or removed.

County Recorder Dottie Robbins told Council her goal is to digitize all of the recorded documents prior to 1996 and make them available on the web. Mrs Robbins asked that she and her deputies be paid the same as other offices since they are the lowest compensated Courthouse employees. She also needs chairs for her office.

County Prosecutor Nate Harter, Chief Deputy Prosecutor Doug Brown and Deputy Administrator Martina Butz asked to make a change to his **Child Support IV-D budget**- need to add \$4,000 for software they must have for the new **State INVEST** program. Mr Harter told Council his office is the 17th busiest Prosecutor's Office in the State. He is asking for a base salary of \$65,000 plus \$1,000 per experience year for new deputy prosecutors. Mr Harter is also asking to hire an investigator, who would be part-time, and the deferral fund, his discretionary fund, shouldn't be used for that salary. His goal is to shift more of his staff's salaries to County General.

County Assessor Dorene Greiwe had to cut paying for the county's pictometry out her Reassessment Budget due to reduced revenues. The GIS Budget and Cumulative Capital Development will share this expense for 2022.

Circuit Court Tim Day and Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey asked Council to add an assistant court reporter to Judge Day's staff and change Superior Court's administrative assistant position to an Assistant Court Reporter. This would give each Court two assistant court reporters and one court reporter. Judge Bailey introduced Ken Bass as the newly appointed Magistrate Judge who will be assuming his duties on September 1st. The new assistant court reporter requested by Circuit Court would serve in the Magistrate Court. Judge Day asked if the new assistant court reporter could be hired by October 1st, 2021. Council agreed as long as he submits a request for an additional appropriation to the Auditor's office this week so they can approve it at their September 28th meeting. Both Judges requested to increase each Public Defender's retainer by \$500. Judge Day's request for a copier will be included in the Cumulative Capital Development budget.

County Treasurer Diane Wenning asked for raises for her deputies and herself stating they do not receive certification pay or any supplemental pay. Mrs Wenning's request for furniture will be included in the Cumulative Capital Development budget.

County Sheriff Dave Durant and Administrative Supervisor Ashley Wilson asked to make some adjustments to their 2022 budget requests: increase the meeting stipend for the Merit Board; increase the Administrative Officer's salary to \$42,500; add the \$50,000 salary for the Maintenance Supervisor to the County General Jail Budget- it was paid out of the Sheriff's Commissary Fund. Sheriff Durant asked Council to let his budget requests stand exempting his employees from the countywide raises; the increase in the Public Safety Budget- Council's fund- is for an upgrade to the Spillman system and also upgrading computers.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Philip Deiwert told Council his 2022 budget requests depend on the news released at the County Commissioners' meeting earlier today regarding the reorganization of the Decatur County Fair Board. Mr Deiwert told Council Tourism Board member Daniel Fayette does several things per his contract: maintains Tourism's website, advertising, videos for the social media, billboards and he also works with Assistant Erika Gunn on the **Visitor's Guides**. Mr Deiwert is trying to keep between \$300,000 and \$400,000 in reserve as revenues fluctuate year to year. The Tourism Board

has committed \$100,000 for the Pirate Park plus a Tourism grant of \$150,000, of the \$2,000,000 needed, is committed to help build the concessions and restroom building, etc for this project. Council asked Mr Deiwert to submit a more realistic budget, closer to actual expenditures.

Emergency Management Director Brad Speer is asking for \$61,000 for a vehicle and \$1,700 for a scanner- both of the amounts will be included in the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Mr Speer plans to apply for monies from the County's American Recovery Plan to create a training center for public safety personnel.

Deputy Clerk Janet Howell, speaking on behalf of Clerk Adina Roberts, asked Council to raise the Deputy Clerks' salaries as their office is extremely busy due to more cases and the new 'e-filing' requirement for cases; also put the postage request back as it was cut due to the Clerk's office no longer doing the 'jury draws work'. The Election Budget includes a raise for the Election Board partly due to increase work to switch from precinct polls to vote centers. The \$2,500 equipment and \$2,500 office machines' request will be added to the Cum Cap budget.

GIS Manager Tim Ortman told Council the Assessor's Reassessment budget could no longer fund the ortho imaging which is much needed by public safety personnel, including the Volunteer Fire Departments who use it to see the height of buildings. He recommended a 6-year contract, as 'flying the county' is done every 2 years. A cost of \$110,000 would be every 2 years.

Board of Health President Dr James Howell and Office Assistant Carol Beck asked for another nurse and some grant monies could be used for that salary. Dr Howell said the Health Department funds are \$17,000 more compared to this same time in 2020; he also doesn't anticipate any fee raises for 2022.

County Coroner Doug Banks is requesting a new vehicle- \$56,500- since the current one does not accommodate a cot for transporting. The \$56,500 will be added to the Cum Cap budget.

Soil and Water Board Members Gordon Smiley and Matt Raver, along with County Commissioners Mark Koors and Chuck Emsweller discussed the need for funding the County's Drainage Board and maybe creating public drains to address problems in a few parts of the County.

Animal Control Officer Minde Myers and Animal Control Board member Kristi Jarvis asked to increase the hourly wage for the Kennel Tech from \$12 to the \$13.25 paid to County's part-time employees. Ms Myers will submit an amended 144 to the Council at their regular August 17th meeting. She is requesting an additional computer and also a computer software upgrade, cloud based- these will be added to the Cum Cap budget. The Animal Control Board is working on fund raisers to help offset costs for vaccinations, rabies shots, parvo tests, spaying/neutering, etc since adoption charges do not cover all of those and if the adoption charges are raised then will fewer animals be adopted?

The Council will meet at 9:00 am on August 17th for their regular meeting, immediately followed by their 2022 budget workshop.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____