

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 16, 2022, Room 106

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

The August 16th Decatur County Council meeting was called to order President Peters. Communications Director Erika Free led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

(Meeting minutes and agendas are emailed to Council members the Friday before their Tuesday meeting)

Mr Metz moved to approve the July 26th meeting minutes and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Julie Hasselbring, Board Chairperson for Champions of Youth, requested funding to pay rent from the Council for 2023. A full-time mentorship program has replaced the lunch time buddies which is working out better for the kids. The local **Champions of Youth** did opt out of the **Big Brothers Big Sisters Program** as the dues were too high plus local funding stays here in the community.

Mrs Burkart moved to recommend to each Decatur County Taxing Unit, they review the **Department of Local Government Finance's 2023 estimated maximum levy and estimated property tax cap loss**. Taxing units failing to use this information may see a short fall in tax revenues in 2023. Decatur County taxing units include: **Decatur County, Adams Township Trustee; Clay Township Trustee; Clinton Township Trustee; Fugit Township Trustee; Jackson Township Trustee; Marion Township Trustee; Saltcreek Township Trustee; Sandcreek Township Trustee; Washington Township Trustee; Greensburg Civil City; Millhousen Civil City; New Point Civil Town; St Paul Civil Town; Westport Civil Town; Decatur County Community School Corp; Decatur County Contractual Library and Decatur County Solid Waste Management**. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the requests for transfers as read with correction (reason for Highway transfer is to correct negative balance and not 3rd quarter payment to Dispatch). Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0.

Economic Development Commission Director Bryan Robbins told Council he consults with **Ginnie Faller, Indiana Small Business Development Center**, quite often about helping small businesses; she has incredible resources and provides one on one counseling in starting or relocating a business. Ms Faller had submitted a request for \$5,000 for the 2023. Mr Robbins told Council since the **Make My Move Program** was so successful last year (4 couples, working on a 5th, the State is setting up funds for the Economic Development program to make available to other communities to implement. He hopes to attract 11 more couples in the next grant round.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Hooten to adjourn and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Council's regular meeting is adjourned.

Mr Peters opened the Council's **2023 Budget Workshop**.

County Auditor Janet Chadwell shared concerns related to the Salary Committee's recommendations- the Auditor's budget needs to be reduced by approximately \$100,000 which would be reducing staff. Going to 4 deputies will be difficult when the Auditor and a Deputy retire in 2 years because the learning curve is at least 1-2 years for someone 'off the street'. The Commissioners are planning to move some responsibilities from the Auditor's office to a new **Human Resources Position** under their oversight, but that job description is still a 'work in progress'. It does include moving the health insurance and benefits and keeping personnel records normally kept in the Auditor's office.

Communications Director Erika Free has met with **Greensburg Mayor Josh Marsh** and he is ok with her requested 2023 budget as written. She is requesting a 6.5% increase in the base pay for Dispatchers since there were a couple of years, they did not receive a pay raise or only part of the raise given to other county employees. Also, Mrs Free is asking to add another Dispatcher since Law Enforcement and First Responders have add employees which increases calls received by the **Communications Center** increases greatly. Council is good with this budget.

Administrative Supervisor Ashley Wilson did check, the maintenance supervisor is now being paid out of County General.

The first item for discussion is salary raises; whether to go with the **Salary Committee's** recommendations. Mr Hooten and Mr Metz agree should go with the recommendations and see how it goes. Council agreed it might need to re-evaluate the Commissioners request for a full-time floater who is supposed to take the place of part-time help in the Courthouse offices/departments; maybe the HR person should figure out the floater's duties. Mr Hooten suggested taking the Floater out for now and revisit next year, but he believes the HR position is a good idea.

Mr Metz made a motion to give full-time employees, excluding the Sheriff Department- Detention Center, a \$1,409 pay raise. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. Mr Hooten moved to increase the part-time pay by \$1.50 and Mrs Hungate seconded the motion. Departments are permitted to 'pay up to' the 'cap' for part-time and according to the approved. Motion passes, 6 – 0. The offices/departments affected by the Salary Committee's recommendations would reduce staff through attrition. The Sheriff is requesting an 8% pay raise for most of his employees. Council decided to let the request for a 3rd administrative position ride for now.

Mr Peters would like for Departments to submit their 2024 Budget Requests without including pay raises.

County Prosecutor Nate Harter asked whose budgets are the **Public Safety Fund** and the **Special Purpose Jail Fund**. Mrs Burkart told him both are the Council's budgets.

There is a potential of increasing the County's income by housing Federal inmates with an annual contract; it could be as much as \$560 – 570,000 annually with proper staffing.

Council agreed adding HR position in the Commissioners' budget is a good idea, but take the Floater out of their budget for 2023 and revisit for 2024.

Council decided to make the **Emergency Management Director** position exempt- doesn't earn overtime.

Mr Peters asked Administrative Assistant Teresa Reiger to call Sheriff Durant. Mr Peters told the Sheriff to re-submit his 2023 budget requests, one budget for the Sheriff and one budget for the Jail, taking any part of his requests out of the Public Safety Budget and the Special Purpose Jail Budget. The revised budgets are due to the Auditor's office before noon, Friday, August 19th, 2022.

Council made several changes to **Tourism's Budget** including setting the Director's salary at \$50,000 and to make that position 'exempt'.

Parks and Rec Budget: Mr Peters said to remove 'Maintenance III' position per agreement with former Director Bob Barker. **Financial Consultant Reuben Cummings** recommended budget what is needed each year, then if haven't spent all of the appropriations, that builds the cash balance since the Parks Fund is a stand-alone fund; zero the 3 big expenses- restroom facilities, parking lot at Sports Complex and an emergency fund until actual monies are spent, then request an additional since the cash balance is good. Mr Cummings also told Council departments do not have to budget for an emergency, the Commissioners would use an 'emergency declaration to spend now'. Council agreed to leave the 'pool appropriations' in the budget just in case the pool does open in 2023.

Local Emergency Planning Commission is needed per Commissioner Chuck Emsweller, so Council let requested budget stand.

Health Department has changed a salaried position from grant funding to the Health Fund, but will need to make this request to the Council since Council approves new positions and salaries. The **Sanitarian** position is now a part-time position and will stay part-time in 2023.

Drug Free Budget is ok since it's funded through fees collected by the Clerk's Office.

Council agreed to approve 75% of each request from non-profits funded out of the **Riverboat Gaming County Share Fund**.

Mr Cummings told Council they need to 're-establish the tax rate' for the **Cumulative Capital Development Fund** in 2023 for 2024 and there is a specific time frame to complete the procedure. Once the rate is re-established it will never be greater so Council will 'only have to take a one-time hit'.

Council scheduled a Special 2023 Budget Meeting for August 22nd at 9:00 am in Room 106 to review the Sheriff's revised budgets requests.

Danny Peters, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____