

## Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, August 17, 2020, Room 106

**Present:** Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, John Westhafer, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

Department heads/elected officials were given an opportunity to present their 2021 budget requests to Council members the evening before the Council's regular meeting at which they would begin the 'budget process'.

**Prosecutor Nate Harter, Deputy Prosecutor Doug Brown, Office Administrator Sara Volk and Child Support Office Administrator Shelley Warfield** shared information and asked Council to examine their 'salary supplement policy and stop relying on supplements for salaries'. Mr Harter's office has been working with 2 less attorneys for most of 2020. He and his staff are trying to hold 2021 spending at 2020 levels.

**Visitor, Recreation and Tourism Director Philip Deiwert** has reduced his 2021 budget request due to a reduction in innkeepers' fees. He and his Board doubled the Part Time appropriation due to adding a sports director for scheduling events for the new soccer fields and amphitheater. Mr Deiwert believes more should be spent on advertising than increasing the dollar amount for grants. Mr Hooten suggested invest/spend monies on the community and not let thousands of dollars sit in the bank.

**Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey** expects cases in his court to exceed 4300- 1700 of those being traffic infractions. He is very aware of the limited funds the County has to spend; he would to purchase a laptop computer as monies are available.

**Health Officer Dr Arthur Alunday, BOH member Dr James Howell and Office Manager Carol Beck** told Council a part time nurse will be needed for mass immunizations once a coronavirus vaccine is approved. Dr Alunday said only having 4 employees is a 'skeleton crew' and what do they do when Carol and Diane Stewart retire? Mr Peters said 4 years ago, the Health Department's cash balances dictated reducing the staff.

**Parks and Recreation Director Bob Barker and Office Manager Teresa Kovacich** will be presenting an amended 144 (statement of salaries) to the Council in their meeting tomorrow. One of his employees is retiring and Mr Barker would like to take the remaining salary and divide it between the remaining 5 employees. If Council doesn't approve his request, then he'll hire a replacement- keeping 6 on the payroll.

**Adult Probation Officer Matt Hoeing** told Council his 2021 budget is \$2,500 less than his 2020 budget.

**Soil and Water Board Members Tom Cherry and Fred Fry** Council the 2021 budget is basically the same as 2021, except for salary increases. Salaries for the two employees are supplement 3-3.5% through a grant. The office is open by appointment only; meetings are 'virtual'.

**Emergency Management Director Brad Speer** is requesting 6 monitors for the EMA bus and equipment for the Emergency Operations Center; he also needs to add 'overtime appropriation' to his budget.

**Communications Director Erika Free** cut her budget by \$35,000- health insurance was overbudgeted in her 2020 budget and by not asking for a new dispatcher position.

**Sheriff David Durant and his Administrative Supervisor Ashley Wilson** told Council he made some changes in Commissary charges and is bringing in more which has helped from him having to ask for 'additional'. Sheriff Durant asked, per statute, the county's portion of Tax Warrants be included as part of his salary. In 2021, the Sheriff's Department will have 18 road deputies thanks in part to the \$250,000 **COPS Grant**.

**County Commissioner President Rick Nobbe** told Council members 23 properties were sold at the Commissioners' August 15<sup>th</sup> auction, which gets them back on the tax rolls and off of the County's property insurance; Board of Health members are in favor of moving their offices to space vacated by the Sheriff at 315 S Ireland; Commissioner Buening is working on selling the Jail PODS and the Commissioners continue to partner with the City of Greensburg on the City Park Dam project.

**County Coroner Doug Banks** told Council members he is asking for funds to replace a 31-year-old cooler. He has priced a bigger cooler and a lift at a cost of \$12,000 + \$7,000, so around \$20,000.

**Animal Shelter Manager Ashley Hennen** plans to increase the adoption charges at the Shelter plus add a 'pre-adoption fee' due to rising costs. In 2020 Ms Hennen presented her budget to Greensburg's City Council since we have an agreement they pay half of Animal Control's budget and since Greensburg holds their budget meetings before the County Council did, the FICA, PERF and health insurance was not included in her presentation. Greensburg Council did not budget enough to pay their half; she needs to present a complete, approved 2021 budget as soon as possible to them.

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Danny Peters, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_