

Decatur County Council Budget Workshop

Tuesday, August 18, 2015, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyers, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters and Kenny Hooten. **GFC Consultants'** Kay Schwade, Deputy Auditors Teresa Brown and Christy Smiley and Auditor Chadwell

Council members agreed to address the salaries after they have reviewed the proposed budgets in **County General**. Mr Gauck did ask Ms Smiley to 'put' the salaries at the 2015 rate for now. Each County General budget was reviewed and 'cuts' were made where possible since some department heads and elected officials had written letters to the Council citing specific appropriations needed to be a certain dollar amount due to existing contracts, etc.

The **Central Dispatch** program is set to 'start up' sometime in February 2016. All **Central Dispatch** personnel will be **Decatur County employees**. An ongoing discussion on 'base pay', years of service with regards to seniority, and protocol for levels of pay needs to include the attorneys for both the **City of Greensburg and Decatur County**. A written agreement needs to be adopted by both **City and County Councils as well as the County Commissioners** on the financial support/funding for the **Central Dispatch Program**.

A 'hand vote' of 4 to 3 was taken to give funds to the **Transitional Living Center** in 2016.

Council members told **Prosecutor Harter** they would 'give' him \$60,000 of the \$120,000 budget increase he is requesting- he need to 'redo' his proposed 2016 budget and submit it to the Auditor's office by Friday, August 21st.

Mr Gauck told Council members he believes the **Area Plan Director** answers to the **County Commissioners**. **County Commissioner Rick Nobbe** stated the **Area Plan Director** is hired by the **Area Plan Commission and the Building Commissioner** is hired by the **County Commissioners**. Mr Gauck called **County Council Attorney Lora Williams** who came to the meeting to share her findings on this discussion. Ms Williams cited Indiana Code 36-6-6-12 which she believes stated the **County Executive (Commissioners)** hire the **Area Plan Director**. She also referenced the **Ordinance, dated 8/1/1971**, which created the **Decatur County Area Plan**. Mr Nobbe stated the **Commissioners** appoint the **AP Director and the Building Commissioner**.

The 'salaries' discussion began with members agreeing the 2016 budgets should be kept in the 2015 level or very near it. With that being said, several members agreed employees should be given a raise. Mr Meyer stated our County officials are underpaid- need to give them what we can. Mr Gauck believes the budgets should be restricted so raises can be given. Mr Owens wasn't okay with a \$500 raise since expenditures are more than the revenues. Mr Metz and Mr Hooten believe some amount of raises should be given. Mr Peters agreed our employees deserve something. Mr Meyer moved to give \$600 raises to the Elected Officials; \$400 to all other full-time employees and a \$.30 per hour raise to the part-time. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Mr Meyer, Mrs Hunt, Mr Metz, Mr Peters and Mr Hooten vote 'yea' and Mr Owens voted 'nay'. Motion carried, five to one. Mr Peters moved to approve the raises for the departments who did not request any raises. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carried. Council members agreed to reduce the "P & I" Commissioners line item to \$300,000 and to the transfer of \$450,000 of **EDIT monies to the County General fund on Budget Form 2** when the adopted budget is submitted on **Gateway**.

Department of Health Administrator Carol Beck was asked to come to this Budget Meeting- the proposed 2016 Budget needs to be reduced to near \$376,000. Mr Gauck asked Ms Beck to get those revisions to the Auditor's office by Friday, August 21st.

Parks and Rec Director Bob Barker was also asked to come this meeting- he also was asked to reduce his 2016 Budget request to near \$565,000 and get it to the Auditor's office by Friday, August 21st.

Council members had some questions when reviewing the **Convention and Tourism Budget**. They questioned the contract with **Visit Decatur County, Inc for \$134,000**. Auditor Chadwell will contact Melanie Maxwell to request a copy of that contract.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____