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[FAQ's](#)

[Resources](#)

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DECATUR COUNTY COUNCIL

Budget Hearings

August 19, 2008

The Decatur County Council opened their August 19th 2008 meeting with the following present; Ernest Gauck, President, Rheadawn Metz, Geneva Hunt, Ken Owens, Rose Hellmich, Larry Meyer and Kenny Hooten.

Departments presented individual budgets to Council Members.

Auditor Bridgett Weber requested keeping her request for Maintenance Contracts and thanked Council for raises received in 2008.

Commissioner Charlie Buell requested that EMA be supported with two part time positions at \$10,000.00 each.

Highway Superintendent Mark Mohr explained the depletion of Highway funds for road projects. Cum Bridge funds are currently sound but with flooding these funds will deplete also. Raises would be a concern for him to keep his people and workforce going.

GIS Coordinator Tim Ortman requested back to 2008 requests. Several requests were cut for 2008 being requested again for 2009.

Park Director Bob Barker discussed the possibility of turnover in his department so asked to keep salaries in mind. Thanked Council members for purchasing additional green space and will be developed as funding becomes available.

Sheriff Templeton discussed E911 and except for coordinator salary budget is self funded. County Misdemeanant is self funded also and is being used to purchase supplies for the jail and work release. Jail budget staying the same with number of jailers. Sheriff budget has courthouse security officer, newest hire officer will be going to the academy in January and another officer that will be back from IRAQ in March and hope that he will be able to come back on the force with a budget for 9 months for him.

Assessor Tami Wenning has hired someone to take the place of the 9 townships and has budget for that person in the Reassessment budget for 2009. Overtime has been requested but will be a worse case scenario to accommodate personal property for evening appointments.

Treasurer Rita Burkert requested maintenance for RBSK contract, overtime and equipment budget for any incidentals.

Clerk Janet Chadwell requested an amount for rebinding records and microfilm. Election budget will be same with the possibility of maintaining and purchasing the equipment for elections.

Interim EMA Director Hugh Miller discussed the needs of having at least two people manning this office. Mr. Miller provided a letter from Ms. Blasdel explaining the requirements of this office.

Prosecutor William O Smith requested to bring his chief administrator up to what court reporter's salary is. Title IV-D Budget has become a very time consuming department due to state monopoly by state vendors. State prosecutors have been trying to make changes to the dilapidated computer system.

- Health Department Office Manager Carol Beck presented budget requests for 2009. Requested that Local Health Maintenance Tobacco Settlement not be reduced, most of the money will be mandated by the state. Health budget requested a 10% increase in salaries.

Surveyor Brian Keith presented budget request for 2009. Andy Scholle will be the county surveyor in 2009. Mr. Scholle is a licensed surveyor so he will probably be requesting increased salary.

Extension Agent Dan Wilson provided several items of interest from extension agency. Presented information from Extension Educators that is being paid by Purdue. Mr. Wilson requested similar budget from 2008 to 2009.

Recorder Mary Vail requested not to cut maintenance contracts and added microfilm to budget per County Commissioners.

Animal Control Board Secretary Dan Wells presented requests for Animal Control. Salaries increases have been a concern with losing personnel to higher paying jobs in other counties.

Coroner Doug Banks explained the process he is currently performing in the office with deputies and reports. Mr. Banks is proposing that he be paid for calls starting in 2009. Mr. Banks thanked council members for allowing him to

hire additional deputies and giving them the incentive to be on call.

Area Plan Director David Neuman requested full-time assistant, board members be paid for \$45.00 for meetings. Mr. Neuman requested that computer maintenance not be cut since this contract amount is set with RBSK.

Soil & Water Conservation Board Member Roger Wenning commended new employees they hired this year. Employees are working to get grant monies to the county.

Visitor's & Recreation Melanie Maxwell updated Council Members on events and hotel space in Decatur County. The office has moved to A to Z Occasions.

Family Court Counselor Deb Cruser provided a report to show monies she has received from local agencies currently. Ms. Cruser provided information about herself and about the program.

Council members will begin cuts at 9:00am on Wednesday, August 20th.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____
Date: _____

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