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## **Decatur County Council Meeting**

### **2020 Proposed Budgets**

Tuesday, August 20, 2019, Room 106

**Present:** Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, John Westhafter, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart, Kenny Hooten and Reuben Cummings, GFC

Mr Cummings told Council members they do have the option to raise the EDIT rate or certified shares since there is .73 available. The current rate is 1.77 and the special purpose jail rate is outside of the rate limit.

Council agreed to leave County Generals' requested salaries 'in' and see how much they could cut without reducing the 'requested raises'. Departments within County General have submitted requested budgets for a total of \$12,289,696. Mr Cummings reminded Council of his recommended target budget of \$9,839,069 for County General due to estimated revenues.

**Superior Court Judge Matt Bailey** asked Council to maintain what County General has been paying for-FICA, health insurance and PERF for Probation Department. Judge Bailey stated Probation User Fees will soon be exhausted; meaning eventually staff will have to be cut, but the number of those put on Probation seems to keep increasing. Mr Gauck told him the County will keep paying those.

**County Prosecutor Nate Harter** requested adding another Deputy Prosecutor to his staff as he doesn't expect the number of criminal cases to go down any time soon. He added one new Deputy Prosecutor in 2018; then another in 2020 and hopefully add a victim's advocate in 2021. In 2015, his office had 5 trials; in 2016- 2 and in 2019 so far there have been 3 cases go to trial. He does agree IV-D Incentive Funds can pay for benefits for those paid with IV-D Incentive monies; also he is rebalancing IV-D salaries.

**County Sheriff Dave Durant** outlined changes he's making to make the Sheriff's Office more professional. He is looking to put the Courthouse Security Deputies on a 40 hour work schedule and hire 2 part-time people to transport inmates to Court and back; as well hire another part-time person to serve court papers.

Council members agreed raise the hourly rate to \$13.00 for part-time help in offices.

Mr Cummings suggested Council 'get a general obligatory bond' to purchase computers/capital expenses- no operating expenses- in County General instead of each department putting those dollars in their budgets. He believes there's a savings when purchasing in quantity and Council agreed.

**Animal Shelter Director Ashley Hennen** asked Council to approve her request to move her part-time kennel tech to full-time so he can 'stay on top' of their high intakes while maintaining low euthanasia rates.

Council thanked Health Department Office Manager Carol Beck for submitting a good budget request- it is within Mr Cummings recommendations. Council did not change anything on this budget.

**Communications Director Erika Free** discussed the new IT Director in her Countywide 911 budget and whether the City of Greensburg would agree to share that cost going forward. The City Council did approve an additional for fund the new IT Director for the remainder of 2019 and going forward.

**County Commissioner Rick Nobbe** answered the Council's questions about a committee/board to research/make decisions on what our County can do about/with drainage issues between neighbors. The Commissioners would like to have a group of 4 – 5 people, like an advisory board, to research and make decisions on what the County can do. He told Council he would like to see some sort of rehab project at the old jail once the move to the new jail is completed; or maybe create some income by housing inmates from other counties. Mr Nobbe also asked Council to consider saving monies in the

Special Purpose Jail Fund so the bonds could be paid off in half the time and save some money for a future jail addition.

Mr Hooten moved pay the same \$2,000 raise to those employees whose salaries are supplemented with discretionary monies and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Mr Westhafter, Mr Metz and Mr Peters disagreed and moved to pay \$1,000 raise to those employees whose salaries are supplemented with discretionary monies. The differences in raises are the result of the Council narrowing the gap between wages in similar positions. Positions in the Prosecutor's Criminal and IV-D Child Support, Circuit and Superior Courts are paid higher than any elected official in the Courthouse.

Mr Cummings recommended and Council agreed to shift a small portion of the levy from the Parks and Health Funds to the Reassessment Fund and eliminate the 4-H levy and add \$20,000 to the General Fund in the Commissioners' budget.

The Council's next meeting is September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 am; which will also be the Public Hearing on the proposed 2020 Budgets.