

Draft

Decatur County Council 2019 Budgets Meeting

Tuesday, August 21, 2018, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, Judge John Westhafer, Bill Metz and Kenny Owens; Reuben Cummings- GFC Consultant and five Deputy Auditors

The August 21st 2019 Budget workshop was called to order by President Gauck. The first topic to be discussed was salaries. Auditor Chadwell asked the Council to make the amount of raises the same across the board instead of 'tiered scale' where the elected officials were given a higher amount than the rest of the full-time employees. Treasurer Brenda Dwenger reported salaries from several different counties, similar in size and Decatur County is 86th in the State. After some discussion on how much of a raise to give each employee, Council agreed to spread the 'catch up' over a couple of years since the County's finances do not allow bringing the salaries up all at once. Council members agreed to set raises at \$2,000 for each employee except for the Court Reporters, the Prosecutor's staff including IV-D Child support staff and Soil and Water employees who will receive raises of a \$1,000 each. The hourly rate for part-time was raised from \$11.80 to \$12.50.

Funding the County's health insurance for employees is one of the Council's top priorities. Annual insurance costs, according to who's on the insurance, were included in each department's budget request. Those amounts totally surprised the department heads as well as Council members. Over \$4,000,000 was paid to **HealthSmart** in 2017 for health insurance claims and administration costs.

Several elected officials and department heads were present while the Council was reviewing their budget requests to answer any questions and explain any requested increases. County Clerk Adina Roberts requested a 'full-time part-time' position be added to her budget; she doesn't want to lose her current part-time person who needs more hours. Council decided to ask the Mrs Roberts to reduce the Clerk's Record Perpetuation 2019 budget so as not to spend more than the projected income; also to ask County Assessor Dorene Greiwe to reduce the 2019 Reassessment budget at least by \$80,000 due to projected income.

Since some departments requested less than what Council decided to give for raises, Mr Westhafer moved to approve the wage increases made today for 2019 over what was submitted/requested. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

The Council's next scheduled meeting is September 18th, 2018, at 9:00 am. The public hearing for the proposed 2019 budgets will be held during that meeting. Meeting closed.

