

Decatur County Council Meeting- 2018 Budgets

Tuesday, August 22, 2017, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Judge John Westhafer, Kenny Owens, Bill Metz, Larry Meyer and Kenny Hooten.

Government Finance Consultant Reuben Cummings explained his 'cash flow analyses' for County General and the DLGF's projected decrease of more than \$300,000 of income for LIT. He also advised we advertise for a tax levy for the Hospital Bond even though there are sufficient funds to 'pay off' that debt.

Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley presented 'dollar amounts for raises' for Deputies and Elected Officials. Council will discuss those figures later today.

Mr Cummings recommends reducing \$1,300,000 of the proposed 2018 budget for County General to \$8,500,000; or if the Council would use/transfer \$400,000 of EDIT monies to County General, they could adopt a budget of \$8,900,000. He also explained how property tax caps and circuit breakers are reducing property taxes 'coming in', Council needs to strongly consider increasing the LIT income rate from 1.33 to 1.83- .25% going to County and .25% going to Public Safety LIT; then also adopt the special jail LIT rate of .65% for a total LIT rate of 2.48 which is below the 2.5 maximum allowed. The Cumulative Capital Development tax rate needs to be raised to the maximum in 2019 which would 'bring in about \$500,000'.

Commissioner Rick Nobbe reiterated the Commissioners just adopted a new **EDIT Plan** on August 21st. The Courthouse Masonry Project payment is around \$325,000 and the contracted \$60,000 for EDC, so anything above \$500,000 would be available for the Council to transfer to County General.

Fair Board Mike Cuskaden told Council members the 4-H program could use additional funds for 2018. The expense to 'put on the 4-H County Fair' increases each year and he feels its money well spent on our youth.

Visitors, Recreation and Tourism Director Gary Herbert had requested a \$5,000 increase in salary as he did not 'take the County's health insurance' and that amount he considers a stipend for him paying out of his pocket for health insurance. Council agreed not to increase Mr Herbert's 2018 salary to \$43,000, leaving it at \$38,000. Tourism's office secretary, Teresa Morrow, works about five hours per day.

Council members agreed they should increase the LIT tax rate to provide much-needed revenue for the County General Fund.

EMA Director Rob Duckworth discussed the benefits of changing from a part-time Director to a full-time Director. The State reimburses one-half of salaries paid out which could be around \$31,000, but the State distributes those reimbursements 'in arrears'.

Standing in for **County Prosecutor Nate Harter**, **Deputy Prosecutor Doug Brown** answered questions regarding supplemental salaries paid to personnel in the Prosecutor's office.

Council members agreed they need to be fair to the **Health Department Board** and ask Bob Barker and his **Parks and Rec Board** to reduce their 2018 budget about \$30,000 to 'have a budget of about \$550,000'. The **Health Department Board** had to 'tighten their belts' for 2017 which involved eliminating a full-time position for 2017.

Central Communications Interim Director Erika Free answered questions as the Council reviewed the **Statewide 911 and Countywide 911 budgets**. The County Commissioners and Greensburg City Council have agreed to 'roll over' the current 'interlocal agreement' funding the 2018 Countywide 911 budget.

Mr Cummings cautioned Council on the **Reassessment levy** which will only 'bring in' about \$88,000 and the 2018 budget will spend all of the cash.

Council decided not to allow a salary supplement from the **Clerk's IV-D Incentive** to the County Clerk.

The DLGF revised their 2018 LIT projections which increased significantly over their July 28th figures, which is good news for the County General Fund

2018 salary raises were decided to be \$900 for elected officials and a \$.2747 per hour raise for all other full-time employees; no increase for part-time hourly workers. Mr Metz moved to approve the above-stated raises and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Sheriff Greg Allen and School Resource Officer Rob Duckworth asked Council members to approve \$8,000 more than requested for the Sheriff's deputies for 2018 due to a few employees leaving for higher paying positions with the **Indiana State Police**. Sheriff Allen will submit a **2018 Amended 144, Statement of Salaries**, to the Auditor's office before the Council's next meeting.

Council moved the 'not-for-profits' budget requests from the Commissioners' budget to the **Riverboat County Share Fund**. They also agreed to fund a new van for the Coroner out of the **Riverboat County Share Fund** for 2018.

Mr Gauck thanked all for working on the proposed 2018 budgets. Mr Cummings will email the **Budget Form 3- Notice to Taxpayers-** to the Auditor's office to input in **Gateway**.

The Council's next meeting will be September 19th at 9:00 am. The Council will conduct a Public Hearing for the proposed 2018 county budgets.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____

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