

# Decatur County Council Meeting

## 2025 Budget Workshop

Monday, August 20, 2024

**Present:** Danny Peters, Bill Metz, Melanie Nobbe, Ashley Hungate, Deanna Burkart, Ernie Gauck and Kenny Hooten

Council started the 2025 Budget Workshop by discussing the **WIS (Waggoner, Irwin, Scheele Associates)** salary data according to job classifications. Mrs Hungate said the goal is to use either the internal base or external mid-point base, but can't apply the exact same solution to each person so Council would come up with a specific percentage raise to give everyone and for those not at the threshold – depending on which base the Council chooses: use the next 3 years to try to get to the target salary by breaking up the percentage increase into thirds or give up to \$1,000 each year until up to the goal. For the employees who have 'smaller gaps' so additional amount would be heavier in the first and second year, then the third year the additional amount would be a lesser amount. The base pay would not move for 3 years which follows the maintenance plan and the salary committee will reassess the base pay every 3 years due to changes in the market. She suggested giving a 3% raise across the board and address what to do with those who are still under the threshold.

**Financial Consultant Reuben Cummings** told Council they need to be aware the max levy is up due to a 12% increase in the county's assessed values which helps Cumulative Bridge but affects/reduces the County's remaining funds in the max levy. Mr Cummings will check on appealing the max levy using the 3-year growth quotient to insure each fund/budget isn't reduced due to the Cum Bridge rate increasing.

Council reviewed each departments budget requests; moved requests in County General for office machines, equipment and furniture to the Cumulative Capital Development Fund. Several line items in the Sheriff's and Jail Budget in County General were moved to either the Public Safety Fund or the Special Purpose Jail Fund. A budget has been created for the Council, so they are not part of the Commissioners' budget. The Commissioners have requested to add a general maintenance position for the Courthouse, Annex and the Fairgrounds. Mr Peters spoke to Dr Howell, Board of Health President, who agreed to help pay for a maintenance person, basing the dollar amount on the square footage of the Health Department's area.

Council decided to continue salary discussions on the proposed budget by holding a special budget session on Tuesday, August 27<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am.

Mr Hooten moved to adjourn this 2025 Budget Workshop and Mr Gauck seconded the motion. Budget workshop adjourned.

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Danny Peters, President

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Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_