

## Decatur County Special 2025 Budget Session

**Tuesday, August 27, 2024**

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

A spreadsheet setting out the 2024 base salary

Mr Peters began the meeting saying he believes all everyone deserves a 3% raise and Mr Hooten added to let the 3% ride plus the increases need to be sustainable. Mr Gauck said Council needs to look at the job descriptions before giving 'across the board' raises.

**Sheriff Bill Meyerrose** asked for the road deputies' base pay to be set at \$60,000 in order to at least be competitive with the Greensburg Police Department. He compared surrounding counties Sheriffs' Road deputies' pay instead of using the salary study for his department. He also asked for the jailers' base pay to be at \$44,000; or at least get it to \$42,000 for 2025. He did say he will withdraw his request for 2 new road deputies if it would give his guys more pay. Mr Hooten reiterated the 3% is for jailers too and Mr Meyerrose countered with 5%, making the jailers' base pay at \$42,840. Council discussed if they should change the target salaries for the Sheriff' Department and Detention Center's personnel since 'plan b' is being used for budgets. Council decided to use \$59,924 as a target or base pay for the 18 road deputies and \$42,840 for the target or base pay for the 24 jailers.

Council agreed to give a \$4,013 raise to the Surveyor in 2025.

Any changes in the adopted job descriptions, job classifications and maintenance plan will be referred to the Salary Committee. Ordinance 2024-10 which repealed Ordinance 2008-4 did not specify a 'hire date deadline' in order to qualify for a raise in the following year. Mrs Hungate said only employees hired before July 1 of each year would be eligible for a raise in the following year.

**County Clerk Janet Howell** asked Council to put the \$4,000 for her election deputy back in the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund. She will make her request at the 2025 Budget Public Hearing on September 17<sup>th</sup>.

Mr Gauck, Mr Hooten, Mr Metz and Mr Peters all said to leave the pay for the Commissioners and Council the same in 2025.

Mr Peters told Council the State Health Department said the Council has to approve any pay from grants to employees of the Health Department.

**Prosecutor Nate Harter** told Council the supplemental pay from the County to him is capped at \$5,000 per year. He questioned the base salaries in the Council's spreadsheet doesn't match the WIS (Waggoner, Irwin, Sheele & Associates) spreadsheet; he will meet with Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley to update Council's spreadsheet.

The special budget session was adjourned.

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Danny Peters, President

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

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