

Draft

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2019, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, John Westhafer, Larry Meyer, and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck asked Judge Westhafer to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag after calling the meeting to order.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the corrected May 21st minutes, Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0. The cost for the Prosecutor's printer was misstated, it should be \$1,040.

Superior Court Judge Matthew Bailey told Council members he will be requesting an additional full time staff position in his proposed 2020 Budget. He is asking for the salary to be the same as a Deputy Auditor and work the standard workweek as Courthouse employees. Judge Bailey presented surrounding counties' staffing information in comparison to their caseloads and his own court. He stated Decatur County has the most filings per judge in the State of Indiana. Five hundred eighty-eight (588) criminal cases were filed in Superior Court in 2009; in 2018 one thousand four hundred twenty-six (1,426) cases were filed. Judge Bailey does prepare all of the orders himself, except for warrants and orders to appear. Both Courts and the Clerk's Office will be changing to the **Odyssey Case Management** system in 2020.

Children Advocacy Coalition Board member Drew Young introduced **Executive Director Stephanie Back and Associate Director Kelly Bridges** who asked Council members for their continued financial support in 2020. Ms Back requested \$10,000 in funding. She hopes to have the newly purchased office building in Greensburg ready to use by the end of 2019 or the early part of 2020 as there are 75 – 80 cases in Decatur County who currently have to travel to Dillsboro. Mr Gauck asked if our CAC office would serve surrounding counties. Ms Back answered yes- especially those counties that don't have a CAC office. **Sheriff Dave Durant** stated this is a critical need for law enforcement.

Brad Speer, David Israel and Matt Morrow, representing the Decatur County Volunteer Firemen's Association, presented their request for funding out of the County's portion of the **Public Safety Tax**. Mr Israel asked for \$86,000 to be divided between the County's eight volunteer fire departments, giving each department \$10,750 per year. Mr Gauck said the Council had budgeted more than the income for 2019, so he said Council would have to wait and see what the numbers are at budget time in August.

The request for \$2,060 in additional monies submitted by Veteran's Service Officer Mike Baumgartner has been advertised as required by statute. A new computer, software, scanner and signature pad are needed for Mr Baumgartner to serve our veterans. Mr Meyer moved to approve the additional and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

911 Communications Center Director Erika Free, EMA Director Brad Speer and Sheriff Durant requested \$27,399.92 in funding for the remainder of 2019, to hire an IT engineer for all five public safety departments: **Greensburg Police Dept, Greensburg Fire Dept, 911 Communications Center, Decatur County Sheriff Dept and Emergency Management Agency**. Director Free has met with several elected officials on hiring an in-house IT engineer as opposed to contracting for these services. The beginning annual salary would be around \$100,000 plus another \$35,000 for fringe benefits. Sheriff Durant fears there could be a catastrophic failure for the 911 computer structure. Council discussed budgeting options such as using some of the Statewide 911 funds, Countywide 911 funds, Public Safety funds; they decided to wait until their July meeting and contact Reuben Cummings, the Council's Financial Consultant. Mr Peters moved to table this funding request until the July meeting since two council members are not present today. Mr Westhafer seconded the motion. Motion carried, 4 – 0.

Having reviewed the various departments' requests to transfer monies within their budgets, Mr Peters moved to approve those requests and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 4 – 0.

Mr Meyer plans to attend the State Board of Accounts meeting for Indiana's County Council members at the Grand Casino in Shelbyville on June 29th.

With nothing else to come before the Council, Mr Hooten moved to adjourn and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned.

The Council's next meeting is July 16, 2019 at 9:00 am.