

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday October 14, 2014 Room 106

Present: Larry Meyer, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters & Kenny Hooten

Vice President Larry Meyer called the meeting to order.

Bill Metz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The September 16<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were read and approved.

Judge Matthew Bailey asked Council members to reconsider the monies 'cut' out of the 2015 Pauper Council appropriations. He and Judge Tim Day could try to make the reduced appropriation work, but some contractual attorneys may decide not to participate. Judge Bailey hopes to contract with seven attorneys- one less than this year. Beginning January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015, each juvenile defendant will require an attorney present at all hearings unless they have hired an attorney on their own. Currently, the State reimburses counties only for the felony cases tried by the Courts. Both Judges stressed contracting attorneys is less expensive than paying attorneys by the hour on an 'as needed' basis. More and more defendants qualify for pauper counsel as people are financially struggling in today's economy according to Judge Day.

Laura Johnston- Animal Control Director, several Animal Control Board members and volunteers came before the Council asking for \$3,611 be 'put back in 2015's budget' in the part-time appropriation. Ms Johnston explained changes in personnel and the changes in the appropriations listed on the payroll vouchers- which the Auditor's office didn't 'catch'- created a shortfall in the budget. Mr Meyer stated the Council feels the 2015 Animal Control Budget is adequate. Mr Owens added the Council still needs to make more cuts in the County General Budget. Ms Johnston stated there were errors in the payroll accounts, but she hadn't realized there was a new salary appropriation which she had requested in 2013. A volunteer at the Shelter asked to speak to the Council. . She stated the budget is devastating to her as she cannot work alone at the Shelter- there has to be an employee present should someone want to adopt an animal. She said other communities consider our shelter a 'golden one' as there are healthy dogs available for adoption. Another person spoke up saying the Shelter Director, Laura, deserves a vacation, so please put the \$3,611 back in the budget as Laura is vital to the shelter and no one wants her (Laura) to get 'burned out'. Veterinarian Hank Martin stated the adoption rates are up and the euthanasia numbers are down. The 'tight budget' will have a 'snowball affect' which he believes will make it harder to work with the 'Rescue Groups' who strive to relocate good animals.

Mr Metz moved to adopt the 2015 Solid Waste Budget, Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr Owens moved to approve the requests for transfers, Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Mr Hooten moved to adopt the non-binding budgets for 2015, Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried. Those include: the nine townships, the public library, both school corporations, the towns of Westport, New Point and St Paul and the City of Greensburg.

Ms Hunt moved to adopt the PERF Enlargement Plan effective January 1, 2015, Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried. This will add the three Commissioner positions, seven Council positions and the County Surveyor position. The Council opted not to include the 'past service' option which would have cost the County a lot more money this year.

Mr Peters moved to put the \$10,000 back in the Superior Court Pauper Counsel appropriation and the \$20,000 back in the Circuit Court Pauper Counsel appropriation and the reduce the Commissioners' Plans and Implementation appropriation by \$75,000 and then adopt this 2015 County Budget. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rick Nobbe spoke to the Council as the current administrator of the Landfill Steering Committee. He follows Hugh Miller in efforts to return the former landfill site to a productive piece of property.

Currently there is some leachate which does require pumping the substance to Greensburg for treatment. Mr Nobbe asked Council members for permission to spend \$25,000 out of the County Commissioners' 2014 Plans and Implementations budget to pay current invoices of \$16,000 on pump repairs/maintenance. Council members didn't have any issue with Mr Nobbe doing that. Mr Nobbe thanked them for helping in this project.

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

Council's next meeting will be on November 18<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m.

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Ernest Gauck, President

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