

## **Decatur County Council Meeting**

Tuesday, September 15, 2015, Room 106

**Present:** Ernie Gauck, Larry Meyers, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens and Danny Peters

**President** Gauck called the meeting to order.

**County Commissioner** Rick Nobbe led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

After reviewing the August 18th meeting minutes- Mr Peters moved to approve the minutes and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried. August 18<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were approved. The August 18<sup>th</sup> budget hearing minutes were reviewed- Mr Owens moved to approve those minutes and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Budget hearing minutes were approved.

Andrea Ingmire, **Decatur County Contractual Library**, asked **Council members** for a 'binding recommendation' on the **Decatur County Contractual Library 2016 Budget**. Library Board members project there will be about a \$90,000 excess. In order to be allowed to spend those monies, Council must approve an increase to the **Library's 2016 Budget**, but not the tax levy. Some of the \$90,000 will be used to increase the "digital resources" such as **ebooks** and downloadable audiobooks for all ages, genealogy research and downloadable music; also, they would like to offer **Hoopla**- digital movies, music, online language learning and **World Books**- non-fiction ebook collection. Normal operating expenses will use some of the \$90,000. Ms Ingmire stated the **Board** is considering adding a **Rainy Day Fund** to help 'build' monies when there are unspent appropriations. Mr Owens moved to approve the request to increase the 2016 Budget by \$80,000. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried 6 – 0.

The next topic for discussion was **Central Dispatch** which included salaries for the Director, Supervisor and dispatchers. Mr Gauck suggested the Director's salary be about \$40,000 or about the same as our Highway Superintendent's pay. **Greensburg Mayor Gary Herbert** told the Council the **E911 Board** needs to get a Director hired so the Board can begin hiring dispatchers who are 'hard to come by'. Mayor Herbert also stated the City's 2016 budget includes \$398,894 to be transferred to the new **Countywide 911 Fund**; as the County Commissioners have budgeted \$154,548 to be transferred to the **Countywide 911 Fund**. Salaries for the Director, Supervisor, IDACS Coordinator, three dispatchers and part-time help will be paid out the **Countywide 911 Fund** as well as employees' benefits, office supplies, uniforms, contractual services, telephone, equipment maintenance for a grand total of \$554,524. The County will continue to pay the regular health insurance, social security and PERF costs out of the **CAGIT Fund**. The **Statewide 911 Fund**, which is financed through 911 fees on cell phones and landline phones, will pay eight dispatchers' salaries, overtime pay, IDACS, repair of equipment, training and radio equipment for a grand total of \$364,432. Mayor Herbert believes the City will save \$14,000 in 2016. Rob Duckworth told Council members the County doesn't save money but they won't have to find additional monies for dispatchers. Mr Peters wants this **Central Dispatch Center** to be self-sufficient so fewer County dollars would be needed. If the proposed budgets are approved, Mr Duckworth said they're ready to get started interviewing and hiring.

**Area Plan Board President Albert Armand** reiterated the **Area Plan Board** is responsible for hiring and overseeing the new **Area Plan Director** and the **County Commissioners** are responsible for hiring and overseeing the **Building Commissioner**. The **Area Plan Board** is also responsible for hiring the **Secretary** for the **Area Plan Office**. Two **Amended 144's** (Statement of Proposed Salaries) for the balance of 2015,

Duckworth suggested an option of filling a vacant position in the **Emergency Management Office**, sharing Sean Durbin- **Environmental Specialist/Health Department**. The **State EMA** reimburses counties fifty percent of those salaries paid out each year. **Government Finance Consultant Kay Schwade** explained several factors affect the tax rates and tax levies for collecting property taxes. She will research to try to find the reasons for the low tax rates in 2013 and 2014.

Mr Gauck told Council he is still researching the advertising contract the **Decatur County Visitor and Tourism Commission** has with **Visit Decatur County Inc.** After reading the original ordinance creating the **Decatur County Visitor and Tourism Commission**, he believes the Council may adjust the tourism rates as well as use some of those monies for economic development.

**County Prosecutor Nathan Harter** thanked the Council for working with him on his proposed 2016 Budget as he begins to tackle 'backlog' cases and still keep current cases moving.

Mr Meyers moved to approve the requests for transfer of funds for various departments. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council members reviewed the **Non-Binding Budget Worksheets** for: **Adams, Clay, Clinton, Fugit, Jackson, Marion, Saltcreek, Sandcreek and Washington Townships; City of Greensburg, Millhousen, New Point, St Paul and Westport Towns; Decatur County Contractual Library and Greensburg Public Library; Decatur County Community School Corporation and Greensburg Community School Corporation.** The Board for the Lake McCoy Conservancy did not submit a proposed budget for 2016- the Auditor's office contacted Kathy Stockhoff at the Department of Local Government Finance for guidance. Ms Stockhoff instructed the Auditor to use the previous non-binding budget worksheet for Lake McCoy and have the Council review and approve the recommendations on those amounts. Mr Peters moved to approve the amounts recommended by the units listed above and Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried. Mr Gauck signed those documents.

Mr Gauck announced the **Official Public Hearing on the Proposed 2016 Budgets** was open for any public comments or questions. There weren't any comments or questions from anyone in attendance.

Mr Gauck stated the **911 Board** needs to get a Director hired ASAP. Mr Peters believes \$42,000 is a good starting salary and there should be a 'two year freeze' on that \$42,000 salary so they can see where things/finances are. Mr Gauck believes the Council should 'revisit' this in one year to insure the Director will have things organized- is doing his job. He also thinks the City-County agreement should be simplified in one year.

Council members agreed to submit the **Health Department's** proposed 2016 Budget of \$411,048 to the **DLGF** and reduce the 'Plans and Implementations' appropriation in the **Commissioner's Budget** to help balance monies.

The next Council meeting will be at 9:00 a.m. on October 20, 2015; the 2016 Budgets' Adoptions will also be held on this date.

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

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

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