

Decatur County Council Meeting and 2015 Budget Public Hearing

Tuesday September 16, 2014 Room 106

Present: President Ernie Gauck, Geneva Hunt, Bill Metz, Kenny Owens, Danny Peters & Kenny Hooten

George Metz led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the meeting minutes for the August 19th meeting and review of 2015 budget requests. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

George Metz, Cemetery Board, updated Council members on their work: 2013- vegetation was removed from four cemeteries and over one hundred stones were repaired; 2014- vegetation was removed and one hundred-thirty-five stones were repaired; plans in 2015 include seven cemeteries and one hundred and fifty stones to be repaired in the Westport and St Paul areas. Mr Metz asked if Council would consider a \$2,000 increase to the 2015 budget request; or \$1,000 would be really helpful. Mr Hooten asked what kind of maintenance monies are needed once the cemeteries are cleaned up. Mr Metz stated the vegetation will always need removed. Mr Owens moved to approve a \$1,000 increase to the "Renovation of Cemeteries" appropriation in the Commissioners' 2015 budget. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Keith Hipskind, President of the **Greensburg Transitional Living Center, Inc** presented a financial report on the homeless situation which he believes the need will only increase as time goes on. The TLC is a starting place or a 'jump start' for the homeless to 'get back on their feet'. The TLC Board is considering purchasing a building from the St Mary Catholic Church for \$125,000. Mr Hipskind stated the Greensburg City Council has pledged \$40,000 to support this project. The remodeling of the building may cost an additional \$30,000 to \$70,000. Mr Gauck said he would contact the Township Trustees to see if they would be allowed, under the State's guidelines, to use some of their monies toward this project.

Jeff Hermesch, County Extension Agent, explained the monies funding positions at the Extension Office. There should be a 'refund check' for \$14,749.46 to reimburse the County for the Ag & Natural Resources position which was vacant from December 7, 2013 thru August 31, 2014. There should another refund check issued to the County once the Health & Human Science position is filled, which should be October 27, 2014. (Once Purdue knows the time frame on the 'empty' position) The budget request for 2015 (\$100,615) was reduced to \$70,083. Mr Hermesch stated the \$100,615 is for three full-time positions. He did say the Education Services may have to be a part-time or shared position. When a position is vacant, someone tries to 'cover' that area- may even be an agent from a neighboring county. Mr Metz moved to increase the 2015 Purdue appropriation to the original request of \$100,615. Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

There wasn't any 'public' in attendance to offer any comment on the proposed 2015 Budget.

Mr Peters stated Rob Duckworth had called him asking for a \$2.50 per hour raise so he would get a full salary for being the EMA Director. Mr Duckworth is also the Resource Officer for the County Schools as well as serving as Deputy for the Sheriff's Department. No action was taken on the request for the wage increase.

Mr Hooten moved to cut \$20,000 from the Pauper Attorney appropriation in the Circuit Court's budget and Mr Peters seconded. Motion carried.

Mr Owens moved to cut \$10,000 from the Pauper Attorney appropriation in the Superior Court's budget and Mr Metz seconded. Motion carried.

Mr Hooten moved to approve the request for an additional for the E911 budget. Mr Metz seconded the motion. Motion carried. This was a formality as a 2014 Budget was not adopted by the Council in 2013.

Mr Peters moved to approve the requests for transfers by several departments. Mr Owens seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Council members agreed to send flowers and their condolences to Mary Dickman's family.

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

Council's next meeting will be on October 14th at 9:00 a.m. The 2015 Budgets will be adopted.

Ernest Gauck, President

Attest: _____

Date: _____