

Decatur County Council Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2019, Room 106

Present: Ernie Gauck, Danny Peters, Larry Meyer, John Westhafter, Bill Metz, Deanna Burkart and Kenny Hooten

President Gauck asked Deputy Auditor Teresa Reiger to lead the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag after he called the September 17th meeting to order.

Mr Metz moved to approve the August 20th meeting minutes and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0, minutes are approved.

Mr Peters moved to approve the August 20th Proposed Budget meeting minutes and Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0, minutes are approved.

Communications Director Erika Free requested the \$2,000 raises for 2020 also are given to the dispatchers. They did not receive any raises in 2016 or 2017, due to the **Interlocal Agreement** between the City of Greensburg and the County Commissioners. Director Free did go to the Greensburg City Council and they agreed to help fund the raises. The County's part in funding the Countywide 911 should be able to support those raises between the Commissioners' budget and the Public Safety budget. Mr Gauck told Director Free she has the Council's approval to adjust salaries to reflect the \$2,000 raise for the Communications Center's employees.

Board of Health Office Manager Carol Beck asked Council members to put the requested \$800 back in the appropriation (44300) for 2020 to purchase tires for the truck and sprayer. Mr Hooten told her Council decided to 'float a bond' to purchase computer equipment and software, furniture- capital outlay items in order to help the cash flow mostly in County General, but other funds will benefit as well.

Mr Gauck opened the "**Public Hearing for the Proposed 2020 Budgets**". **County Prosecutor Nate Harter** told Council members he did not propose and didn't agree to 'user fees' being used for health insurance; also those fees cannot be used without his approval. **County Sheriff David Durant** told Council he only asked for \$1,000 raise for his employees to make the salaries more in line with the 'levels of responsibilities'. **County Clerk Adina Roberts** asked Council to 'put back' the clerical assistant appropriation since they removed the full-time position she had requested. Council agreed to increase her part-time appropriation to \$30,000 for 2020. **Adult Probation Office Matt Hoeing and Prosecutor Harter** agreed to sit on the Health Insurance Committee, which meets quarterly to review expenses for County employees. Mrs Burkart is interested in being on this committee.

A clarification on the \$2,000 raises for Court Reporters and Judge Bailey's new administrative assistant position will be emailed to Judge Bailey.

Deputy Auditor Christy Smiley shared **Extension Agent Jeff Hermes**'s request to reinstate the \$4,000 for his equipment lease through **Purdue**; the lease appropriation will be 37101 instead of 44100.

Mr Gauck stated he is okay with increasing the Public Safety Tax rate from .25% to .55% of one percent. He doesn't like any tax increase and he's hoping the incorporated towns who will also benefit will give some back to the County for the new jail. Mr Meyer moved to advertise the Ordinance on increasing the LIT (Local Income Tax) for Public Safety. Mr Peters reluctantly seconded the motion. Motion passes, 6 – 0. The Public Meeting for the Ordinance increasing the Public Safety tax will be on October 22nd, which is the Council's next meeting.

Several departments want to pay part-time help at a higher rate than the \$13.00 per hour the Council agreed on for 2020. Mr Gauck said those department heads can come to the Council to discuss this at another meeting. It has been advertised the 2020 Budget Adoption is on the October 22nd Council meeting agenda.

After reviewing various departments' requests to transfer monies within their budgets, Mr Meyer moved to approve those requests and Mr Peters seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz moved to approve the requests for additional monies in Cum Bridge, County General, Community Crossings Grant and Probation User Fees. Mr Hooten seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0.

Mr Metz wanted to remind everyone the Council set the raise of \$1,000 for those employees whose salaries are supplemented in 2019.

Sheriff Durant introduced Dana Parker as his new Detention Center Commander. Sheriff Durant requested to convert two positions, Assistant Commander of Operations and Assistant Commander of Programming, to salaried positions retroactive to September 1, 2019; which will not require any additional monies. Mr Metz moved to approve converting both to salaried positions and Mrs Burkart seconded the motion. Motion carries, 6 – 0. Sheriff Durant told Council he sold the 2014 Tahoe and by not trading it in, the County made \$3- \$4,000 more; that money was receipted into Cumulative Capital Development Fund since that vehicle was paid for from Cum Cap. He will be asking Council for an additional for some of that money once it's advertised for the next Council meeting.

County Treasurer Brenda Dwenger told Council member the interest income for the County's investments stand at \$213,000 as of August 31, 2019.

Mr Gauck thanked Council members for their hard work on the 2020 Budgets.

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

The Council's next meeting is October 22nd, 2019 at 9:00 am; which will also be the official Adoption of the 2020 Budgets.