

**COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
MAY 28, 2024
6:30 PM**

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL:	Stephanie Campbell, President Jay Alcorn, Vice President Wayne Huffman Danny Wallace Keith Berry Phillip Gick
ATTORNEY:	Trudy Selvia
AUDITOR'S OFFICE:	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	7 Individuals

The Putnam County Board of Council met on May 28, 2024, at 6:30 pm. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Stephanie Campbell opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

Campbell asked to add the Putnam County Library Board appointment to the agenda. Berry made the motion to add library appointment. Gick seconded. The motion passed.

SHERIFF ADDITIONAL

Sheriff Baugh presented:
\$3,960 Sex Offender Admin. Grant
Appropriating grant funds.
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Wallace seconded. The motion passed.

HIGHWAY ADDITIONAL

Highway Engineer Jim Peck presented:
\$13,000 Highway fund
Worker's compensation insurance premium increased a lot more than anticipated, not enough in the account to pay.
Gick made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

CLERK ADDITIONAL

Auditor Kristina Berish presented:
\$13,000 County General fund
The clerk paid the same invoice twice. Received the duplicate payment back and receipted into the fund, needs to be appropriated back into the account.
Wallace made a motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

COMMISSIONERS ADDITIONAL

Auditor Kristina Berish presented:
\$500,000 American Rescue Plan fund
\$250,000 for road repair on County Road 1200 N and \$250,000 for roads in Heritage Lake. Gick made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

\$89,700 American Rescue Plan fund
Pay for a boring pipe by Dunbar covered bridge. Help Big Walnut Water Company pay for the project. Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

ELECTED TRAINING ADDITIONAL

Auditor Kristina Berish presented:
\$8,000 Elected Training fund
To help offset training expenses for elected officials. Wallace made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

ADDITIONALS FOR RAISES GIVEN AT APRIL 4TH COUNCIL MEETING

Auditor Kristina Berish presented:
\$81,543 County General fund
\$168,000 LIT Public Safety fund
\$4,058 Planning & Zoning fund
\$1,638 Recorder's Perpetuation fund
\$71,746 E911 fund
\$227,358 LIT Correctional/Rehab. Fund
\$1,995 EMS fund
\$30,022 Health fund
\$16,087 Local Public Health fund
\$4,129 Adult Probation fund
\$2,210 Health Preparedness Grant fund
\$13,510 Reassessment fund
\$4,513 Community Corrections Grant fund
\$620,470 Grand total of all funds

Wallace made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

BUDGET REDUCTIONS

\$1,329 Administrator/Health
Reduction to match the amount approved from this fund for the position.

\$1,500 Reassessment/Deputy
Erroneously given the deputy stipend when the salary was changed in January.

Gick made the motion to approve both reductions. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS – SALARY INCREASE REQUEST

Teresa Parrish presented:
\$1,129 Community Corrections Grant fund
Salary increase for a position. This position the board felt was not classified correctly during the wage study. This is the only position that works nights and weekends. Gick made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

\$349 Community Corrections Grant fund
Due to increase in wages, need to increase social security matching taxes.
\$81 Community Corrections Grant fund
Due to increase in wages, need to increase medicare matching taxes.

\$631 Community Corrections Grant fund
Due to increase in wages, need to increase PERF employer portion.
Alcorn made the motion to approve. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.

LIBRARY APPOINTMENT

Library Director Matt McClelland submitted a letter to the board requesting Barbara Boese be reappointed. Wallace made the motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

MINUTES

April 16, 2024 – Huffman made the motion to approve. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

MAIL

The board acknowledged their mail.

SHERIFF MATRON SALARY 2024

Tabled from last meeting. Trudy Selvia stated she had reviewed the paperwork given at the last meeting and the statute. Given the sentence in the job description of the Matron, it is within the statute to pay this position the same as the first-year road deputy which is what has been requested by the Sheriff.

Sheriff Baugh said he had recently attended a Sheriff's Association conference. The topic of the matron salary was discussed due to several counties having an issue with the statute and some having lawsuits filed against them. The lawsuits are due to a county not paying the matron at minimum a certain salary. Baugh is doing his due diligence by making the request of the Council to follow statute. The minimum they could approve for the position would be first-year road deputy.

Wallace said the Council had questioned it last month because the Matron position responsibilities are not comparable to a road deputy. They put their lives on the line, attend the policy academy for training. The Matron is an administrative position. It is nothing against the position itself. The board was trying to make sense of paying an administrative position the same as a road deputy. They wanted to make sure it was a requirement.

Gick stated the county did not want to fall into a position of a lawsuit. If guidance is the minimum the position salary can be is the same as a first-year deputy, then the Council does not really have a choice.

Wallace made the motion to change the Matron position salary for 2024 to \$63,351, same as the road deputy's salary. Alcorn seconded. The motion passed.

EMS SALARY REQUEST

Kelly Russ said she was grateful for the raises given to her personnel this year. It has made them competitive now. However, the percentage raise given to the personnel compared to her assistant and herself was lacking. A large gap in the percentage.

It had also been acknowledged previously that WIS had not properly classified the position Anthony Taylor holds. Russ also corresponded with the Board of Commissioners and changed Taylor's title to Chief of EMS Operations. The title is more in line with the responsibilities he has for the department. Russ's current salary is 81K, requesting an additional 4K. Taylor's current salary is 76K, requesting an additional 6K.

Russ passed out information to the Council detailing the requirements for each position. Alcorn asked who set the requirements. She replied the Commissioners had prior to the creation of the department in 2020. Council asked if she did not know the requirements and demands of the job prior to accepting the position. Russ said she knew the requirements but not the demands of it. She is over three locations. She felt the wage study should have compared their positions to a fire chief and assistant. The way the responsibilities are split up and how the department is set up is unique.

Campbell agreed the county did have a unique service. The county creating an ambulance service has been a lot more than what they bargained for when they took this over. Russ said they have taken the operations of EMS and divided it between herself and Taylor. Ultimately, her position is Chief of EMS.

After some discussion, Campbell asked if the board had any further questions or needed time to review further. The board is concerned with funding this department. This is the first year we now have an EMS LIT rate. It is the revenue from this fund and their collections that we operate the department. Traditionally, the budget Russ has turned into the Council has had significant increases every year. When they created the LIT rate, it was with the understanding that 25% of the revenue would be kept back for capital outlay (\$450,000). The adjusted surplus, minus 25% capital outlay, is around 90K. That is not a lot left for emergency expenses or to look at future budget increases.

Gick felt with the revenue stream being so tight already they needed to wait until budget workshop to make any further decisions regarding the EMS funds/budgets. Once they see the funding and the 2025 budget request, they will have a better understanding of what can be appropriated and if there are even funds available to give additional money for 2024. Fellow members agreed it should wait until budget workshop in August.

WHEEL TAX & EXCISE SURTAX

The Council asked the Auditor to contact the State to see what steps the county would need to take to increase the rates.

BOARD UPDATES

Gick said 911 is still dealing with console/communication system issues. Will need to look at funding for radios at budget workshop.

Alcorn said the Community Foundation changed how they allot funding for grants.

ADJOURN

Alcorn made the motion to adjourn. Berry seconded. The motion passed.

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Wayne Huffman

Phillip Gick

Keith Berry

Danny Wallace

Attest: Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish