

COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET WORKSHOPS
AUGUST 20, 2024

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Jay Alcorn, Vice President
Danny Wallace
Keith Berry
Wayne Huffman
Phillip Gick

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

Evelyn Williams

AIC:

Jacque Clements

The Putnam County Council met on August 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Stephanie Campbell opened the meeting with a pledge to the flag.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Jacque Clements, AIC, presented a spreadsheet with the county levy funds. Discussion was made on fundable and non-fundable levy funds. General discussion on budgets overall.

CLERK AND ELECTION

Clerk - Gick asked about the increase in office supplies. Tracy said she goes through envelopes like crazy.

Election – 2025 is not a presidential election. The line items for conducting the election will not be used next year. Jacque stated the election board gets paid whether the election runs or not.

COUNTY ASSESSOR - REASSESSMENT

Don Badolato stated he did a 5% increase on all line items other than salaries. They will take over land issues that are currently done by the GIS Director. This is a responsibility that falls under his department. He will need a license for the software, which is not in the budget since he just received the figures. However, they are not entirely relying on maps any longer. They have software on their phones that does the same thing. Discussion was made on the printing of forms line item. Don stated he has been using Nexus to clean up assessment of properties. So far assessments have increased by 17%. Campbell asked about the increase in repairs and maintenance. Don stated he did a 5% increase across the board.

Discussion was made on moving some line items from Reassessment to the Sales Disclosure Fund 1131. Discussion – remove printing of forms and maps, take all line items back down to last year's amounts since they were increased 5% just because that is what has been done in the past. Discussion on buying an iPad instead of employees using their personal phone out in the field.

TREASURER

Kathy Minnick – Stephanie asked about the increases in line items. Kathy stated since prices have increased, she is anticipating the office will need more. She stated her software LOW has increased.

Discussion to add a line item for part time in the amount of \$15,000. Remove a deputy position.

EXTENSION

Mark Evans – Office rent was moved from Commissioner budget to Extension. Mark presented paperwork for the office space lease.

CORONER

Todd Zeiner stated they have now started transporting decedents. He stated he has noticed a few line items that are no longer needed or could be decreased, including per diem and mileage. Decided to decrease toxicology by \$1,000. Added a car insurance line item. Decided to remove per diem/conferences line item.

SHERIFF - JAIL

Sheriff Baugh – Discussion was made on mental health and the cost.

Sheriff – Tresha Clearwaters – Police pension went up. The dues for the Indiana Sheriff's Association, property and casualty were increased. The Sheriff's attorney cost is reimbursed by the commissary fund. Sheriff Baugh went into detail regarding the issue of keeping deputies. He stated the rate of pay is a huge reason. He stated he would like two new deputies, one to work on the drug side. He would like to introduce a DARE program to put education into schools.

Jail – Gick asked for an explanation for the 70% increase in two years. Tresha asked about getting the courthouse deputy position back to work in the jail. Also, bump an existing position to sergeant and add an additional sergeant. That would decrease it some. Discussion was made. Sheriff Baugh stated he has thirty inmates to one jailer. It is unsafe. Currently budgeted for 4 per shift. Jail Commander Birkemeier went into detail regarding how thin they are spread.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Terry Eastham - Discussion was made on the vet tech contract. Campbell stated that they do not fund. As the budget is presented it leaves no operating balance.

SOIL AND WATER

Sara Campfield gave a brief description of the department and the activities done so far this year.

WEST CENTRAL SOLID WASTE

Jane Collisi – Presented figures submitted in Gateway.

PLAN COMMISSION – BUILDING - PLAT

Lisa Zeiner – In 2025 the Commissioners are merging the Plat office under the Planning and Building Department. Building Department - Decreased office supplies due to going paperless. Decreased utilities, added rental equipment line item, property and casualty increased. Planning Department – Per diem increased slightly for the purpose of more training.

EMS

Kelly Russ, Anthony Taylor – Capital Replacement Plan – Fund 1236, no change (with revised version). Part time was moved to fund 1151. Fund 1236 is looking at 35% operating balance for next year. Jacque stated she just received the new LIT numbers, and they are higher than expected. Fund 1151 – reduced 40401 equipment line with revised submitted budget, 40402 Vehicles – reduced with revised version, only replacing one vehicle instead of two. Took away tools line item. 30301 – postage stayed the same. 30303 repairs/maintenance reduced by \$12,000. Training reduced by \$1,000, property and casualty was reduced, 30346 utilities was reduced, license requirements removed, reimbursements went away due to vendor taking the reimbursement process over, 20203 Fuel – reduced, 20230 Safety and Education – discussed merging it with operating supplies 20206, requested 5% salary increases.

Kelly stated she would like to increase the part time administrative assistant line because she does a great job. Anthony stated he would like to increase the part time paramedic and EMT line to get more interest. Proposing to match full time hourly rate to the part time hourly rate.

COMMISSIONER

Maintenance Supervisor (to work on all County buildings)

Repair Maintenance - \$50,000 – website, email

Board Members – want to start paying board members \$25 per meeting they attend to encourage candidates to serve.

IT – added to budget (contractual)

Mileage – increased because of new Commissioner coming into office

Equipment – added because of new requirements for live streaming of meetings

Hazardous Waste – last payment for EOC building

Cumulative Courthouse – spending down

Weights & Measures Inspector – equipment rental needed

EMA – January 1 - want to consolidate 3 part time into a full-time position. In depth discussion was made on creating a part-time position as well.

Courthouse Security – 1 full-time position, 3 part-time positions, uniforms and equipment accordingly. In depth discussion was made about whether a full-time position is needed or not. Commissioners are at odds. Tom wants 4 part-time positions. It was decided that the positions will be 4 part-time. Changed to \$95,000.

HIGHWAY

Jim Peck, Clint Maddox, Robyn Hughes, Commissioner Woodall and Helmer

The budget submitted to the Commissioners was \$4 million over what would be fundable by the Highway Engineer. Commissioners made revisions. 1173 MVH Restricted – road resurfacing includes Community Crossings Grant match, road reconstruction reduced. Discussion on moving health insurance to county general. 1176 MVH – Fuel increased, workers comp increased, overtime increased, repairs and maintenance increased, building line item zeroed out.

Covered Bridge – Fundable

Cumulative Bridge – discussed federal funding

Local Road and Street – Fundable

RECESS

Gick made a motion to recess the meeting until tomorrow morning. Campbell seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Keith Berry

Wayne Huffman

Danny Wallace

Phillip Gick

**Attest: Auditor's Office
Evelyn Williams**