

**PUTNAM COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET HEARINGS
AUGUST 25, 2020 AT 9:00 A.M.**

COUNCIL

Dave Fuhrman
Keith Berry
Larry Parker
Gene Beck – Not in attendance
Phillip Gick
Danny Wallace
Jill Bridgewater

AUDITOR

Lorie Hallett
Evelyn Williams
Jacque Clements - AIC

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion was made on office personnel. Cut postage line item. Brief discussion on the Commissioners possibly requesting money for an Annex and/or storage facility for county records. Discussion on PSAP funding. Lorie stated it is doing very well.

Jacque presented spreadsheets. \$1.6 million over levy on advertised spreadsheet. \$500,000 under on spreadsheet with budget adopted last year. Struggling in emergency ambulance. Their revenue is down. \$1.4 million over. Discussion made on strategies to get under levy. Cumulative Bridge is within the levy. Discussion on Highway budget. JC believes the Council should anticipate 10% revenue loss next year.

Phillip Gick discussed the Animal Shelter and Humane Society. Board members are arguing whether the endowment was set up to support the Animal Shelter.

SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Bridges – Public Defender needs increased severely. He stated the state is doing a study for the state to pay 60% and county pay 40%. Discussion was made. Bailiff's are advertised in

both public safety and county general. Judge stated they will have a surplus in the training line item due to COVID and most of it being done on-line.

JUVENILE PROBATION

Rene Marstellar – line item increases in office supplies. The Magistrates office budget is in the Circuit Courts. Rene discussed increase in juvenile cases. Therefore, they increased holding of juvenile’s line item. Looking into ways to defer some costs. Discussion was made on COVID reimbursements.

ADULT PROBATION

Teresa Parrish – Alcohol & Drug program – no change, self-funded. County general – reduced office supplies. User Fees – they received a pre-trial diversion grant and will use it to help fund Ashley and Tiffany’s salaries.

CLERK

Heather Gilbert – General Fund Clerk – Dave F asked about part time increase. Heather stated that she did not realize the part time allowable rate was increased in 2005 from 10.50 to 12.50. She wants to pay them what they are worth. They help with both Clerk and Election offices.

Perpetuation Fund – Auditor made her budget it. Fund can only be used to preserve records. She uses it for book binding and has ordered equipment. The equipment will be for election, but she is at the same time preserving the election records with it.

Election – In desperate need of at least one more polling pad for each vote center. The lines build up because it takes time for driver’s license and signing. Jacque suggested contacting IFA about getting more poll pads for “social distancing”. Discussion was made.

TREASURER

Kathy Minnick – still making interest just not as well as last year. Lorie asked about bank connect fees. Kathy – that has changed due to the way we handle the accounts now. Dave Fuhrman asked about the money sitting on the books since previous administration. Kathy – there is more money in the bank than what is in the funds. Has stayed the same for over a year. Jacque stated to appeal to the SBOA. They will instruct what the correct process is.

RECORDER

Tracey Bridges – Discussion on moving first deputy from county general to Perpetuation. Receipts into fund are more than expenditures. Bridges does not want to put deputy in the fund again. Did it last year and will not do it again. Phillip Gick stated the fees were increased by the state. Office has been busy with the increase in refinancing due to low interest rates. Replaced copier. Has already purchased from this year’s budget. Take \$8,000 from 2021 request.

SHERIFF

Stockton, Demmings, Clearwaters – Stockton said the top things he would like to change is sergeant rank pay higher. Give up a lieutenant spot. Cannot do anything about retirement or property and casualty insurance. Would like to increase salary of matron. Gave figures. Discussion was made on progress and improvements to the department.

Discussion was made on the Animal Shelter and Humane Society funding. Stockton believes the Humane Society will do the right thing and help if the needs of the shelter become more than the county can handle.

SURVEYOR

Dave Penturf – his copier is 15 years old and cannot be fixed. He is looking into either buying or leasing a new one. He stated that he would take it out of his perpetuation fund. He stated he may be able to use money in this year’s budget.

SOIL & WATER

Sara Campfield – Discussion was made on the annual report she submitted. She stated they now have a full-time conservationist. She is applying for a grant to cover part of Putnam County for Big Walnut Creek.

EXTENSION

Mark Evans – Increased per diem line item by \$500. Discussion was made on contractual services. Mark stated how well everything is working considering the COVID issues.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Dr. Heavin, Joni Young – PERF line item was calculated incorrectly. Changed it from \$30,000 to \$25,900. Hazardous Waste – testing and monitoring. Grants – she presented budgets for each except for 1168 LHM. Discussion was made.

CORONER

Dave Brown – stated there may be an issue with the newly elected official coming into office. State law has several mandates for training and education to become certified. Discussion was made.

GIS

Robbie Cudnick – not present. No changes

AUDITOR

Lorie Hallett – calculation error was made on first deputy salary. Request should be \$42,125 for a 5% increase. Repairs/Maintenance went up for software.

COUNCIL

Lorie – Upped the per diem since more members are going to training and conferences. Jacque stated that conferences are in the air due to COVID.

David Fuhrman, President

Danny Wallace

Keith Berry

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Jill Bridgewater, Vice President

Larry Parker

Gene Beck

Attest: Auditor

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GENERAL DISCUSSION

See Lorie’s notes

GREENCASTLE SCHOOLS

Jeffrey Gibboney, Superintendent presented a spreadsheet with Levy figures.

	<u>Budget Estimate</u>
Rainy Day	\$750,000
Debt Service	\$3,164,236
School Pension Debt	\$244,601
Education	\$10,484,165
Operations	\$5,887,473

FIRE DISTRICTS

Tiffany Deer

Roachdale – Presented spreadsheet. Levy went from \$62,510 to \$68,300. Treasurer bond went up due to insuring the president of the board and herself.

Floyd – Levy went from \$61,048 to \$68,006. They have a debt for a fire truck purchased last year. She pushed maintenance down to keep the rate where it needed to be.

Walnut Creek – Levy went from \$43,690 to \$51,081. Planning on purchasing a fire truck in 2021. Rate jump to request an additional appropriation for 2020 to purchase equipment.

CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Headley – Discussed increase in Holding of Juveniles line item. They have already had to ask the Council for an additional for 2020. Dave Fuhrman asked about the increase in repairs and maintenance. Judge stated that he has purchased laptops for the office but is looking into getting reimbursed through the CARES Act. They also fund the Magistrates Office.

HIGHWAY

Michael Ricketts, Brenda Turner

Covered Bridge – No changes.

Cumulative Bridge – Stuck with federal aid projects. They have a lease on an excavator.

Local Roads & Streets – Discussion on milling. Has already received 25 tons just from one road.

MVH Restricted – Discussion on legislation changing funding to 25/75 for MVH and MVH Restricted.

MVH Unrestricted – Discussion on projects.

ASSESSOR

Janet Brown – No changes in County General Assessor.

Reassessment – would like to take a full-time position down to part time beginning January 1st. Their new program does more than expected. Does ask that the part time person make \$15/hour because she has experience. The Council made the stipulation that this person would be the only exception to the part time rate currently in place \$12.50/hour.

Cut down the per diem line item due to not traveling as much with COVID. This year is the last payment for their X-Soft software. Therefore, maintenance and repairs line item went down. Janet did ask the Council to consider her decrease in budget to make up her employee's salaries. Her employees are the lowest on the pay scale.

PROSECUTOR

Jim Ensley – County General no changes. File clerk in Prosecutor Office cut due to less paper and fees not being collected. Title IV-D clerk position was cut this year as well. Explained the incentive fund and that it is not reimbursable. If they get paid out of county general, then it would be reimbursable at 60%. Title IV-D lease is coming up again. It did go up slightly, but they believe it is worth it.

PLANNING & ZONING

General Fund – Personnel changes. Don Hatfield retired. Rick Woodall stated there is way more work than one person can do between inspections and run the office for permits etc. Discussion was made whether to have the inspectors as a full-time employee or contractual. Discussion made on fees and revenue. Fees were not being collected previously. Jim Ensley reached out and said they need to create an Unsafe Building Fund. Jacquie stated that Fund 1180 Planning & Zoning is not fundable beyond 2021 the way it has been presented. Rick informed the Council that they have interviewed for the Director position and they are wanting a salary anywhere from \$85,000 to \$60,000.

Rick stated that they will receive \$125,000 from revenue. Discussion was made again regarding an Unsafe Building Fund. The process for deeming a building unsafe was explained. Rick asked about making the contractual line item to a full-time position line item. Discussion was made. Dave asked Rick if the Commissioners will be willing to put this idea to bed if the revenue does not come in or stops coming in. Rick said absolutely, they would not have a choice. Dave asked if anyone wanted to make a motion to approve making the contractual line item to a full-time position line item. Larry Parker made the motion to approve the full-time position to come out of county general with benefits. Danny Wallace seconded. Phillip Gick apposed. One absent member. The motion passed.

VETERANS

Dave Heavin – stated the equipment line item concerns him. All his computers and printers are over 8 years old. Worried they can go out at any time. Would like to purchase an external hard drive to back up their documents. Currently do not have one.

Putnam County has over 2,500 veterans. Over \$29million has been spent on those disabled veterans.

EMA

Tom Helmer, David Costin – Cut \$1500 from the County General budget compared to last year.

LEPC – expects \$5,700 to be received next year. Discussion was made

E-911

PSAP and Statewide 911 - budgets are the same. Dave is concerned Fund 1222 will go in the red if they keep budgeting the way they have. Jacque agreed. Should investigate changing things next year. Discussion was made.

CUSTODIAL DEPARTMENT

Brian Smith – Dave asked about the increase in repairs and maintenance. Brian did not have a reason for increase. Discussion was made on the Courthouse steps on all sides.

EMS

Kelly Russ and Rick Woodall – Health Insurance line item, discussion was made on putting it in the Commissioners budget. Discussion was made on the deplorable conditions of the EMS Office. PERF was underbudgeted for 2020. Dave questioned the 30397 Overpay Refunds. Kelly explained it is a line item for when car insurance pays less or more verses health insurance paying less or more. Dave asked if the line item 40402 Ambulance Lease payments. Kelly stated they are in need of an ambulance now. They would like to get them on a lease cycle for every three years.

COMMISSIONERS BUDGETS

Rick Woodall – Weights and Measures – Equipment is at the 30-year mark. They will soon have to plan on purchasing new or used equipment. Discussion was made.

Hazardous Waste – EOC bond went down \$14,000.

EMS – Dave asked if the County would receive the \$200,000 from the Board soon. Danny Wallace serves on that board and stated they are working towards it. The interlocal loan was not included in the EMS budget. Lorie stated the loan was never done.

Jacque stated she shows Fund 1151 will be over \$200,000 in the negative by the end of 2020. \$650,000 in revenue should come in for the last half of 2020. Dave asked if there were additional questions for the 2021 budget. Lorie stated that she would suggest moving all benefits form 1151 to Commissioners budget instead of just Health Insurance. Jacque was asked to come up with the shortfall after moving benefits. Rick was asked if the Commissioners were planning on keeping EMS in the EDIT plan for next year. Rick stated as of now, yes. Salaries alone \$1,174,490. The remaining budget is fundable out of Public Safety.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Dave stated he would like the Councils opinion on raises. Jill Bridgewater wanted to discuss the Assessors Office and their low salaries. Discussion was made on being able to up some salaries. Janet had submitted budgets with the increase plus 5%.

Danny Wallace stated that knowing next year will be bad as far as revenue, maybe they should consider giving 5% this year since they know they will not be able to help next years budget. Keith Berry stated he would like to see giving the employees something. Dave asked what 2.5% raise would do. Jacque's opinion was asked. She stated that more than likely the possibility will not be there next year. Dave personally would like to wait to see what next year brings. Danny says 5% or nothing, Jill agreed. Discussion was made. Keith Berry made a motion for a 3% raise across the board. Phillip Gick seconded.

Phill wanted to remind the Council about the EMS building and funding to repair it.

Rick stated that he wanted to designate the EMS building as the COVID room.

Dave informed Heather Gilbert that purchasing the poll pads was approved and to go ahead and order them.

Discussion was made on the rank pay and the Sheriff asking for an increase in rank pay for sergeant. The Council had agreed not to change the rank pays. All council members agreed to take the rank pay increase out. Discussion was made regarding the requested salary increases for the Matron, Jail Commander and Corporals.

Dave brought up the large request for repairs and maintenance and bringing it back down to 2019 approved budget.

Phil Gick made the motion to adjourn. Danny Wallace seconded. The motion carried.

David Fuhrman, President

Danny Wallace

Keith Berry

Phillip Gick

Jill Bridgewater, Vice President

Larry Parker

Gene Beck

Attest: Auditor