

COUNCIL MEETING
REGULAR SESSION
March 16, 2021 at 6:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David Fuhrman, President
Stephanie Campbell, Vice President
Jill Bridgewater
Phillip Gick
Danny Wallace
Larry Parker
Rick Woodall
Trudy Selvia
Kristina Alexander
7 Individuals

COMMISSIONER:

ATTORNEY:

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

AUDIENCE:

The Putnam County Council met in Regular Session on March 16, 2021 at the Putnam County Courthouse at 6:30 p.m. Dave Fuhrman opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

ADD ITEM TO AGENDA - COMMISSIONER

Danny Wallace made the motion to approve adding Commissioner discussion to the agenda. Phil Gick seconded. The motion carried.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – NURSE POSITIONS

Health Director Dr. Adam Amos, Health Administrator Joni Young and Commissioner Rick Woodall came to the meeting to discuss adding a second county nurse. Mr. Woodall passed out paperwork to the Council members showing Indiana counties comparable to our size regarding their county nurse positions. The chart showed each county and their population, number of full and part time nurses and the average salary.

Dr. Amos described what all responsibilities the county nurse position entailed. The reality of their position was they needed three nurses now and after the pandemic two. They were before the Council asking for a second full time nurse. Ms. Young emphasized the flu and COVID vaccinations would come to an abrupt halt if something happened to their nurse and she could not come to work.

Ms. Young stated there were grant monies the Health Department could use and apply for to help offset the salary and benefits for this position. She wanted assurance when the grant monies were not available the county would take over the full responsibility of paying for the position. They did not want to hire someone and then need to eliminate their position later. The Council agreed with the Commissioners about the need for a second nurse. It was a matter of deciding how to fund it.

Mr. Woodall suggested using the CARES money. He estimated the remaining balance at \$30,000. The county would be getting more COVID funds that could also be used to pay for this position. There was discussion on what the position would pay. Ms. Young would like the current nurse to be paid minimum of \$50,000 and bring the second nurse in at the same salary. They needed to be competitive in salary to find someone for the job. Ms. Young currently uses part of her grant money to pay the nurse an additional \$5,600 on top of the salary approved by the Council of \$42,193. This puts her total salary at \$47,793. Ms. Young stressed for this position that salary was low and would like to increase it to \$50,000.

After some discussion, Jill Bridgewater made the motion to pay the current nurse an additional \$5,000 on top of her current salary. Phil Gick seconded. The motion carried.

Phil Gick made a motion to hire a second full time nurse position at a salary of \$47,000. Jill Bridgewater seconded. The motion carried.

Phil Gick made the motion to use the remaining CARES money (approximately \$30,000) to help offset the expense of the salary increase for the current nurse and the creation of the second nurse position. Danny Wallace seconded. The motion carried.

Auditor Kristina Alexander and Joni Young will get together before the next Council meeting to crunch numbers and see what grants the Health department currently have to help pay for the salary and benefits.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ADDITIONAL

Environmental Sanitarian Salary \$630 Salary shorted during budget
Phil Gick made the motion to approve. Larry Parker seconded. The motion carried.

SHERIFF ADDITIONAL

Sgt. Rank Pay \$1,600

Requesting a pay increase of \$800 each for the two Sgt positions. During budget hearing for 2021 the Council addressed the ranking pay positions, but this position was missed.

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

JAIL SALARY DISCUSSION

Sheriff Stockton brought up the 2021 salary for three positions: Jail Matron, Jail Commander and Asst. Jail Commander. From the budget hearings to now the numbers are unclear what the Council meant to approve. A clarification was needed for payroll purposes.

Matron: Requested for 2021 \$50,952 (included a 5% raise and moving money from overtime to this appropriation to make this position salary. The position would no longer qualify for compensatory or overtime pay).

Auditor Kristina Alexander explained why this position needed to be clarified. During the budget process last year \$48,361 was appropriated. But the motion regarding raises for county employees was 3% across the board which would make this position \$45,338.

The first question would be, did they mean to give a 3% raise in the Matron appropriation; or did they want to give 3% raise and additional \$3,023 for overtime which would amount to the \$48,361 in the appropriation.

The second question is the Sheriff's request to make the position's pay \$50,952 which would be a 5% raise and \$4,732 additional for overtime. If the Council approves the increase in Jail Commander (see below paragraph) and not the Matron, the Jail Commander would make \$1,323 more. And the Matron position should be a higher rate of pay due to rank and job description.

Jail Commander: Requested for 2021 \$49,629 (included a 5% raise and moving \$4,000 from overtime to this appropriation to make this position salary. The position would no longer qualify for compensatory or overtime pay).

What was approved was a 3% raise and no additional money to make it a salary position.

Jail Asst. Commander: Requested for 2021 \$44,146 (included a 5% raise and moving \$3,244 from overtime to this appropriation to make this position salary. The position would no longer qualify for compensatory or overtime pay).

What was approved was a 3% raise and no additional money to make it a salary position.

They needed clarification if the Council meant to just give a 3% raise to the Jail Commander and the Jail Asst. Commander and not make them salary or was it an oversight during the budget process that the overtime was not included. There was not a motion to approve or deny it in the minutes.

After some discussion it was decided the Auditor would put together a spreadsheet to submit to the Council for their April meeting to have the numbers in front of them to decide what they wanted to do with the three positions.

EMA ADDITIONAL

Buzzi Donation for public safety \$15,000

E911 Director Dave Costin stated the money has been received and now it needs to be appropriated to purchase equipment for public safety.

Stephanie Campbell made the motion to approve. Phil Gick seconded. The motion carried.

911 ADDITIONAL

Command Vehicle Upgrade \$79,833.88

Phil Gick made the motion to approve. Stephanie Campbell seconded. The motion carried.

EMS ADDITIONALS

Part Time	\$ 30,000
Overtime	\$ 10,800
Uniform Allowance	\$ 7,200
EMS Chief	\$ 73,500
EMS Lieutenant	\$194,880
EMS Deputy Chief	\$ 63,000

Monies were not moved at budget time

Jill Bridgewater made the motion to approve. Danny Wallace seconded. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER ADDITIONALS

Social Security	\$ 69,600
PERF	\$126,040
Medicare	\$ 15,915

Was not moved at budget time

Jill Bridgewater made the motion to approve. Larry Parker seconded. The motion carried.

COMMISSIONER DISCUSSION

Commissioner Rick Woodall stated the Highway Department had received their new trucks. They were still wrapping up the financing with the bank which would hopefully be done this week.

Mr. Woodall also informed the Council the Commissioners had approved the purchase of a new ambulance in the amount of \$185,000. They were also applying to FEMA to get funding for two more ambulances. They were actively looking for all avenues of funding to help offset the expenses for the EMS Department.

He also let the Council know the back-up ambulance had caught on fire. When they sent it to Indianapolis to be looked at for insurance purposes, they were first told it was totaled. But when they told the company another ambulance would not be necessary suddenly it was not totaled and would cost \$3,500 to fix. The plan is to get the ambulance back and sell it. The estimated worth of the ambulance: \$12,000.

Mr. Woodall briefly went over the road plan he submitted to them. It broke out the roads by district in the county and showed which roads they were looking to fix and how. Part of the work was pending if they received the Community Crossings Grant they applied for.

Mr. Woodall brought up the need to create a County Park Board. This would give the county a new revenue stream from DNR. A five-member board would need to be created. 60 Indiana counties currently have a Park Board. This was only informative information for the time being. He would get back with them after he had time to do further research.

Mr. Woodall also passed out information regarding the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021. According to the plan Putnam County would be receiving \$7,287,634. There would be specific items the money could be used for, it was pretty vague at this point.

RESIGNATION

Jill Bridgewater informed fellow Council members that tonight's meeting would be her last, she had submitted her letter of resignation to the County and to the Republican Chairman.

MAY 18, 2021 COUNCIL MEETING

The Council would be changing the time of their meeting to 4:30 p.m. to allow any members who wanted to attend the AIC District Meeting the ability to do so.

MINUTES

May 12, 2020 – Phil Gick made the motion to approve. Danny Wallace seconded. Stephanie Campbell abstained. The motion carried.

October 13, 2020 – Jill Bridgewater made the motion to approve. Phil Gick seconded. Stephanie Campbell abstained. The motion carried.

November 24, 2020 – Danny Wallace made the motion to approve. Larry Parker seconded. Stephanie Campbell abstained. The motion carried.

December 7, 2020 – Jill Bridgewater made the motion to approve. Larry Parker seconded. Stephanie Campbell abstained. The motion carried.

December 15, 2020 – Jill Bridgewater made the motion to approve. Danny Wallace seconded. Stephanie Campbell abstained. The motion carried.

January 4, 2021 – Jill Bridgewater made the motion to approve. Stephanie Campbell seconded. The motion carried.

January 19, 2021 – Phil Gick made the motion to approve with amendment of adding Keith Berry to the attendance. Jill Bridgewater seconded. The motion carried.

BOARD REPORTS

Danny Wallace said the Humane Shelter Director had resigned.

Jill Bridgewater reminded members someone would need to be appointed to serve on the two boards she represented.

Phil Gick said they were enacting a phone app that would be used to report an active shooter for school systems.

Mr. Gick also informed them Parke County Commissioner Jim Meece had been appointed as the new Thrive Board President. Stephanie Campbell said she had nothing to report since the boards she sat on had been present at tonight’s meeting.

ADJOURN

Phil Gick made the motion to adjourn. Larry Parker seconded. The motion carried.

David Fuhrman, President

Stephanie Campbell, Vice President

Larry Parker

Phillip Gick

Danny Wallace

Keith Berry (not present at meeting)

Jill Bridgewater

Attest: Auditor’s Office