

COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET HEARINGS
AUGUST 25, 2021, at 9:00 A.M.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

David Fuhrman, President
Stephanie Campbell, Vice President
Phillip Gick
Danny Wallace
Larry Parker
Jay Alcorn
Keith Berry
Kristina Alexander
Evelyn Williams
Jacque Clements

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

AIC

The Putnam County Council for Budget Hearings on August 25, 2021, at the Putnam County Courthouse at 9:00 a.m. Dave Fuhrman opened the meeting with the pledge to the flag.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Discussion was made on the raise worksheet completed by the Auditor.

BINDING & NON-BINDING REVIEWS

Greencastle Schools – Jeff Gibbons & Kelly Romer via phone
Anticipate property tax rate to be close to last year. Taking on new debt but should not have an impact on rate. Levy is over \$11 million. Salary floor is \$40,000. Dave Fuhrman informed them to be present at the public hearing on September 28th.

Fire Districts – Tiffany Deer

Walnut Creek budget is \$174,565. Met with SBOA for budget workshops. Discussion was made.

Floyd Fire – Several cash purchases in 2021 for updates. The money was encumbered from 2020. Total budget \$103,750.

Roachdale Fire - Plan on purchasing a rescue vehicle, \$50,000. Putting in an incentive plan to attract new volunteers. Budget is \$37,500.

Airport – Rex Eaton & Bakertilly Municipal Advisors – See handouts. Total budget \$1,041,311. Discussion made no current and upcoming projects. Dave Fuhrman and Danny Wallace stated they get a lot of complaints regarding the Airport tax.

HIGHWAY

Mike Ricketts & Robyn Hughes

Covered Bridge – Did not change from last year. Dave Fuhrman asked if they ever considered Adopt a Bridge. Discussion was made. Ricketts stated he does not like the company that does their inspections, USI. He wants to hire Clark Dietz.

Cumulative Bridge – Increased 3%.

MVH & MVH Restricted, Roads & Streets – Increased 1.5% and 5% salary increase. Jacque Clements stated his revenues were well within the requests. Ricketts believes with the plan he has put together; all county roads will be covered at least once by 2027. Phil Gick asked what the secretary salary increase was. With losing one Admin Asst, he used a percentage to come up with the current Admin Asst salary due to increase in responsibility. Discussion was made on new equipment and the savings vs parts and repairs.

TREASURER

Kathy Minnick – Dave Fuhrman asked about the extra money that was left on the books from the former Treasurer. The State wants her to carry the extra funds for another six months and then discuss how to distribute. Discussion was made on bank fees and charges. Council asked if she had checked with other banks to see if could get lower fees. She had not yet. Discussion was made. Minnick stated interest rates are horrible right now. Discussion was made regarding ARP funds and investing.

VETERANS OFFICE

David Heavin – same as last year except equipment line item. He is trying to update all the equipment in the office. Statistics were given for services rendered. Discussion was made on the lack of volunteers to drive Veterans to the VA Hospital.

PROSECUTOR

Tim Bookwalter & Teresa Pingleton – County General - moved money from training to property and casualty due to increase in insurance bills.

Pre-Trial Diversion – no changes other than salaries. Revenue was down due to COVID. Discussion was made.

TITLE IV-D

Vickie Patterson – discussed the different ways to make payments for child support. COVID helped her department because of unemployment. It automatically comes off the top.

COMMISSIONERS

Rick Woodall & Thomas Helmer

Health/Life – The Commissioners absorbed the premium increase. Discussion was made on looking at a new PERF plan, Hybrid PERF. Woodall stated he had talked to the Treasurer several times regarding the Bank Connect Fee. County Board of Finance meeting is called for. Jacque Clements stated the amount requested for Mental Health will need changed to \$274,469. Hazardous Waste – Discussion was made on EOC Bond. Cumulative Courthouse – Woodall stated he wants to work on the Courthouse networking/wiring, uniform e-mails, etc. Discussion was made. Stephanie Campbell asked about doing something about all the pigeons around the courthouse. Woodall said he will investigate it.

Weights & Measures – Equipment line item increased. The inspector is currently using his personal equipment. Woodall stated they are trying to ease in to purchasing the county its own equipment. Discussion was made.

Jacque Clements brought up creating a CCD (Cumulative Capital Development) instead of the Cumulative Courthouse and Cumulative Jail. It would be outside of the levy and less restrictive. Discussion was made.

CUSTODIAL DEPARTMENT

Brian Smith – stated the sidewalks around the courthouse are in bad condition and do not meet standards per the ADA Audit. The handicap ramp is not up to code. The roof of the Courthouse has several leaks.

PLANNING

Lisa Zeiner – County General no changes. Planning Fund – includes new inspector salary and benefits approved this year. Discussion was made regarding Cloverdale asking the department to take on their inspections.

CEMETERY

The Cemetery Board President resigned early in the year. Discussion was made on getting a person to mow them.

EMA

David Costin – County General – asked for 5% salary increase and \$500 more from last year for property and casualty insurance. Discussed radios and service

E-911

David Costin – Statewide 911 (1222) He has issues with keeping employees because of the lack of pay. They end up leaving for another county that pays more. Dave Fuhrman stated he has the lowest pay for his position compared to other counties. Discussion was made on the handout. Costin stated he will be looking at retirement within the next 4 years. PSAP Fund (1235) Discussion was made on what to use funds on. Jacques Clements stated that PSAP can now handle paying the EOC Bond instead of taking it out of Hazardous Waste.

EMS

Kelly Russ, Director – (See Handout) Phil Gick asked how many EMS Lieutenants she had. Kelly – 2 currently, supposed to have 4. She stated she requested 7% salary increases across the board. Discussion was made on radios. Gick suggested coming up with a plan for the County. All entities need new ones. Discussion was made on the replacement of ambulances. Lengthy discussion on all line items.

BUDGET DECISIONS

County General - Had to add \$11,000 for Mental Health.

Discussion on Auditor's raise request. First Deputy duties have increased tremendously.

Dave Fuhrman asked if they wanted to consider raises department by department or a blanket. Phil Gick and Stephanie Campbell said each office is not the same in their responsibilities and pay rates.

Sheriff Deputies – Request for \$5000 or 5% per Merit Deputy. Discussion was made. Agreed to \$5000 per Merit Deputy. Other positions will get the amount they decide later with everyone else.

Matron – by state statute, this position must be at the same as a comparable deputy. Agreed to give by law \$5000 to Matron.

Jail Commander and Asst. Jail Commander – Danny Wallace already gave 10% last year. Will be decided with everyone else.

Superior Court – Decrease lawbooks to \$750, Judicial Education take down to \$5000

Circuit Court – no changes

Public Defender – no changes

Clerk – reduce part time to \$16,850

Election – repairs and maintenance 30303 reduce to \$35,000, part time 10112 reduce to \$15,000

Assessor – discussion on elected official salary, Level 1 & 2 Certification. No changes

Reassessment – No changes

Recorder – Perpetuation fund discussion.

Jail – Advertised in County General and Jail LIT. Agreed to pay \$210,000 of budget request from county General 30341 (Inmate Medical).

Animal Shelter – no changes

Surveyor – 1202-10171 add \$750

Extension – no changes

Health Dept. – no changes

Coroner – take out vehicles \$25,000 (40401). Discussion on uniform allowance (Haz Waste Fund). Zero out corner request in Haz Waste

GIS – no changes

Council – no changes

Auditor – discussion. First Deputy Salary (not stipend) - \$45,000 Payroll HR Deputy \$42,500

Excise Deputy \$35,000 Chief Tax Deputy \$35,000. Phil Gick made note he was against a raise over the 5% threshold.

Highway – discussion on admin salaries, R. Hughes gets what was proposed in budget request

Treasurer – no changes
Prosecutor – no changes
Veterans – no changes
Commissioners – Mental Health change to \$274,469
Weights & Measures – change Equipment 40401 to \$25,000
Custodial – no changes
Plan Commission – no changes
EMA – no changes
LEPC – no changes
E-911 – discussion. Director Salary - \$5000 added to current salary (\$50,447) Fund 1222.
EMS – not fundable on its own (1151) Jacques Clements - LIT Pub Safety can sustain all their requests except for salaries. Discussion. Zero out radio (40408) line item \$43,000.
E-911 Fund 1222 – account 10143 – This line item includes Deputy Director, Supervisors.
Agreed to Deputy Director \$5000, Supervisor \$3000, 5% for dispatchers.
EMS – Agreed to take 30349 Building Repairs to \$0.

Discussion on employee raises not addressed above. Agreed to 5% raises across the board except the ones already addressed above.

Discussion on part time rate. Jacques Clements suggested making it a range of minimum \$12.50/hour and maximum of \$15.00/hour. Discussion was made. Agreed to range \$12.50 to \$15.00.

Animal Shelter is not fundable as presented. Agreed to take 30366 Professional Contract/Lease from \$37,485 to \$0 in fund 4928 and move to 1170 Public Safety.

ADJOURN

Danny Wallace made the motion to adjourn. Keith Berry seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

David Fuhrman, President

Stephanie Campbell, Vice President

Larry Parker

Phillip Gick

Danny Wallace

Keith Berry

Jay Alcorn

Attest: Auditor's Office