

**COUNCIL MEETING
BUDGET HEARINGS
AUGUST 19, 2025
9:00 AM**

ATTENDANCE:

COUNCIL:

Stephanie Campbell, President
Jay Alcorn, Vice President
Danny Wallace
Wayne Huffman
Kerry Williams
Amanda Brown
Brian Berry
Kristina Berish
Evelyn Williams
Jacque Clements

AUDITOR'S OFFICE:

AIC:

The Putnam County Board of Council met on August 19, 2025, at 9:00 am. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse. Campbell opened the meeting and the pledge to the flag was given.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Jacque Clements with the Association of Indiana Counties went into detail regarding where the county stands with the operating balance and the tax levy.

CLERK

Tracy Bridges was not present due to illness. Campbell asked if the Council had any comments regarding the budget. Discussion was made.

ELECTION

Campbell asked what the discrepancy between the election night workers was. Berish stated she had paid claims out of it instead of the workers. Therefore, it skewed the numbers.

ASSESSOR/REAL ESTATE

Assessor Don Bodaloto was present.

County General - Campbell asked why dues are in both county general and reassessment budgets. He stated he is following what previous administration had always done. Campbell stated they will move dues out of county general and leave \$1,000 in reassessment. Campbell questioned the equipment line-item request. Bodaloto stated he will be purchasing a tablet. Campbell asked why he had not used the equipment appropriation this year. He stated he will be purchasing the item and software at different times. Berish asked about the equipment appropriation in reassessment. Bodaloto stated the last couple of years it had been because of servers needing to be purchased. Campbell stated if the servers were replaced there was no longer a need for the line item. She stated if the tablet is being purchased in 2025 then it is not necessary for 2026. Bodaloto stated he intends to buy two. One in 2025 and the other in 2026. It was decided to take 30303 and 40401 out of county general and leave in reassessment. Discussion was made and it was decided that the 5% increase in line-items was not needed in reassessment. Equipment appropriation should be cut out of the county general. Reassessment equipment line changed to \$10,000.

1131 Sales Disclosure – Bodaloto stated he has not used it and does not know if he will. Zeroing the printing of forms line in the 008 Assessor location.

TREASURER

Treasurer Karrie Minor stated the 30303 repairs/maintenance line went down and was moved to the Auditor's budget. Minor stated she has hired a part-time deputy. Discussion was made if the amount requested is necessary.

SURVEYOR

Surveyor Greg Williams stated that he had no changes in county general. Corner Perpetuation was increased for a stipend he is allowed by IC code.

EXTENSION

Director Jenna Nees presented a handout for the 2024-2025 annual update.

SOIL AND WATER

Director Sara Campfield presented the Council with handouts showing current projects and conservation implementation. Campfield stated she has applied for a grant. It was decided after discussion to cut the 20201 office supplies appropriation to \$500. Brown suggested taking 30360 misc. services down to \$2,500.

SHERIFF

Sheriff Baugh stated he would like to add a new sergeant position. It would allow a supervisor on each shift. He stated he was approached by the Clerk regarding adding a deputy sheriff to the courthouse for security. Campbell asked what the role would be. Baugh stated it would be a supervisory position. It would not be a merit position. Brown asked if this would replace current part-time positions. Baugh stated no, it would be in addition to.

Baugh stated the retirement for merit deputies increased. Requesting a line-item for K-9 services (30360). Increased property and casualty line-item and repairs/maintenance.

Jail – JT Chadd stated they are requesting an additional full time cook to be able to supervise evening/weekend meal prep and service. Requesting to move the uniform allowance from a benefit account (payroll) to an operating supplies account. Increased inmate medical line-item due to contract increase. Increased utilities and postage because of price increases.

Misdemeanant – No change.

Animal Shelter – Animal Control Officer Terry Eastham stated he increased utilities because of price increases. Clements stated that the budget doesn't fund. Berish stated he scrapes by every year.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Adm. Assistant Brian Williams stated it is a larger ask than before due to the state legislature slashing their funding.

- Fund 1159 – increased around \$250,000. Moved all staff members to it. Discussion was made on state requirements of HFI funding.

- Utilities – currently do not pay them where they are located. When they move to a new building, they will have that cost.
- Fund 1161 – moved employee salaries except grant manager pay.

Campbell stated that they have always practiced if grant funds go away then so does the position. Williams stated they have requirements they must meet to receive the funding. He stated they are looking at finding new grants. Campbell stated she would not know where to begin to cut if that is what needs to happen because of all the services they provide. Williams stated they can go back and cut but you would be hurting Putnam County residents.

- Fund 4926 – grant runs on fiscal year. All but \$5,000 was approved.

EMS

Director Kelly Russ stated there were several increases due to the rise in costs. Campbell asked why the 30303 repairs and maintenance increased over \$100,000. Commissioner Woodall stated they have projected that increase. Alcorn asked about the overtime line-item. Russ stated employees will always have overtime due to how their shifts are structured.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Asst. Director Robyn Hughes presented:

- 1134 Covered Bridge lowered budget because the revenue is only \$16,000 a year.
- 1135 Cumulative Bridge truck driver and equipment operator pay increased. Bridge maintenance increased because they plan on working on a bridge that was hit by a car. Miscellaneous charges will be used for engineering costs. Equipment increased to pay for excavator.
- 1169 Local Roads and Streets – sandstone and gravel increased.
- 1173 Restricted MVH = fuel, moved from MVH. Clements stated that fuel cannot be used out of fund 1173 must be 1176. Changed road resurfacing to \$350,000.
- 1176 MVH – workers compensation increased because they had a huge claim this year. Property and casualty increased.
- Fund 4951 – wheel/surtax for bridges, they are trying to build the fund up. After lengthy discussion it was decided to change the account from bridge maintenance to Bridge 154.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner Woodall, Helmer, and Beck were present.

County General

- Elected official salary increase – Brown stated they had discussed this during the wage committee meeting and thought \$40,000 each was deserved
- Commissioner secretary – asked for increase. Beck told the Council why he felt this position warranted it.
- Benefits increased to cover salary increases given throughout the year.
- Mental health was changed \$322,673
- Mileage will be changed to \$0

Hazardous Waste

- Met with IDEM and waiting to hear back why the county is not receiving more than 10% of tipping fees.
- Looking at a “stone” tax
- Help pay for the Health Department building

Weights & Measures – no changes
Cemetery – small increases

Courthouse Security – Campbell stated they need someone at the courthouse for evening meetings. Discussion was made.

Woodall asked Clements about Senate Bill 28 and when does the county need to start the process of creating the income taxes. She replied they should start discussions now.

Woodall stated that RDC (Redevelopment Commission) will need a small amount of money for legal advertisements and eventually an attorney. He stated once they get going, they will be generating their own money. Clements stated RDC is its own entity and cannot be funded by the county.

RECESS

Alcorn made the motion to recess. Huffman seconded. The motion passed.