

COUNCIL MEETING
SPECIAL SESSION
OCTOBER 30, 2023
2:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE

COUNCIL MEMBERS:	Stephanie Campbell, President Jay Alcorn, Vice President Danny Wallace Larry Parker Phillip Gick Keith Berry
COMMISSIONERS:	Thomas Helmer, President Rick Woodall
ATTORNEY:	Trudy Selvia
AUDITOR'S OFFICE:	Kristina Berish
AUDIENCE:	2 Individuals

The Putnam County Council met on October 30, 2023, at 2:30 p.m. The meeting was held at the Putnam County Courthouse.

2024 BUDGET ADOPTION

Campbell stated the Council needed to make a motion to rescind the budget for Roachdale Fire Protection, Walnut Creek Fire Protection, Floyd Fire District that were approved at their October 17, 2023 meeting. Parker made the motion to rescind. Berry seconded. The motion carried.

Campbell read the updated budget ordinance for the fire districts and said we need a motion. Gick made a motion to approve. Alcorn seconded. The motion carried.

BAKER TILLY – FUNDING FOR ANNEX, BRIDGES, AND ROADS

Jason Semler came to the meeting, passed out paperwork to go over with the board for possible county projects:

- 1) Proposed bridge project – reviewed existing revenue stream and bond options. You can not issue a property tax bond for roads and bridges. You can do a loan, that cannot go past 10 years with a maximum of 2M. No limitation of how many loans you may have at one time. Went over the numbers for funding.
- 2) Reviewed the illustrative circuit breaker impact from the illustrative debt levies. Went over the scenarios of financing and payments. Discussed the figures given out at the October 25th meeting.

Woodall stated the Highway Engineer needed to go into a lot further detail, did not state which part of those bridges we could do ourselves. The numbers given at the meeting were inflated.

Gick questioned what other avenues the county could do to bring in more money. Such as increasing the wheel tax and excise surtax, this is more revenue stream for projects without having to pay interest like we would a loan. He questioned getting a loan for bridges since it was something never ending unlike a building.

Semler said something they would need to look at is how quickly could they accumulate the money to do the bridge, if 5 years for example then would the cost to repair go up to where it is costing the county more money in the long run.

- 3) Proposed annex building project – Woodall asked Semler after looking at the county's numbers, what was his opinion on what the county could afford. Semler went over the document he handed out. It was brought up looking at different payment scenarios, it does not need to be an all or none finance option. The county could pay for part of it with a bond and the rest with EDIT or a different revenue source.

Woodall questioned similar size counties getting more EDIT money than we do. Semler replied it is based on income and population/levy. The county will know better where they stand financially once they receive the wage study and what changes the Council makes in salaries after reviewing the study.

Discussion of possible options to look at for funding options for roads, bridges, and annex. Woodall questioned 12-year loan vs. a 20-year loan, leans towards the 12 because the county does not know what may come down the road. Jail expense for example.

Semler asked what scenarios they were looking at. Campbell stated we need to update Baker Tilly with our finances and changes we made in funding budgets since the county adopted an EMS LIT rate. Suggested an annex committee needed to be formed. Semler will get with the Auditor at the end of the year to get updated numbers.

Woodall said Rick Hall with Barnes & Thornburg called him last week since BZA voted down the solar farm there were outstanding bills from Barnes and Thornburg and Baker Tilly that needed to be paid before the end of the year. He said the solar company had approved an agreement with the county but never gave them a signed copy. Solar company is going to file an appeal with the court. Ensley said they would do this to protect their project. Due to law changes they could come back to the county next year to ask the county again to approve a solar farm. The legal fees were more than 6 figures. Semler said if they come back the county should put it in the agreement the company reimburse the county for the legal fees.

ADJOURN

Wallace made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Gick seconded. The motion passed.

Stephanie Campbell, President

Jay Alcorn, Vice President

Phillip Gick

Keith Berry

Danny Wallace

Larry Parker

Attested by Auditor's Office
Kristina Berish