

PUTNAM COUNTY COUNCIL

BUDGET HEARING

September 20, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Darrel Thomas, President
Keith Berry, Vice President
Larry Parker
Gene Beck
Philip Gick
Jill Bridgewater
Dave Fuhrman
Lorie Hallett, Auditor
Evelyn Williams, Chief Deputy Auditor
Jacque Clements, Consultant

Pledge given.

Adult probation – Teresa Parrish - discussed how many clients on disability, applying for grants to get more probation officers to help with the load. Larry questioned the decreases of equipment line items. Teresa stated it was due to grant received and work moved to it. Judge Headley discussed the drug epidemic in the county.

Juvenile Probation - Renee Marsteller – upped drug screen line item out of user fees

Judge Bridges – 5% pay increase request, asked for small increases to line items that always fall short. Fuhrman asked about law books line item. Judge explained they are required by law.

Judge Headley – Asked that public defenders be treated the same when it comes to pay increase. Requested pay increase for bailiff and office employees.

Clerk – Heather Gilbert – Judge and Clerk are arguing over what computer program to use. If no agreement, Commissioners must decide for them. Discussion on courthouse internet and wiring- has been working with Commissioners on the wiring issues. Depending on what program is used, will decide if maintenance package is needed or not. Discussed need for an additional employee due to the state going to e-file for courts and clerk.

Election – 25 years since any election staff has had a pay increase and requested in budget

Treasurer – Kathy Minnick – wants to decrease what was turned in- supplies from \$5,500 to \$4,500, forms \$9,500 to \$7,500, and dues \$400 to \$250

Airport – Umbaugh and Associates – Gregory Wright – Discussed and explained increases and capital projects. Cumulative Building fund – run all grants through this fund. Advertised over levy to make sure they would get the max this year.

Greencastle Schools – selling old bus barn property and getting procedural information to sell

Recorder – Tracy Bridges – Due to state law mandates, county general and recorder perpetuation will increase significantly. Would like to take raises out of perpetuation fund. Asked to move employee from perpetuation fund to county general. Asked for increase in bindery account due to books falling apart.

Sheriff – Parker – asks that the council contact them for suggestions to cut before cutting. Added deputy to 10113. Wants to train new drug investigator. Increase in overtime line item. Service calls have increased. Equipment bumped up. Increase in training line item. Several long-time employees leaving next year. Extraditions – in past account was set up, funding source dried up due to statute no longer allows it to be collected. Sheriff Department extradites constantly for child support warrants. Talked to judges and prosecutor- set up extradition fund, put 10,000 in it. New budget line item. Jacque suggested paying out of county general Title IV-D fund. Eliminated safety and education fund, 1 civil process server position.

Jail – discussion on D.O.C. fund. Parker explained how huge a failure the part-time jailer program is. Due to laws, cannot work over 20 hours & takes 80 hours of training. They quit before completely trained, and hiring someone new every 9 days. Jail inspector has issue with staffing at jail. Required manpower study. Overtime account will be used up before end of year. Jail is becoming increasingly dangerous. Increased medical line item.

Animal Care and Control – Updated dog intake building, asked for money to do siding and roof. Has received a lot of compliments for the facility.

Surveyor – asked for salary increase, cut equipment line item in perpetuation fund. Lorie asked about moving 1,000 from county general to perpetuation fund. Dave did not see a problem with that.

Soil & Water – Shane Johnson – pay increase

Mark Evans – Extension – except salaries, kept everything the same. Telephone line item increased due to cell phone contract increased. Discussion on school participation in their programs.

Cemetery – same as last year

Council – Salary increase request

Auditor – Repairs and maintenance – software program, dues slight increase, requested salary increases

Health Department – Revenue has increased from last year. Still has preparedness grant of \$30,560. Tobacco local health maintenance \$33,139. Will have over \$100,000 in local health maintenance with a carryover of \$22,178. Still have food code violation fund and vaccination fund. Utilizing as many funds as possible to fund line items in budgets and salaries.

Coroner – Dave Brown – autopsy cases have increased this year. Has no way to know how many people will need one from one year to the next. Joni – suicides have increased every year.

Discussion on County General and Public Safety budgets. Lorie – the EDIT fund pays off the jail in January of 2018. Jacque – increasing the Public Safety tax would help fund the Sheriff and Jail and help prevent capital loss.

ADJOURN

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Attest: Auditor