

**MINUTES  
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL  
AUGUST 19, 2019  
8:00 A.M.**

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting:  
Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Joe Whittington, Jim McKee, Jim Hershberger, Dale Clawson  
and Bill Glover.

**MINUTES**

A motion was made by Bill Glover and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 meeting as presented. Vote: 7-0

**The Council reviewed the Following Monthly Reports:**

July Monthly Financial Comparison Report  
Treasurer's June Monthly Report

July Monthly Report of Collections - as submitted:  
Ambulance, Clerk, Health Dept., Recorder, Prosecutor, Sheriff

**Review & Acknowledge Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation and Monthly Comparison Report of Funds**

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Tom Booe to acknowledge the Treasurer's Bank Reconciliation for June 30, 2019 and July Monthly Comparison Report of Funds. Vote: 7-0

**Transfers – MVH**

\$5,600.00 From 1176-0531-10207 Foreman  
To 1176-0530-10104 Supervisor

\$33,883.00 From 1176-0531-10207 Foreman  
To 1176-0531-10308 Laborer

\$1,268.33 From 1176-0531-33950 Lease Rental Skid Steer  
To 1176-0533-33601 Other Repair

A motion was made by Dale Clawson and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the transfers. Vote: 7-0

**Transfers – STATEWIDE E-911**

\$16,406.00 From 1222-0000-10206 Operator  
To 1222-0000-14000 Overtime

A motion was made by Bill Glover and seconded by Jim Hershberger to approve the \$16,406 transfer. Vote: 7-0

**Transfers – STATEWIDE E-911**

\$11,358.00 From 1222-0000-10206 Operator  
To 1222-0000-10600 Part Time

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim Hershberger to approve the \$11,358 transfer. Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-8**

**REASSESSMENT**

1188-0000-33130 Contractual Services \$ 50,000

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-9**

**COUNTY GENERAL - AMBULANCE**

1000-0301-16000 Vac & Sick \$ 20,000

A motion was made by Bill Glover and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-10**

**COUNTY GENERAL - AMBULANCE**

1000-0301-22501 Gas & Oil \$ 5,000

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Jim Hershberger to approve the total additional appropriation request. Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-11**

**LIT Public Safety**

1170-0380-33302 Medical \$ 17,600

A motion was made by Joe Whittington and seconded by Jim McKee to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-12**

**LIT PUBLIC SAFETY**

1170-0380- 16000 Vac & Sick \$ 14,797

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Bill Glover to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-13**

**LIT PUBLIC SAFETY**

1170-0000-33780 Special Prosecutor Fees \$ 12,500

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-14**

**PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION**

1182-0000- 33780 Special Prosecutor Fees \$ 7,500

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 7-0

**Additional Appropriation**

**RESOLUTION 2019-15**

**PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION**

1182-0000- 33792 Rave Mobile Safety \$ 3,917

A motion was made by Bill Glover and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the total additional appropriation request.

Vote: 7-0

**Budget Hearings**

The following departments came to Council Meeting to discuss their budgets and explain their reasoning for the increase or decrease for the 2020 budget year requests.

Adam Tyler (Purdue Ext.), Jason Lewis (Co Hwy), Garth Kagels (Ambulance), Bob Cates (Vet Service Officer), Terry Holt (Sheriff), Craig Stalter (Commissioners/CEDIT/County Farm/CCD/Rainy Day Fund/ Riverboat Rev. & Co. General Maint.), Brenda Hardy (Commissioners/Auditor & Plat Book), Judge Stephanie Campbell (Circuit Court/Probation/Alcohol & Drug/CASA Grant/Jury Fees & WCRCC Probation), Daniel Askren (Prosecuting Attorney/Pre-Trial Diversion/ PA Title IV-D Incentive & Infraction), Kathleen Wesley (E-911/Radio Dispatch), Nicole Allen (Recorder/ Recorder's Perpetuation), Dr. Sean Sharma (Health Dept./LHM & Health Trust), Colleen Chambers (Treasurer/Solid Waste), Paula Copenhaver (Clerk/Election Board/Board of Registration & Cum Voting), Joe Whitaker (EMA/LEPC) and Sandy Whitaker (Assessor/Reassessment). The following budgets were discussed without representation: (Coroner), (Co Drug Free), and (Soil & Water).

**PETITION - VAN BUREN TWP TRUSTEE – Bonnie Morton**

There is no particular format or structure for the unit's petition; a letter would suffice. The petition should include the unit's proposed budgets, levies, and rates so that there is no question as to what was approved if the county council grants the petition.

- **The Department very strongly recommends that the county fiscal body public hearing AND county fiscal body determination occur on or before November 1, 2019!**

The county fiscal body should issue its determination in the form of an ordinance or resolution. Again, this should occur on or before November 1, 2019.

- The county fiscal body "may grant or deny" the unit's petition for an increase in its budgets; statute does *not* authorize the county fiscal body to modify (reduce) the unit's proposal. Notice of the public hearing is governed by the Open Door Law (48-hour notice); to the extent the unit and county fiscal body can coordinate and allow for enough time, the Department strongly recommends that notice of the hearing be published in the correct newspaper(s) at least ten days before the hearing.
- Upon receipt of the county fiscal body's determination, the city, town, or township must upload a copy of the unit's petition and a copy of the county fiscal body's determination to Gateway within 48 hours of November 1, 2019.

- In this situation, the unit will not have a Form 4 to upload. The unit must still upload all the other budget documentation (e.g., Form 3).

- In the event a city, town, or township subject to IC 36-1-23 fails to comply with that statute, there will be no penalty to the county unit. The city, town, or township's penalty will be certification of the lesser of the unit's prior year budgets, rates, and levies or the unit's proposed budgets, rates, and levies.

### **Purdue Extension –Adam Tyler & Laura Bush**

Their only increase was for their salaries. Adam is looking into some major grants to upgrade the fairgrounds.

### **County Highway – Jason Lewis**

Bridge 97 has always been budgeted but they now believe that it is safe to use the funds if needed for something else.

They are requesting raises for the employees and an increase for building repairs. The big shed is in need of new gutters and new lighting.

### **Ambulance – Garth Kagels**

He asked for a 5% raise for their secretary and Advanced EMT. He would like to hire another full time EMT. He believes it would be cheaper to hire a full time person than keep filling in with part time people.

### **Veteran Service Officer – Bob Cates**

He asked for a salary increase and \$50 more for the purchase of flags for the Kingman Post. They have never been included to receive flags until now. He also needs a portable scanner to take with him to home visits. He does not have a private office or one that is handicap accessible, so he has to make house calls. He made the commissioners aware that he really needs a more secure office for sensitive information to be talked about.

### **Sheriff – Terry Holt**

There is a \$302,000 increase requested for their budget this year. This includes 2 more deputies, 8 jailers and cars.

With the new jail opening soon, they will be able to bring in a substantial amount of funds to cover the wages for the new employees. The jail will be able to house 112 inmates. Based off of 50 beds being taken up by other counties, an estimated \$684,385 would be accrued a year. The Council would like to see a special fund set up for the in housing of prisoners to keep better track of the funds coming in to the county.

It was also discussed for the opportunity for the Sheriff's Department to do Courthouse Security. The hourly rate would be based off of a Sheriff Deputy's hourly rate and raised to be true to time and a half for all officers.

### **Circuit Court – Judge Stephanie Campbell**

The court is working at 140% and is requesting a raise for their court reporters, probation and Bailiff. Fountain Count is currently 2<sup>nd</sup> to the lowest paid in the state. They will also be needing to hire a couple people to fill a probation officer position and a pre-trial release officer.

### **Prosecutor – Daniel Askren**

Requested a 2% raise and he will be budgeting for the RAVE App. for the schools.

### **E-911 - Kathleen Wesley**

She is asking for a 5% raise for her employees. She is having a hard time keeping people because Fountain County pays so much lower than surrounding counties. She would like to pay their part time employees \$16.00 an hour. CAD and Motorola goes up every year. Kathleen will be getting those amounts to Brenda.

### **Commissioners**

The landfill will not be having any more work done this year. They are going to continue to get the wetlands situated and start work next year. Greg will be getting a bill to Brenda before the end of 2019 for next year's work for her to encumber the funds.

The salary for Custodian, Rick Beck was requested to increase as well.

The issue at the Jail concerning the driveway is not the county's fault. The companies involved will have to endure the cost of \$80-\$100,000 to correct the mistake.

### **Recorder – Nikki Allen**

A salary increase was requested and a .25 raise for her part time employee to \$9.25.

**Auditor – Brenda Hardy**

She is asking for a 5% raise for her employees and is wanting to make Glen Walter full time next month in the office. He is currently working 4 days a week making the same hourly wage as the other deputies in the office.

**Health Department – Dr. Sharma**

He has requested a 3% raise for the staff. Also, for a new position that would be funded by a Preparedness grant. This position would be called "Preparedness & Grant Coordinator". Their salary would be \$25,000. A request to cover half of the cost of 3 of their staff members to continue their education.

There are 3 people in the Health Department with a considerable amount of comp time. The Council is thinking of how to remedy this and possibly do away with comp time.

**Assessor – Sandy Whitaker**

She requested raises for her staff and \$1,000 more in her seminar fund. Sue Whitaker and Jim Scott will be retiring at the end of this year and they will be needing someone to get their Level III to be able to run for Assessor at the end of Sandy's term.

**Treasurer / Solid Waste – Colleen Chambers**

She cut Solid Waste's budget by \$2,000.

For the Treasurer's office, there is a \$5,000 increase due to copier/service contracts going up. She is also looking at buying a folder /stuffer for tax bills. It would be \$160/month and that will include maintenance and repair. Currently, their part time rate is \$14.00 but, they have a hard time keeping anyone because of not having steady work every week.

**EMA – Joe Whitaker**

Their budget is \$3,500 less than last year. Also, he would like to change the part time title to Assistant Deputy Director and make Tina Holmes full time.

**Clerk – Paula Copenhaver**

\$3,100 increase mainly due to salary increase. Their part time currently receives \$14.50 hourly. The county election board budget will be \$63,000 this year instead of \$91,000 at the last Presidential Election. Next year, there will only be 5 voting centers instead of 18 that the county had previously.

**Council Meeting dates for 2020 Budget Process.**

**SEPTEMBER 16, 2019                      Adoption of 2020 Budget  
Ratify Budget for County Units  
(Council Review of Budgets)**

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE SEPTEMBER 16, 2019  
AT 9:00 A.M.**

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Joe Whittington to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 6-0

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ATTEST

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Dudley Cruea

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James Hershberger

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Tom Booe

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Joe Whittington

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Jim McKee

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Dale Clawson

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Bill Glover