

Minutes
Fountain County Council
August 18, 2014 at 8:00 A.M.
August 19, 2014 at 8:00 A.M.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Richard Klage, Dale Clawson, Dudley Cruea, Tom Booe, Joe Whittington, and Jim McKee.
Jim Hershberger arrived at 8:20 a.m.

Minutes

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2014 minutes as presented. Vote: 6-0

Resolution 2014-18

County General – Landfill \$8,000

1000-0503-33910 Wells Hydro-Study & Meth

Additional testing will be needed in 2014 for the Landfill due to inconsistent readings.

A motion was made by Dale Clawson and seconded by Dudley Cruea to approve the additional request. Vote: 6-0

Resolution 2014-19

County General – Coroner \$5,000

1000-0007-33460 Autopsy Expense

A motion was made by Joe Whittington and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the additional appropriation of \$5,000, not \$7,000 that was requested. Vote: 6-0

Budget Hearings – August 18, 2014

Council President, Richard Klage said that the budget for the 2015 budget was higher than 2014 and that it would need budget cuts of approximately \$900,000. He went on to ask each department head that came before the council if they could cut their budget by 10% to help with the cuts that were needed.

On Monday, Craig Stalter, (Commissioner), Brenda Hardy (Auditor), Garth Kagels (Ambulance), Dr. Sean Sharma & Melissa Shamp (Health Dept), Bill Sanders (Sheriff), Judge Henderson (Circuit Court), Kathleen Osborne (E-911), Wanda Taylor (Recorder), Sandy Whitaker (Assessor), Joe Whitaker (Emerg Mgmt.) and Kathy Walker (Co Drug Free Community) were all seen by the council to go over their budgets.

2nd Day – August 19, 2014

Bud Peach & Marcia Cooper (County Highway), Courtney Stierwalt & Laura Bush (Purdue Ext), Colleen Chambers (Treasurer & Solid Waste), Terry Martin (Prosecutor), Joe Gritten (Coroner) and Patty Gritten (Clerk) were all seen by the council to go over their budgets for 2015.

Council Review of Budgets

County General / CAGIT (Option Tax)

The council reviewed all of the budgets and decided major cuts were needed to cut enough to make the County General reduction in the amount of \$900,000 that they wanted to reach. Richard suggested to the Council to move \$500,000 to CAGIT (Option Tax). If the Jail's budget & Emergency Managements budgets could be moved that would amount to approx. \$500,000. The County is in need of funding a new Ambulance and it was suggested to be included in Option Tax in the amount of \$150,000. With the other changes made by the Council to the requested amounts of salaries, etc. it should be close to the \$900,000 reduction that is needed for County General to break even for 2015 and not show a loss.

Salary increase

A motion was made by Dudley Cruea and seconded by Joe Whittington to give a 1% raise to the full-time employees, with an exception of part-time help, Commissioners, Council, 2nd Probation - Randy Hankins, Chief Probation - Robin Hegg and the Sheriff as the (Probation's & Sheriff's) salaries are mandated. Vote: 7-0

GIS Mapping

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Jim McKee to move Linda Whitaker to the reassessment fund and that she be moved from a deputy Assessor to GIS Mapping. The council agreed to her raise to \$ \$31,500.00. Vote: 7-0

Sheriff

The council agreed that there will not be a replacement deputy hired for the Sheriff’s department. With this cut it would save the county \$90,000 ~ \$100,000. They are hoping to reinstate this position as soon as possible. They also denied the purchase of 2 new squad cars for 2015.

Health Dept.

The health department had requested a 5% raise for the administrator assistant. They denied the request and the administrator assistant will receive a 1% raise like the full-time employees.

Health Insurance

The commissioners and council are looking into making changes to the current insurance by increasing the deductible from \$500 to \$3,000. The insurance provider from Keystone is going to present the changes to them at the next council meeting on September 15, 2014. In changing the insurance, they are hoping to save the county around \$300,000.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Joe Whittington to adjourn the meeting. Vote: 7-0

The Next Meeting Will Be September 15, 2014 at 9:00 a.m.

Attest

