

Minutes
Fountain County Council
August 24, 2015 at 8:00 A.M.
August 25, 2015 at 8:00 A.M.

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Hershberger and seconded by Joe Whittington to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2015 meeting as presented. Vote: 7-0

Transfers: E-911

\$6,823.35 From 1222-0000-10206 Operator
To 1222-0000-14000 Overtime

A motion was made by Jim McKee and seconded by Tom Booe to approve the \$6,823.35 transfer. Vote: 7-0

County Funds - Dudley Cruea discussed with the other council members that the county has a few funds that have money being accumulated but, aren't being utilized.

An example of a fund he was referring to was fund 1193. This fund has been building up and if it can be changed to a Pension Trust Fund, the money can be used for the retirement fund for the Sheriff's department. Fund 1217, 1130, 1158 & 2700 were a few more funds that could be used more efficiently if some guidelines were changed.

There are 2 Ordinances, the Farm Maintenance Ordinance and the Cum Cap Development Ordinance that need to be amended to better suit the county's needs. Daniel Askren is looking them over and seeing about revising them.

Jim McKee touched base on the Economic Development Infrastructure. He believes the taxes need to be raised. Many structures around the county are starting to deteriorate and need to be fixed and updated before they need to be totally replaced.

Joe Whittington inquired if it could be looked into to have a better way of alerting the public when there is disaster, bad weather etc. coming their way. Especially in the southern part of the county, it is hard to get a good signal to receive information to be prepared in time. It was agreed that should be looked into.

Budget Hearings
August 24th & 25th, 2015
8:00 A.M.

On **Monday**, Don Hesler & Craig Stalter (Commissioners), Brenda Hardy (Auditor), Sandy Whitaker (Assessor), Joe Whitaker (EMA), Garth Kagels (Ambulance), Susan Henderson (Judge), Dr. Sean Sharma (Health Dept), John Kirkpatrick (Soil & Water), Wanda Taylor (Recorder), Terry Martin (Prosecutor), Jessica Woodrow (Clerk) and Kathleen Osborne (E-911) were all seen by the council to go over their budgets. Veteran Officer, Coroner, Parks & Recreation and Solid Waste budgets were also discussed without representation.

2nd Day- August 25, 2015 Courtney Stierwalt (Purdue Ext), Bud Peach (Co Highway) and Bill Sanders (Sheriff) were all seen by the council to go over their budgets. The treasurer's budget was also gone over. Collen Chambers was not in attendance.

A motion was made by Tom Booe and seconded by Jim Hershberger to move funds from the Elected Officials Fund to County General. Vote: 7-0

Council Review of Budgets- TENTATIVE DECISIONS due to deadline on Gateway being September 1, 2015. Not all units have posted their budgets on-line at this time.

Salary Increases – 1%, 2%, or 3%

The 911 dispatch needs a raise to stay competitive with surrounding counties. As of now, Fountain County has the least amount paid to operators. To fix that, they are proposing raising them the operators to \$15.75/hr. and the lead operator to \$16.50/hr. Also, the part-time in their office to \$14.00 an hour. The director is under paid when there's a comparison done to the other offices. They propose to raise her pay to \$41,000 which equals about a 6% raise. 911 and the Ambulance department also asked for 2 more holidays to have an incentive pay of \$100. These 2 holidays are Memorial Day and Labor Day. The council also asked Brenda Hardy to do figure a comparison of giving the county employees a 1%, 2% or 3% raise with the exception of Robing Hegg (Chief Probation) whose salary is state mandated. They would like to see what kind of a difference it would be on the budget.

Sheriff

The council asked for Brenda to remove the 6th deputy from the budget. They would like to see the employees get paid more from retirement pension than to add more people at a lower pay. Also, the expense of a 6th deputy would be costly. There are a couple ordinances that need to be adopted that would help in the retirement and pension areas. Also, they would like to take \$52,000 out of the county general budget that was requesting for 2 new cars. The council would like the Sheriff to come back later and request the funds for a new car or truck. They do not see the necessity of getting 2 new vehicles at the same time, especially if they don't add a 6th deputy. The cars or trucks that they are looking into are very gas efficient. The new chargers they purchased in the last few years have saved so much money on fuel. They agree that they could buy the new vehicle out of the Riverboat fund or somewhere else instead of having it in the county general budget.

Auditor

The council agreed to have Brenda include the part time position as a full time position for 2016 and see how the figures come out. They agreed that another full time person in the office would be an asset with all of the health claims, human resource questions or issues, ACA requirements and other IRS or Department of Revenue paperwork that needs to get done efficiently.

Election Board

The inspectors get paid \$138.00 and the clerks get paid \$108.00. The council would like to add a training incentive and a night time incentive of \$20.00 for each. Total of 18 judges and 18 inspectors that could essentially earn \$40.00 extra and 4 clerks could earn \$20.00 extra.

Health Department

The new asst. environmentalist was being paid at the 2016 budget rate. This was not approved by the commissioners nor did the council agree by amending the 2015 Salary Ordinance. They only approved the hiring of the position to replace Melissa Waterworth. Dr. Sharma did not agree with this and insisted that they approved the amount. The health department board was the one who agreed to it, not the commissioners. The auditor will see to it that the adjustments and corrections on the overpayment is made.

Also, the council agrees that Dr. Sharma needs to be taking funds out of the grant funds before going into the Health budget. Dr. Sharma is against doing that because he thinks it doesn't keep the job as stable and takes away security of position if it is mainly a grant based paid position. Dr. Sharma asked for a 2% raise for the employees.

County Highway

They requested the increase of a few things. One of the bigger increases was for the bridge inspections. They requested \$150,000 go to \$180,000. Depending on the bridge, it is inspected every 1-2 years and will cost \$1,000 to \$4,000 each. The county has 143 bridges. Another project that they are going to be working on next year is Portland Arch Road. They are hoping their plan of taking the fence row out, taking out the stumps and packing dirt up on the banks will help keep the road from flooding as much. This will be done with the help of D & S Excavating. One other big increase was for the purchase of 3 tandem dump trucks. They are requesting \$350,000 for the equipment fund.

The Next Meeting Will Be September 14, 2015 at 9:00 A.M.

Attest

