

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 5, 2018**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:30 p.m. as was duly advertised for the public hearing on the 2019 proposed budgets. Council members in attendance were: President Steve Goodson, Pro-tem, John Taylor, Jody French, Tom Hauser, David Etienne and Danny Bolin. Absent from the meeting was J.R. Flynn. A representative from the Perry County News and Chief Deputy Sheriff Eric Dickenson were also present.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS

Several elected officials, department heads, and representatives of other various agencies receiving county tax dollars were present. They spoke concerning their 2019 budget requests in the following order:

PERRY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Pam Hilgenhold talked of the many activities that have taken part with 4H. There are over 140 members with many individuals volunteering their service. It teaches hard work leadership skills, success and working with a team. She said they need support to help promote 4H in the County. Christian Holman, an 8 year 4H member, spoke to the Council saying 4H has helped him with leadership and responsibility. He said 4H has role models and it has shaped him to be a responsible young adult.

COUNTY EXTENSION

Cathy Boerste, Extension Educator CED, explained that Purdue is the umbrella that supports 4-H with a variety of services. She said the Extension is more than 4-H. They leverage a lot of work with volunteers. The Contractual Service is up 2.5% and this is set by Purdue. It cannot be changed. It covers the increase cost in benefits. She stated that Purdue puts in more than 50%. Cathy said her wish list is that they need a part time summer assistant. This year they received a grant for a temporary person for one year. They need this position to keep programs they have. Cathy stated that Holly Simpson will be taking Brenda Hagedorn's position with her retirement. She also said that the cell phones cover two and a half people.

PERRY COUNTY RECYCLING MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ken Smith with the Perry County Recycling Management District says he is not asking for any additional money, only approval. He said he cut \$1000 out of the budget from last year.

VETERANS SERVICE OFFICER

Veterans Service Officer, Wayne Hubert, came before the Council stating that the salary for the Veterans Service Officer position is too low. The job has gotten more intense and has changed drastically since this position started. Wayne said the officer has to be fully accredited and go to school for continuing education. He wants the pay changed for the future. He said there are deputies in other departments that make more than this position. He said he is asking to reconstruct the base pay.

PLANNING AND ZONING

Robert Harding, President of Planning and Zoning Board, informed the Council that the board is trying to get industries out by I-64 Interchanges. With the extra work that will take place, the board wants to increase the current hours of the administrator from 15 hours per week to 29. He said they realize the budget had already been submitted but they are requesting \$5000 for zoning maps and \$900 for internet. Robert said the office needs to be updated. He said PCDC cannot go any further without Planning & Zoning. This office is a service to the County. Auditor Pam Goffinet informed the Council that if they decided to add to the budget, then it would be adjusted somewhere else with cuts, so we don't go over the advertised amount.

SOUTHERN HILLS COUNSELING

Joe Kimmel with Southern Hills Counseling wanted to inform the Council that they have merged with Lifespring out of Jeffersonville, Indiana. He said they are financially strapped and hope to grow with them.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Kerri Zuelly with Council on Aging said they are asking for the County's support to help give an increase in wage to their drivers. They are paid the lowest around. They also need two new drivers. They help Golden Living and Oakwood to give rides to the elderly. She said they partner with SWIRCA, Ride Solution and Medicare. They need additional funding to make things happen.

HIGHWAY, LOCAL ROAD AND STREET AND CUMULATIVE BRIDGE

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, informed the Council that in the Cumulative Bridge fund the culverts line item was cut and they need more in bridge repairs. In Local, Road & Street fund they are asking for a mini excavator under new equipment. It will work better for some jobs than the big one they have. In Motor Vehicle Highway fund they have asked for a 5% increase in salaries. They want to take a foreman position and move it to Operations Manager. This person has already helped without hiring someone else to do the work. He will work with Steve. He also works well with the public concerning the county roads. Steve said they are also asking for a Temporary/Seasonal employee position to have two different rates. They want to hire another person who is already experienced at \$15.00 per hour. He said they cut the stone back to keep the budget down. One other position they are asking for is a part time mechanic. They had one employee to retire but he is very good. They want to hire him during the winter for a few weeks to help out.

Steve said the Health insurance increased. He is concerned for them to show 50% of budget is for maintenance and construction. The last item is they cut road equipment from \$70,000 to \$10,000 to keep the budget in line.

PARK AND RECREATION

Park and Recreation Director, Greg Hendershot, informed the Council that he increased his fuel and equipment repair line item because he always seems to run out. He also moved the part time employee to a full time position. He said this position was there several years ago and then was cut. He said that now they handle more properties, snow removal was added, and mowing the Detention Center and South Annex properties. Greg stated that his main concern is safety on the jobs. With two people, it would make the job easier. Jody asked about the mowing at the Detention Center. Greg said that he worked with the Sheriff and they get paid for mowing and the money goes into a non-reverting fund to be used for anything.

RIDE SOLUTION

Becky Guthrie, Director of Ride Solution, thanked the Council for the past funding they have received since 2010 and hope to continue to receive. She said they are like a taxi service taking individuals to doctor visits, employment and school. They also partner with Council on Aging.

PERRY COUNTY HOSPITAL AND EMS

Ryan White, Chief Financial Officer of Perry County Memorial Hospital, spoke to the Council saying that the ambulance service has had an increase in runs. A part time third crew was added this year to help which was to be at no extra cost to the County. Steve commented saying that the Hospital is requesting \$330,000 for Ambulance Service for 2019 which is a big increase over this year's amount. Ryan said that there have been changes in payments from Medicaid. The volume of Medicaid patients has increased in 2018 and the payments have dropped since 2017. Ryan said they are willing to cut the amount back to \$230,000 for operational. This will drop the third crew. Jody commented that this was just a big change in one year for the requested amount. The hospital is now requesting \$225,000 without the third crew.

CORONER

Charles Baumeister, Coroner, said he doesn't bring any money in but he spends a lot. He said he asked for a 3% salary increase for employees. These individuals do a

fantastic job. He commented saying this is the last time he will stand before the Council as the Coroner.

SIRS - SOUTHERN INDIANA RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

Kelly Mitchell from SIRS thanked the Council for the years of support they have received. She said they have a lot of services for the disabled. They are a big part of the County and help to keep people in the community. She also said they rely on grants, donations and support from the Community. She would appreciate their continued support.

CLERK

Clerk Mandi Mogan explained to the Council the need for the upgrade to the election equipment. She said the payment can be made in 2 years which would be a little over \$40,000 each year. She commented that she would really like to have the poll books and start using them with a small election next year. Steve asked her if the poll books can be paid from her Perpetuation Fund. Mandy said that fund can only be used for record books, but she will check on it. She commented saying that she is saving money in that fund to pay for a scanner for records.

PROSECUTING ATTORNEY, IV-D CHILD SUPPORT, PRETRIAL DIVERSION, & CHECK COLLECTION

Prosecuting Attorney, Jason Hoch, asked for 20% of the Victim Advocates salary of the Criminal Justice Grant to be paid from the Pretrial Diversion fund. There was a change in the grant. The grant doesn't pay 100% any more, it is an 80/20 match. He reminded the Council that the County receives 66% reimbursement from the 4D Child Support budget. He commented that the Check Collection fund is bringing less in fees this year. So he has asked for a portion of the Officer Manager extra salary that she receives from the Check Collection fund to be added to her line item in County General.

ANIMAL BOARD

Herbert Landers, Chairman of the Animal Board, said that the first function he has done is the PEP program at all three county schools. He said the kids enjoyed and participated in it. He would like to continue funding this every year. He would like to lock in a price for next year by 1-1-19. They also want to look at other programs. He said they hope to reduce the work for the police by education.

INDIANA REGION 15

Lisa Gehlhausen with Indiana Region 15 appeared before the Council saying that Region 15 serves 6 counties and has been in business since 1973. They haven't asked for an increase in over 10 years. For the year 2019 they are asking for one based on per capita per each county. All counties have to agree on the increase for them to receive it. She then went over figures on Federal funded grants and informed the Council that they have paid out \$16,800,000 in projects for Perry County.

PERRY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Steve Lutgring with the Perry County Animal Shelter explained that their budget had a shortfall last year of \$7,000.00. He said they are taking in more animals. The shelter is being used as a dumping ground for animals. He commented saying that without help, they won't be around long.

COMMISSIONERS

Commissioner President, Randy Kleaving, spoke up about the Maintenance Person for the Courthouse. He stated that Ellis Howard is retiring at the end of the year and with all the county buildings, they could use a full time maintenance person on hand for 35 hours a week. We need to have somebody here more. Another thing added to the budget is the parking lot at the South Annex needs to be sealed. Also with ADA, we need to put a ramp at the back entrance to the building. We are looking at a portable steel ramp that can be moved. He said he would like for the Council to take a hard look at the EMS request. It is a tough job to do.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Dan Douglas with Junior Achievement asked the Council to give consideration to help support the Junior Achievement. They serve K-11 students which is around 1400-1500 students. He said they have grown in programs in Perry County in teaching for future jobs. Dan said they have they are seeing a shortfall every year. They are funded

by the local community and Waupaca helped them last year. He said they are asking the County to help stem the gap. Gary Greubel said the Junior Achievement is an impact on the workforce. We would be investing in Perry County's future. This program helps to make successful employees.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

Jenny Kunkler, President of the 4-H Fairgrounds, explained that they are privately owned and they maintain the facility. She said she hopes for the same amount as they received this year. It is ran and improved by volunteers. The facility holds Ag programs, receptions, and power of the youth, voting site, SIRS picnics, and senior Olympic Games. She said they have a roof leak in the main building, outage in the arena and need plumbing improvements. Jenny also commented that they plan to pursue other funding also such as a booth at the Schweizer Fest.

Steve Goodson announced that the Sheriff would have been there for his budgets, but he is at active shooter training in Ohio.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUDGETS

There were no other comments on the 2019 budget requests. The hearing was closed.

FIRST READING OF 2019 BUDGET REQUESTS

President Steve Goodson conducted the first reading of all 2019 departmental budget requests as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Total Budget Request</u>
Clerk of Circuit Court	\$ 202,349
County Auditor	\$ 196,038
Treasurer	\$ 118,589
Recorder	\$ 103,417
County Sheriff	\$ 541,578
County Surveyor	\$ 9,835
County Coroner	\$ 34,712
County Assessor	\$ 124,385
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 65,411
Extension Service	\$ 131,187
Veterans Service	\$ 29,957
County Council	\$ 41,080
Election Board	\$ 172,885
Commissioners	\$1,762,772
Animal Shelter	\$ 35,000
Planning & Zoning	\$ 15,000
Courthouse	\$ 165,248
Circuit Court	\$ 466,819
Emergency Management	\$ 146,573
Jail	\$ 507,043
4-D Child Support	\$ 109,094
Soil Conservation	\$ 35,317
Parks and Recreation	\$ 141,222
County General Total	\$5,155,511
Health Department Fund	\$ 256,405
Cumulative Bridge Fund	\$ 351,701
Property Reassessment – 2015	\$ 103,738
Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 203,202
LIT Special Legislation	\$ 873,000
Clerks Record Perpetuation	\$ 6,800
Sales Disclosure-Co Share	\$ 350
Emergency Planning/Right to Know	\$ 3,967
Enhanced Access	\$ 15,452
Identification Security Program	\$ 2,700
Local Road & Street	\$ 493,767

LOIT Public Safety – County Share	
Sheriff	\$ 198,760
Commissioners	\$ 487,024
Jail	\$ 256,566
Highway Administration	\$ 177,989
Highway Maintenance & Repair	\$1,272,040
Highway General & Undistributed	\$1,266,425
Park & Rec Non-Reverting Fund	\$ 1,500
Plat Book Fund	\$ 4,600
Riverboat – County Share	
Commissioners	\$ 3,400
Courthouse	\$ 20,000
Sex & Violent Offender-Sheriff	\$ 1,400
Supplemental Public Defender	\$ 3,950
Corner Perpetuation – Surveyor	\$ 5,000
Co Election Official Training-Clerk	\$ 600
Co Election Official Training-Auditor	\$ 600
Co Election Official Training-Treasurer	\$ 600
Co Election Official Training-Recorder	\$ 600
Co Election Official Training – Surveyor	\$ 600
Statewide 911	\$ 283,513
Supplemental Adult Probation	\$ 84,907
Jury Fee	\$ 3,000
Pretrial Diversion	\$ 57,910
Check Collection Fee	\$ 2,166
Surplus Surtax & Wheel Tax	\$ 200,000
Jail Operations	\$ 268,750
Perry County Recycling Management	\$ 513,965
Airport Authority	\$ 52,271
Airport Authority – Cumulative Building	\$ 40,650

The next meetings will be the all day budget preparation on Tuesday, September 11th and Wednesday, September 12th at 8:00 a.m. both days at the Armory Annex.

There being no further business, Jody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Danny seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0, with adjournment at 6:15 p.m.

Minutes approved this 20th day of November, 2018.

President, Perry County Council

*Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L. Goffinet, Perry County Auditor*