

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 6, 2017**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:30 p.m. as was duly advertised for the public hearing on the 2018 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 was 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 2018 budget requests in the following order:

RIDE SOLUTIONS

Becky Guthrie, Director of Ride Solutions, thanked the Council for the past funding they have received since 2010 and hope to continue to receive. Becky commented that they would like to get the funding back to where it was in the beginning at \$5,000.00. She said they are like a taxi service taking individuals to doctor visits, employment and school. By cutting their funding, they cannot expand and have to turn rides down. She also said they are asking \$6,000.00 for 2018 because transportation is a big plus. They also partner with Council on Aging.

PERRY COUNTY RECYCLING MANAGEMENT DISTRICT

Ken Smith with the Perry County Recycling Management District says he is here because the Council has to approve their budget since they are binding. He stated that the board has asked for a raise for employees since they have not received one for 3 to 4 years. Their budget did increase by \$40,000.00 for 2018.

PERRY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER

Steve Lutgring with the Perry County Animal Shelter explained that their budget has been cut by \$5,000.00 in the past. They have had to cut staff because of the shortfall and need to fill the vacancies. He said they rescued animals at their own expense. Also the roof is in need of replacing and so is the equipment.

CIRCUIT COURT

Judge Lucy Goffinet says her budget is no different than in previous years. The only thing she is asking is to move the last position from Supplemental Adult Probation to County General. Once this is done and the funds build back up, she plans to move travel, postage and other items back to SAPS. She just can't pay salaries from there because it is an unstable fund. She also asked for a 3% salary raise for her employees.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Kerri Zuelly with Council on Aging said they asked for a slight increase for 2018. They would like to get a new van in 2018. Kerri said she just took over. She also said they are revamping and redoing the transportation side. They help Golden Living and Oakwood. They struggle also with transportation. There a lot of elderly being turned away. It is a big struggle. She said they may lose funding from SWIRCA and Medicaid. They need additional funding to make things happen.

RECORDER

Recorder Jane James stated that she submitted a letter with her budget and would like them to take time to consider her requests.

SURVEYOR

Surveyor David Lynch stated that there are some old document books that need to be scanned and put into the Laredo system like the Recorder does with the deeds, so he asking for funding to do this.

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. He increased the autopsy and x-ray fee line items hoping he won't have to come back to ask for more. He had to increase the telephone line because of adding a mandated fax line.

ANIMAL BOARD

Herbert Landers with the Animal Board said he wants to start out with the schools for education by doing pamphlets for the different grades. He then would like to expand into doing talk sessions with the three local veterinarians. They can't do anything until they know what money they will have.

SHERIFF & JAIL

Sheriff Malone asked that in the Jail budget he would like to make the 11th officer a corporal for night shift. He is asking more for this position for more responsibility. He states that Branchville Correction increased their wages to \$16.00 per hour. He cannot compete with this. It is hard to find good people to work with violent offenders. Alan informed the Council that he has worked out an agreement with Vanderburgh County to house inmates from their county. This will supplement his budget. He said the Jail is not new anymore. He has been paying a lot of maintenance out of his commissary money. As far as the cars, they have an older fleet. He even bought a used car so they all have a car. On the pension, he thanked the Council for listening to Stan Brown and Elaine Beatty on their presentation. We are the only County left that doesn't have a pension plan. He wants the Council to consider the deputies. To get retention in employment, this is the first step to take. He said the deputies are willing to put in 4% to the plan instead of 3% like now. Alan said it is time to give something back. Sheriff Malone would also like to make the 7th Police officer a Lieutenant on night shift. Steve asked Alan if he would be satisfied with one car and the pension plan. Sheriff said the cars are breaking down.

HIGHWAY, LOCAL ROAD AND STREET AND CUMULATIVE BRIDGE

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, informed the Council that the Highway is supposed to get an increase of 45% on revenue after July. There are new forms to be filled out and 50% of their budget is to be used on roads and bridges. Steve said he is inputting all the information into the computer, the time used, the job and roads. He said he did raise the bituminous and stone line items. Steve also said they asked for a 5% raise and that they have the money for this raise. They are still behind on bridge work.

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

Prosecuting Attorney, Jason Hoch, explained that nothing really changed in his budgets. He asked for a 3% salary increase for his employees.

SIRS - SOUTHERN INDIANA RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

Kelly Mitchell from SIRS thanked the Council for the years of support they have received. They are not asking for an increase, just the continued support. She said they have a lot of services for the disability. They are a big part of the County and help to keep people in the community.

COUNTY EXTENSION

Cathy Boerste, Extension Educator CED, explained that Purdue is the umbrella that supports 4-H with a variety of services. For every \$1.00 of the County is \$6.00 from the State. She is asking that the Administrative Assistant position be paid the same rate as others. It is below what other departments make. The Council helped out last year to work toward this. The Contractual Service is up 1.5% and this is set by Purdue. It cannot be changed. She stated that Purdue puts in more than 50%. Cathy said her wish list is that they need a part time summer assistant. They hire a college student so more programs can be done. They also shifted more money to the travel line item from the County car expense since they don't get to use the car as much.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

4-H Junior Leader, Jace French (2016 Junior Ambassador for 4-H) and Greg Jarboe talked of the many activities that they have taken part in with 4H. It teaches leadership skills and working with a team. Jace also said it has taught him to give back to the community we live in. They have given money to the County Museum to help keep it up. There are 300 youth in 4H and they impact the future of Perry County. They said the funding had been cut by 60% in the past. They have to educate the kids and run the 4H.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

Jenny Kunkler, President of the 4-H Fairgrounds, explained that they are privately owned and they maintain the facility. It is ran and improved by volunteers. 85% of the committee is former 4Hers. The facility holds Ag programs, receptions, and power of the youth, voting site, SIRS picnics, and senior Olympic Games. They have replaced the roof on the livestock barn. She said they have no projects coming up because they do not have the funding. They utilize what funding they receive.

INDIANA REGION 15

Lisa Gehlhausen with Indiana Region 15 appeared before the Council saying they are not asking for an increase. It is same amount since 2010. She said they value the County’s participation and continued support. She then went over figures on Federal funded grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUDGETS

There were no other comments on the 2018 budget requests. The hearing was closed.

FIRST READING OF 2018 BUDGET REQUESTS

President Steve Goodson conducted the first reading of all 2018 departmental budget requests as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Total Budget Request</u>
Clerk of Circuit Court	\$ 201,530
County Auditor	\$ 190,065
Treasurer	\$ 116,633
Recorder	\$ 102,018
County Sheriff	\$ 447,265
County Surveyor	\$ 9,548
County Coroner	\$ 34,165
County Assessor	\$ 123,253
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 61,890
Extension Service	\$ 127,945
Veterans Service	\$ 27,942
County Council	\$ 41,670
Election Board	\$ 64,340
Commissioners	\$1,706,354
Animal Shelter	\$ 30,000
Planning & Zoning	\$ 13,400
Courthouse	\$ 157,855
Circuit Court	\$ 469,293
Emergency Management	\$ 134,930
Jail	\$ 458,582
4-D Child Support	\$ 112,466
Soil Conservation	\$ 34,758
Parks and Recreation	\$ 90,599
County General Total	\$4,756,501
Health Department Fund	\$ 227,516
Cumulative Bridge Fund	\$ 444,934
Property Reassessment – 2015	\$ 87,916
Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 185,480
LIT Special Legislation	\$ 872,000

Clerks Record Perpetuation	\$ 6,300
Sales Disclosure-Co Share	\$ 350
Emergency Planning/Right to Know	\$ 4,067
Enhanced Access	\$ 12,408
Identification Security Program	\$ 2,655
Local Road & Street	\$ 443,767
LOIT Public Safety – County Share	
Sheriff	\$ 167,675
Commissioners	\$ 215,000
Jail	\$ 578,170
Highway Administration	\$ 171,458
Highway Maintenance & Repair	\$1,325,728
Highway General & Undistributed	\$1,208,248
Park & Rec Non-Reverting Fund	\$ 1,500
Plat Book Fund	\$ 4,500
Riverboat – County Share	
Courthouse	\$ 20,000
Sex & Violent Offender-Sheriff	\$ 1,400
Supplemental Public Defender	\$ 4,000
Corner Perpetuation – Surveyor	\$ 14,000
Co Election Official Training-Clerk	\$ 500
Co Election Official Training-Auditor	\$ 500
Co Election Official Training-Treasurer	\$ 500
Co Election Official Training-Recorder	\$ 500
Statewide 911	\$ 283,391
Supplemental Adult Probation	\$ 30,005
Jury Fee	\$ 3,000
Pretrial Diversion	\$ 55,311
Check Collection Fee	\$ 4,407
Jail Operations	\$ 238,750
Perry County Recycling Management	\$ 514,125
Airport Authority	\$ 51,472
Airport Authority – Cumulative Building	\$ 40,558

Jody commented to the other Council members that the wage committee met several times. They pulled several resources for their review. The wages, salaries and benefits are where other counties that is our size. She said not all departments are paid in the same manner with different jobs.

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

There being no further business, Jody made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Danny seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0, with adjournment at 6:00 p.m.

Minutes approved this 21st day of November, 2017.

President, Perry County Council

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