

# Ripley County Council

## Budget Review Meeting

September, 2015

The Ripley County Council met on Tuesday, September 1, 2015 at the Ripley County Annex in Versailles, Indiana to begin the Budget Review for the 2016 Budget.

Council President Ms. Dephane Smith opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag. Council Members Dephane Smith, Ron Decker, Ed Armbrecht, Brenda Wetzler, Mark Horstman, Chad Pindell and Bill Warren were in attendance. Also in attendance were Auditor Bill Wagner and Deputy Danielle Peetz.

The purpose of the budget review was to determine what each department required for operation in 2016 and the anticipated needs for equipment. The Council would then attempt to balance those requests with the funds anticipated for 2016 in the CAGIT, Property Tax receipts and grants being received in 2016.

The reviews began at 8:00 am September 1, 2015. Those departments that had been able to meet the suggestions of the Finance Committee ( operating budget level with the 2015 year, 2% pay raise for the department, no additional positions for 2016 unless documentation provided and approved by the Council) did not need to be seen by the Council. Those that could not meet these recommendations were reviewed. (\*See Council Budget Review folder for each department review and vote on the final amounts approved.)

The Council reviewed the following:

9/1/2015:

EMA—Mr. Patrick Rose provided updated job descriptions for his office and a review for the Council.

Extension—Mr. Dave Osborne provided an update of his office operation and provided quotes for carpet replacement for his office to be considered.

EMS—Mr. Jim Corbin discussed the operation of the County EMS with updates of the operation. He also addressed the issues of operation with the local rescue units.

Highway—Mr. Owen Heaton and MS. Robin Stegemiller presented the budgets for the Highway and Bridge operation. They were advised to revise the budgets and bring back.

Sheriff—Sheriff Jeff Cumberworth reviewed his budget with the Council.

911—Ms. Judy Schebler presented her budget for the Council and provided an update of the operation and needs for equipment etc. for the coming year.

Park—Mr. Warren Bruns reviewed the Park budget was reviewed and updates for the grounds was discussed.

Probation—Mr. Shannon Schmaltz presented the budgets for the Probation department and discussed Community Corrections that will begin operation in 2016.

The Council discussed the issue to correct the salary ordinance for the Prosecutor's Office for 2014. After discussion Council Member Armbrecht moved to provide Ordinance 2015-04 to amend the 2014 salary ordinance for the Prosecutor's Office. Council Member Pindell seconded and the motion passed with 7 yes.

Council President then recessed the budget review meeting to 8:00am on 9/2/2015.

9/2/2015:

Council President Dephane Smith reconvened the budget review meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. All Council Members were present as well as Auditor Bill Wagner and Deputy Danielle Peetz.

Coroner—Mr. Ron Reynolds and Mr. Jason Smith provided the Council with the Indiana Code that pertained to small counties using unpaid volunteers in their request for unpaid volunteers for the Coroner's Office. They were advised to return with a revised budget after their requested budget was reviewed.

Tourism—Ms. Katherine Taul discussed the reduction in the Innkeepers Tax receipts and requested additional county funding for the 2016 cycle.

Health Department—Ms. Vicky Powell presented the budgets for the Health department and provided an update of the operation and the status of the billing process to obtain restitution for health services from Medicare, Medicaid, and insurance companies.

Clerk—Ms. Mary Ann McCoy appeared to present the budgets for the Clerk' Office and advise of equipment requests for the 2016 budget.

A citizen, Ms. Sue Carey, requested permission to address the Council in reference to the EMS and the local rescue units operation in the county. Permission was granted and she advised she had been involved in EMS operation locally and in the surrounding counties for several years. She stated it was her opinion that it was time for the county to stop funding the local rescue units and provide the coverage for the county with the county EMS and their paramedics as it would give better response and care to the citizens of the county. The Council thanked her for her information.

Council President Dephane Smith then recessed the budget review meeting until 9/3/2015 at 8:00am.

9/3/2015:

Council President Dephane Smith reconvened the budget review meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. All Council Members were present except Council Member Chad Pindell. Auditor Bill Wagner and Deputy Danielle Peetz were also present.

Coroner—Mr. Ron Reynolds and Mr. Jason Smith presented a revised budget using the reduced salary for their two positions to increase supplies or to buy uniforms. They were told to revise the request again and return.

The Council spent the rest of the day reviewing the budgets of other offices not required to appear and discussing changes to those budgets reviewed to the present time.

Auditor—Auditor Bill Wagner presented his budgets for 2016. A request for additional pay or a one time bonus for the deputies and the Auditor was presented due to the additional work requested from the Auditor's Office at the request of the Council and required by the reporting for the ACA (Affordable Care Act). He provided the Council with the savings in costs due to his office taking over work that had been done by consultants for the budgets and of the unused budget funds returned to the County by his office over the past 5 years which totaled around \$163,000.00. This request was denied.

At the end of the day Council President Smith recessed the meeting to 9/4/2015 at 8:00am.

9/4/2015:

Council President Dephane Smith reconvened the budget review meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. All Council Members were present initially as well as Auditor Bill Wagner and Deputy Danielle Peetz.

Council Member Warren was required to leave at 8:30 am due to a Township food giveaway and Council Member Pindell left to be with his son who had been admitted to the hospital the night before. Council member Warren returned at 1:00 pm.

At 1:00 Auditor Wagner presented a revised request for the Auditor's Ineligible Fund to include a one time bonus for the deputies. This request did not use any county tax funds but was also denied.

Prosecutor—Mr. Ric Hertel appeared to discuss his budget for 2016 and advise the Council he had requested additional funding from the Indiana Criminal Justice Department for Victim Assistance but was yet to receive any notification where the request stood.

Veterans—Mr. Ken Hylton presented his 2016 budget with a request to increase the pay for his part time person and revise her job description and duties. This request was denied.

The Council continued to review the budget requests and at the end of the day Council President Dephane Smith recessed the budget review meeting to 9/9/2015 at 6:00pm.

9/9/2015:

Council Member Dephane Smith reconvened the budget review meeting with the Pledge to the Flag. All Council members were present except Council Member Warren and Pindell. Auditor Bill Wagner as well as Deputy

Sheriff Cumberworth spoke about the CAD (Computer Assisted Dispatch) for the County and his request to use Spillman as the provider of the system. Council Member Decker moved to approve a transfer of \$69,000.00 from Building Improvement and \$100,000.00 from Land to Machinery and Equipment in the Riverboat-Belterra Fund. Council Member Armbrecht seconded and the motion passed with 5 yes. This provided the funds for the Spillman CAD purchase.

Sheriff Cumberworth was also advised to get the water softener system for the jail and courthouse and use funds available in Building improvements in Riverboat Belterra.

Council Member Armbrecht stated that all other requests by office holders could be covered by funds available in the 2016 budget as approved by the commissioners if they so chose.

With no further business to come before the Council a motion to adjourn the Budget Reviews was made by Council Member Wetzler with a second from Council Member Armbrecht. Motion passed with 5 yes.

“ AYE “

“NAY”

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Dephane Smith, Council President

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Dephane Smith, Council President

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ATTEST:

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William Lee Wagner

Auditor, Ripley County

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William Lee Wagner