

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 4, 2019**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised for the public hearing on the 2020 proposed budgets. Council members in attendance were: President David A Etienne, Pro-tem Luke Thomas, Charles Baumeister, Lynn Fulkerson, Earla Williams, and Danny Bolin. Absent from the meeting was Steve Goodson. A representative from the Perry County News was also present along with Council Attorney S. Rod Acchiardo.

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 2020 budget requests in the following order:

The Council allowed a five minute limit for each department to speak.

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 a binding unit. He stated that their budget is \$16,000.00 less than in 2019. Ken said they are less because of commodities. He also stated that their funds do not come from County dollars.

PERRY COUNTY CLERK

Clerk Mandi Mogan informed the Council that there is a significant increase in the Election Budget for 2020. It will be a Presidential race next year. She also stated there is an increase in the line item for Absentee Board Members. She would like to hire two more people to help before the election. This position takes care of the early voting and sending out absentee letters. Mandi also said that early voting has increased by fifty percent. She also moved the office supplies line item back to County General fund.

SOIL AND WATER DISTRICT

Coordinator Darlene Fischer informed the Council that they provide technical and education to the Perry County landowners and the producers. There are five supervisors that oversee the office and their board members are all volunteer. She also said they do a lot of grants such as the clean water grant and bring money into the County. Darlene said her job entails doing all the financial recording, hold educational programs and office duties. She also stated they need to put more dollars into the Deer Creek Lake Expenses to keep back if needed. There are certain requirements that need to be met for this.

RIDE SOLUTION

Becky Guthrie, Director of Ride Solution, thanked the Council for the past funding they have received for ten years 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 and every year they ask for more and get cut to \$3,000.00. She said they take individuals to doctor visits, employment, stores and school for day to day living. They cannot continue without County support. Once Ride Solution is gone from the County, it is gone. Becky said lots of people depend on this. There are so many reasons to have Ride Solution in Perry County. She also said they are asking \$7,000.00 for 2020. They partner with Council on Aging and SIRS.

PERRY COUNTY TREASURER

Treasurer Paul Alvey said he has four line items for the Council to consider that he would like changed since turning in his budget. He would like to increase Supplies by \$360.00 to make it \$1,600.00 for cartridges for printers and paper, Tax Statement Mailing increase \$900.00 to make it \$11,000.00 because Worrell will no longer be printing tax statements which is who our contract is with now, and increase Travel \$300.00 to make it \$1,000.00 because he is over budget this year and need to send new staff to training, and increase Equipment Repair \$1,000.00 to make it \$1,200.00 because their equipment is

old. He stated that he has computers that won't be supported soon and wants to get rid of the validators for processing checks they have now. Paul wants to eliminate the validators and go with an encoder system. He wants to partner with a bank for this. His new budget amount would be \$121,097.00.

HIGHWAY-Restricted and Non-Restricted, LOCAL ROAD AND STREET AND CUMULATIVE BRIDGE

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, read all the changes they made to their budgets. In the Cumulative Bridge budget, they moved culverts to the Restricted Motor Vehicle Highway fund and reduced the guard rails line item. He said Local Road & Street budget is reduced. They can't buy equipment from this fund. The Motor Vehicle Highway fund has been divided into Restricted and Non-Restricted funds. Steve said they have to show 50% of the Restricted money used on County Roads. He said he has talked to Representative Stephen Bartels about the 50% usage and they may try to get this changed. In the Non-Restricted fund, they made several cuts such as Travel, Printing and several items. Stone was moved from this budget to other Hwy budgets. He also commented that the salaries look different because they are divided between the two budgets.

SIRS - SOUTHERN INDIANA RESOURCE SOLUTIONS

Kelly Mitchell, CEO/President of SIRS thanked the Council for the years of support they have received. They are not asking for an increase again just the continued support. She said they have a lot of services for those with disabilities. They are a big part of the County and very proud to have residents to stay in the County and finding jobs for them. She said they are a strong economic partner.

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

Prosecuting Attorney, Jason Hoch, explained that he had some increases in his budgets. He informed the Council that he has had a State Audit concerning his IV-D budget. One big change from this audit was how the rent was being calculated and paid. He needs to pay more in the Prosecutor budget and less from the IV-D Child Support budget. Jason said he would like to increase the Office Manager salary the same as a First Deputy position is paid. In the Pretrial budget, this revenue comes from fees collected in the Clerk's office. He would like to assist the Sheriff office and the Tell City Police with purchasing body cams from the donation line item. Next is the IV-D Child Support budget, the part time position paid from here was a split with the IV-D incentive fund of the Prosecutor. Jason is asking for the full salary to be paid from County General for 2020. It will be 2/3's reimbursed. He said there is no budget for the Check Collection fund.

SHERIFF & JAIL

Sheriff Malone said he is asking for two additional deputies for next year. He said we are a smaller county and we have more concerns regarding keeping citizens safe and also the law enforcement. Sheriff also commented that there is not adequate coverage at times to cover the whole county. He stated he is losing a deputy for 25 weeks in 2020 for military service and plus it is hard to cover shifts with the vacation time. He would like to alleviate solo coverage and increase proactive patrols. Sheriff Malone said sometimes they have to cover the City of Cannelton and may only have one deputy on duty. Charlie asked about the vehicles. Sheriff said if he gets two deputies, he would take care of the cars. He will figure it out. He is also looking into getting a transport van.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

Leonard Hahus, representative of the Fairgrounds, explained that they are privately owned and they maintain the facility to be used by 4H'ers and public use. 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. Some of these rentals are at no cost. Leonard said they need to continue to maintain the buildings and keep it thriving. They rely on the revenue from the County and other sources. It is a great asset to our county. He said they are asking \$10,000.00 for 2020.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Sharon Schaefer, 4H Council board member and 4H leader for 54 years, wanted to explain what goes on with 4H. She said this year they had 322 youth members which

is an increase of 11% and 85 adults. Sharon said they do a lot of fundraisers, write grants and charge a fee for using the buildings. They have volunteers that help set up for 4H. They put in many hours through the year. They are asking for \$10,000.00 from the County.

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 \$7.00 from the State. The Contractual Service is set by Purdue and it is non-negotiable in price. She said this pays for 2 ½ educators and they have 1 support staff. She stated that Purdue puts in more than 50%. Cathy said they have put in for summer help again and in the past, grants have helped with this. She said their job is to support and assist volunteers plus many other jobs.

ANIMAL BOARD

Herbert Landers with the Animal Board said he originally asked for \$10,000.00 and have the local vets do a seminar. His second letter was for \$5,000.00 and to continue with the PET Education program. He said they at least need this. It is yearly training for the kids.

PERRY COUNTY EMS

EMS Interim Director Sharla Zellers said they were asking for \$103,117.00 for new stretchers or cots for the ambulances. She said they need stabilization in all the vehicles to reduce the risk of injury for all involved. The cots are standard throughout the State.

PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

Perry County Auditor informed the Council that she will be losing her First Deputy as of January 1, 2020. She knows with budgets being tight, She is offering to split a full time position with the Assessor's office. Connie Berger is a main factor in my office with her job and knowledge. She has already been assigning some of her duties to the other employees. With all the jobs and responsibilities in her office, she cannot totally do without someone else to help. This will still keep someone full time between the two offices, but in my budget, this will cut \$13,571.00 and in the Assessor's budget it will cut \$4,105.00, totaling \$17,676.00 with this years' salary. Luke asked about the increase in the Plat Book fund. Auditor Goffinet said it is for new computers because ours will no longer be updated starting next year.

INDIANA REGION 15

Lisa Gehlhausen with Indiana Region 15 appeared before the Council saying they are not asking for an increase from 2019 amount. They are asking for the same \$10,830.00. She serves in six counties in our region. She said they value the County's participation and continued support. Lisa did mention that 2010 was when the last census was done and there will be a new one in 2020 for population numbers. She then went over figures on Federal funded grants.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUDGETS

There were no other comments on the 2020 budget requests. The hearing was closed.

FIRST READING OF 2020 BUDGET REQUESTS

President David Etienne conducted the first reading of all 2020 departmental budget requests as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Total Budget Request</u>
Clerk of Circuit Court	\$ 199,917
County Auditor	\$ 195,238
Treasurer	\$ 118,537
Recorder	\$ 98,989
County Sheriff	\$ 602,686
County Surveyor	\$ 9,835

County Coroner	\$ 38,758
County Assessor	\$ 124,395
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 76,618
Extension Service	\$ 132,737
Veterans Service	\$ 30,622
County Council	\$ 41,560
Election Board	\$ 117,443
Commissioners	\$1,887,480
Animal Shelter	\$ 20,000
Planning & Zoning	\$ 17,100
Courthouse	\$ 132,128
Circuit Court	\$ 523,222
Emergency Management	\$ 143,072
Jail	\$ 502,679
4-D Child Support	\$ 109,365
Soil Conservation	\$ 35,317
Parks and Recreation	\$ 153,801
County General Total	\$5,311,499
Health Department Fund	\$ 245,917
Cumulative Bridge Fund	\$ 306,701
Property Reassessment – 2015	\$ 116,244
Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 193,652
LIT Special Legislation	\$ 903,000
Clerks Record Perpetuation	\$ 4,400
Sales Disclosure-Co Share	\$ 400
Emergency Planning/Right to Know	\$ 3,967
Enhanced Access	\$ 12,452
Identification Security Program	\$ 2,700
Local Road & Street	\$ 443,767
LOIT Public Safety – County Share	
Sheriff	\$ 158,599
Commissioners	\$ 418,477
Jail	\$ 220,144
Highway Administration	\$ 124,291
Highway Maintenance & Repair	\$ 374,410
Highway General & Undistributed	\$ 940,729
Hwy Restricted-Administration	\$ 54,152
Hwy-Restr-Mnt and Repair	\$ 693,929
Hwy-Restr-General and Undistr.	\$ 290,000
Park & Rec Non-Reverting Fund	\$ 1,500
Plat Book Fund	\$ 14,800
Riverboat – County Share	
Commissioners	\$ 5,400
Courthouse	\$ 20,000
Sex & Violent Offender-Sheriff	\$ 1,750
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	\$ 282,820
Supplemental Adult Probation	\$ 101,923
Jury Fee	\$ 3,000
Pretrial Diversion	\$ 72,058
Surplus, Surtax & Wheel Tax	\$ 200,000
Jail Operations	\$ 272,750
Inmate Housing	\$ 18,000
Perry County Recycling Management	\$ 497,666
Airport Authority	\$ 52,905
Airport Authority – Cumulative Building	\$ 40,650

The next meeting will be the all day budget preparation on Tuesday, September 10th and Wednesday, September 11th and Thursday, September 12th at 8:00 a.m. all three days at the Armory Annex building.

There being no further business, Earla made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Luke seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0, with adjournment at 6:30 p.m.

Minutes approved this 24th day of October, 2019.

President, Perry County Council

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