

**PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING
SEPTEMBER 15, 2021**

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. as was duly advertised for the public hearing on the 2022 proposed budgets. Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas, David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Lynn Fulkerson, Earla Williams, Danny Bolin, and Paul Malone.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Paul made the motion to approve the agenda as is, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 7-0.

TREASURER REQUEST

First Deputy Dawn Baumeister came before the Council requesting to hire in additional help for one week for a project that has to be finished. The Treasurer is out of the office at the time being. The funding is already in place. Danny made the motion to approve, seconded by Lynn. Motion carried 6-0 with Charlie abstaining.

PUBLIC HEARING SPEAKERS

Several elected officials, department heads, and representatives of other various agencies receiving county tax dollars were present. They spoke concerning their 2022 budget requests in the following order:

AGENCIES:

SOUTHERN INDIANA RESOURCE SOLUTIONS (SIRS)

Cheryl Mullis with SIRS thanked the Council for their continued support. She informed them that their CEO resigned and as of now she is doing the job. She said she is moving forward with a vision. They are requesting \$45,000 for 2022. They struggled in 2020 with a \$399,000 loss due to additional expenses in payroll in retention pay, hazard pay, COVID and FMLA. She said they did receive \$98,000 in Provider Relief funds and some in grants. She also stated their services are growing rapidly and that they are a viable part of local economy in Tell City and Troy. In 2022, they are planning to expand day program services. They also want to secure funding for renovations at the Troy facility.

WILLIAM TELL SENIOR CITIZENS

Brenda Powers, President of the Wm. Tell Center, came before the Council and also thanked them for their support last year. They are a non-profit organization run by a Board of Directors. Individuals play cards, bingo, line dancing and on Saturdays they have a band. Their goal is to be more open during the day and have movies for the seniors during the week. They are the only place that has recreational functions for seniors. It keeps them active, gives exercise, and helps their minds. Some of them live alone and this is a place for them to go to get out and socialize. No one gets paid there, they are all volunteers. All the money they make, goes to the center. In 2022, they are getting a new center in the old German American Bank downtown. They will have more room. The city is going to pay for the utilities. She said in other areas, the cities and counties help supplement the centers.

RIDE SOLUTION

Beth Browning with Ride Solution said they appreciated the support of \$6,000 for this year. Public Transportation is important in every county. She said they continued to run through COVID getting people to doctor appointments, dialysis, trips to nursing homes. She said nothing has changed for them.

INDIANA 15 REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

Lisa Gehlhausen with Indiana Region 15 appeared before the Council saying they are not asking for an increase from 2021 amount. They are asking for the same \$10,830.00. Indiana 15 was established in 1973 and in 2023, they will be 50 years old. She serves in six counties in our region with 21 towns and several cities in those counties. She said they value the County's participation and continued support. They use the money to write grants for cities and towns at no cost. She went over a list of projects that they done for Perry County in 2021 and what to look forward to in 2022.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H FAIRGROUNDS

Chris Temple, President of the Fairgrounds, said their mission is to provide a safe facility for 4H and other organizations. They promote 4H and help to develop the youth. He informed the Council that they hold several events there and to continue this, it comes with a price. They do offer the facility at no cost to 4H and other organizations such as United Way, FFA events, and for an Election site. They also support the Farm to Table event each year. They do offer reservations for graduation parties, weddings and parties. The fair was cancelled in 2020. He commented they did some remodeling in the swine barn and bathrooms. Also, other updating and renovating parts throughout. Chris said it takes around \$50,000 a year to maintain the facility. He said they are asking for \$10,000 for 2022 to help out along with grants, sponsorships, and rentals they receive. They are a great asset to the community.

PERRY COUNTY 4-H COUNCIL

Cathy Boerste, 4H Youth Educator, along with Cecelia and Ankita wanted to explain what goes on with 4H. Cathy said 4H teaches. The youth learn skills for the future such as time management, leadership and team work. They have many opportunities for 4Her's to get involved in. Our young 4Her's learn a lot from the older members as well. One of the girls said they joined in the 8th grade and it taught her to balance her time, leadership and organizational skills. She said you gain leadership and confidence while in 4H. Also, you do a lot of volunteering to give back to the community. Cathy said the money is used to keep fees low, accessible and affordable for all. They still offer programs during the pandemic but in a different way such as outdoors or remotely. The money also helps with manuals, judges, awards, camp, trips, and special events in a year. They are asking for \$10,000 but any amount is helpful.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Council allowed the Health Department to speak early since they are doing a vaccine clinic today. Sara Gehlhausen and Tara Lucas, nurses, represented the Health Department. They said the budget is same, only asking for salaries from the health fund. Sara said her base salary is \$39,038 and Tara's is \$33,389 and with 2 different grants which they are luck to get, it makes their salary higher. Sara's increases to \$51,000. She is asking for 2022 that her base salary of the \$51,000 never drop and the same for Tara's new amount. The low base salary before the grants is not sustainable. Tara spoke up asking how can we show we are owed these amounts or what do we need to do to prove for the salaries owed. The have invited for all the Council to come out. Earla said there is no doubt they are worth that and consider who carried the county the last 18 months. Sara said they don't want to go anywhere else. They want to keep the staff together. They said they are struggling. CEO of PCMH, Brian Herwig, spoke up saying they are worthy of a raise and know that budgets are tight. He informed the Council that they are going to lose them and not be able to replace them at that pay. They are losing nurses at the hospital also.

PERRY COUNTY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

Chief Financial Officer, Veronica Marin, said they are asking for \$338,974 for 2022 Ambulance Services. She said their expenses have increased since the June proposal that was sent in. In their operating expense, they are looking at a billing and software company to help finding all charges they need to find. This will give more patient revenue. She said St. Vincent uses a company. The cost is around \$82,000. Also, part of the increase is for salary and wages. Currently, their workers are the lowest in pay.

COUNCIL ON AGING

Jesse Watkins with Council on Aging, came before the Council and said he has appreciated the 47 years of support from the County. He said they are asking for \$30,000 which is an additional of \$3,000 that was given. They have expanded their services in the last two years. They are the leading transportation provider in the county. He said they are the largest in the county and the longest serving. They have a good client support. Jesse said anyone covered by Health Insurance is covered for transportation. They are here to serve county people. The money goes back to Perry County residents and they don't bring people in from other counties. For 2021, they made 1715 one-way trips with total trips being 2633. He said they do operate a center three to four hours a week. There is always somebody that needs help.

Luke commented that the County is funding three organizations in transportation. It is something to think about.

DEPARTMENTS:

PERRY COUNTY CLERK

Clerk Rachel Roark could not make it to the meeting but supplied a letter that Luke read to the Council members. She remarked how the Clerks office and the Council came to an agreement that resulted in converting a full-time position into part time. They unvoluntarily agreed with this and have struggled to keep up with the work load but they had the County's interest in mind. She also commented that another issue is in hiring a part time person. With low pay and no incentive to come, it repels anyone with any interest. She said the turnover rate has been high in her office and spends more time training employees. In concluding, she is formally requesting to have the part time position returned to full time.

PERRY COUNTY AUDITOR

Pam Goffinet, Perry County Auditor, came before the Council requesting a shared position with the Assessor's office be put back to full time in her office. She informed them that she approached the Council with this change a couple of years ago at budget time and has tried to make this work, but with the workload in her office, she needs the extra person. There is a great burden of work on the other girls in her office when one deputy is part time and she is out for meetings and other things that need to be taken care of. Auditor Goffinet also requested an increase in her salary of \$3,787.00 for all the extra meetings having to attend and the minutes that go with that. It takes a lot of extra time away for her.

PERRY COUNTY TREASURER

Dawn Baumeister, Chief Deputy Treasurer, came before the Council for Treasurer Amanda Lasher and said they are asking for a 3% raise in salaries. She commented that the rest of the budget is the same.

PERRY COUNTY CORONER

Warren Taylor, Coroner, gave a handout to the Council members on a lift system for the new vehicle. It is a power load lift that one person can do by themselves. He says they cannot handle the striker cot from PCMH. It takes two or more people to load the cot. This new lift will help save on injuries. He would like the Council to think about this because he did not add it in his budget for 2022. It costs around \$22,000 and can pay on a 3-year payment plan. Installation is not included in price which is \$1500. He also said the old mounting system will not work on the new one. It will have to have a whole new deck. They could get \$1000 trade in for it. As far as the rest of the budget, he asked for an increase in salaries, more in gas because of bigger vehicle, and more in association dues because of extra deputy.

PERRY COUNTY PROSECUTOR

Perry County Prosecutor Jason Hoch informed the Council that his budgets were much in line with the current budgets. He did put in for a salary increase. He said the rent is going up 3% and does every year. Charlie commented they have been looking at other locations for the office. He said he put an appropriation in for computers in the prosecutor budget for an antivirus protection on 7 computers.

COUNTY EXTENSION

Cathy Boerste, Extension Educator CED, along with the other two agents came before the Council stating that they do services in 3 areas. They said the county helps to pay for two and half educators out of contractual services. The funding provides to have educators in the county. She said the county gets a lot of other services from them too. She said if the county cuts back on their funding, then it affects the overall budget of Purdue. Personnel is the most important. They have one clerical position and asking for summer help again during 4H Fair. She said they do need operating costs. Travel has been less in the past year but are hoping to be back out in public more. She explained that paying the mileage for travel has changed. They turn it into the County now and try to use the county vehicle most of the time.

Luke commented that the Commissioners and the Council are asking for no raises in 2022. In the Planning & Zoning budget, the per diem is up for new zoning maps. For the Emergency Management budget, the salaries were taken out of the E-911 fund.

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

Steve Howell, Highway Superintendent, went over all the changes that they had put in their budgets for 2022. He did say they have a big bridge to replace in 2022. He informed them that steel has increased in price. They put in 5% for a salary increase for employees and have that in the budget. He did mention that at this time they have not replace the operator that left. Hoping to see if can get by without filling the position.

PUBLIC COMMENT ON BUDGETS

There were no other comments on the 2022 budget requests. The hearing was closed.

FIRST READING OF 2022 BUDGET REQUESTS

President Luke Thomas conducted the first reading of all 2022 departmental budget requests as follows:

<u>Department</u>	<u>Total Budget Request</u>
Clerk of Circuit Court	\$ 199,985
County Auditor	\$ 289,522
Treasurer	\$ 203,186
Recorder	\$ 103,116
County Sheriff	\$ 600,979
County Surveyor	\$ 9,898
County Coroner	\$ 39,800
County Assessor	\$ 125,533
Prosecuting Attorney	\$ 73,466
Extension Service	\$ 137,990
Veterans Service	\$ 33,002
County Council	\$ 39,921
Election Board	\$ 75,760
Commissioners	\$2,389,904
Animal Shelter	\$ 35,000
Planning & Zoning	\$ 13,689
Courthouse	\$ 135,700
Circuit Court	\$ 614,201
Emergency Management	\$ 142,063
Jail	\$ 530,084
4-D Child Support	\$ 106,903
Soil Conservation	\$ 40,144
Parks and Recreation	\$ 157,461
County General Total	\$6,097,307
Health Department Fund	\$ 298,161
Cumulative Bridge Fund	\$ 326,700
Property Reassessment – 2015	\$ 126,683

Cumulative Capital Development	\$ 217,422
LIT Special Legislation	\$ 940,000
Clerks Record Perpetuation	\$ 3,900
Sales Disclosure-Co Share	\$ 500
Emergency Planning/Right to Know	\$ 3,767
Enhanced Access	\$ 26,938
Identification Security Program	\$ 2,700
Local Road & Street	\$ 330,000
LOIT Public Safety – County Share	
Sheriff	\$ 184,618
Commissioners	\$ 401,287
Jail	\$ 240,268
Highway Administration	\$ 100,038
Highway Maintenance & Repair	\$ 288,135
Highway General & Undistributed	\$ 663,836
Hwy Restricted-Administration	\$ 79,797
Hwy-Restr-Mnt and Repair	\$ 546,910
Hwy-Restr-General and Undistr.	\$ 385,392
Plat Book Fund	\$ 17,168
Riverboat – County Share	
Commissioners	\$ 3,400
Courthouse	\$ 20,000
Sex & Violent Offender-Sheriff	\$ 1,400
Supplemental Public Defender	\$ 3,650
Corner Perpetuation – Surveyor	\$ 5,000
Co Election Official Training-Clerk	\$ 800
Co Election Official Training-Auditor	\$ 800
Co Election Official Training-Treasurer	\$ 800
Co Election Official Training-Recorder	\$ 800
Co Election Official Training-Surveyor	\$ 800
Statewide 911	\$ 283,000
LIT – PSAS-911 Dispatch	\$ 200,000
Supplemental Adult Probation	\$ 75,070
Jury Fee	\$ 3,000
Pretrial Diversion	\$ 70,049
Surplus, Surtax & Wheel Tax	\$ 350,000
Jail Operations	\$ 263,891
Inmate Housing -Sheriff	\$ 59,527
-Jail	\$ 80,527
Perry County Recycling Management	\$ 528,130
Airport Authority	\$ 50,370
Airport Authority – Cumulative Building	\$ 281,713

The next meeting will be the all-day budget preparation on Tuesday, September 28th and Wednesday, September 29th and Thursday, September 30th at 8:00 a.m. all three days at The Depot in Tell City.

There being no further business, Paul made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Danny seconded the motion. Motion carried 7-0, with adjournment at 6:50 p.m.

Minutes approved this 18th day of November, 2021.

President, Perry County Council

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

