PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL
MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 16, 2015

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 8:00 a.m. for the adoption of the 2016 budgets as had been duly advertised. Council members present were President Steve Goodson, Dianne Rudolph, Jim Adams, Jody French, John J Taylor and Ron Crawford Sr. Danny Bolin was absent. Assisting from the auditor's office staff were Auditor Pamela Goffinet, Chief Deputy Connie Berger, Deputy Susan Harpenau, and Deputy Erin Rogier and from the Commissioner's office the County Administrator, Teresa Kanneberg. There was no media present. Representatives from several county departments were present at various times during the day-long session.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

BUDGET EXPLANATION

Council members had proposed budgets before them, of which budget requests exceeded the estimated maximum levy by approximately $816,688 for those funds within the state's maximum levy guidelines (being the County General, Health, Property Reassessment, and Cumulative Bridge funds). The estimated levy was calculated at approximately $3,567,740 with the published dollars to be raised at approximately $4,384,428. County Auditor Pamela Goffinet explained that for 2016 the max levy could only be increased by 2.6% which is the amount of tax dollars that could be raised from 2015 to 2016 within the 4 levied funds which totals to $82,175.

SALARIES

Council President, Steve Goodson stated that in the past salaries have always been done first to help with the figuring. This year he would like to make a suggestion to review each budget, see what cuts can be made, and then see if raises can be given.

Ron commented that he would like to see bonuses given instead of raises because raises just add onto the salary year after year, and a bonus would be more equal and fair. He stated that if they can't give a bonus at this time, then all salaries should remain at the 2015 amounts, and then bonuses could be reviewed after cuts are made from the budgets.

Jim made the motion to take the salaries back to 2015 amount with exceptions, seconded by Ron. Motion carried 6-0.

BUDGETS - SECOND READING

In order to meet the necessary requirements of the second reading of the budgets, all budgets were read individually for the second time by the Council President as each budget was addressed throughout the meeting.

BUDGET CUT SUGGESTIONS

There was much discussion between the Council members and interested office holders on different ideas on where and how to make cuts within the levy funds. Councilwoman Dianne commented on doing the cuts by a percentage method for each department. Some offices would be making bigger cuts than others according to their budget amount. She stated that each department would have to say where the cuts could be made.

Clerk Mandy Mogan stated that in some cases they would not be comparing apples to apples because she has a big increase in the election budget for next year due to the Presidential and County races.

Judy Pund, Treasurer, stated she is not in favor of this way because she has already given up a lot since she took office. She would like to see them take line by line for the cuts.

Steve said there are some big items that they need to look at first. Jim and Jody also commented about making the large cuts first, and then go to the budgets and go line by line.

Assessor Mendy Lassaline suggested to the Council that in other counties, the Council split up departments among themselves and go over their budget requests to see what can be cut. This would be an idea going forward.

The large items reviewed and cut in the beginning were:

County General budget

- Sheriff budget – Pension $ 109,141
- Sheriff budget – Car $ 35,000
- Commissioner budget – Ambulance Service $ 152,739
- Commissioners budget - Ambulance Equipment - Ron made a motion to allow the purchase of 4 cardiac monitors instead of 5 as requested with a 3 year lease of approximately $36,000.00 each year and also for the purchase of 4 laptop docking stations and installation. Jim seconded the motion in the amount of $40,500.00. Motion carried 6-0. ($134,315 was cut from the General Fund)

County General budget cont.

- Soil and Water budget – Deer Creek Lake Expenses $ 13,200
- Animal Shelter – Shelter contract $ 10,000
- Jail budget – Jail Officer/Sargent (2) $ 59,038
- Jail budget – added 1 more Jail Officer + $ 26,869
- IV-D Child Support budget – part time Admin. Asst. $ 8,309
- Extension budget – Summer Asst. $ 3,465

It was stated that the Public Health Initiative Nurse's health insurance could be paid from another fund thru the Health Department.

Health budget

- Health insurance $ 8,670

COIT budget

- Council on Aging $ 2,500
- Ride Solutions $ 1,000
- Chamber of Commerce $ 10,000
- 4H Building Operations & Maintenance $ 5,000
- 4H Premiums and Expenses $ 5,000
- Council on Aging $ 2,500

With the $23,500 cut from the COIT budget, the Council then moved $23,500 from County General Commissioners liability insurance to liability insurance in the COIT budget.

BUDGET APPROVALS

The County Council proceeded with reviewing, discussing, and approving each individual departmental budget with most budgets being approved with some amendments, as follows:

County Clerk Mandy Mogan explained that $8,000 can be cut from line item – Maintenance – CSI Computer System. She said she could pay this from Clerks Record Perpetuation fund or Clerks IV-D Incentive fund. The Council was pleased that she was able to reduce her budget. Jim made the motion to approve the Clerk's budget in the amount of $194,378 as amended. John seconded the motion, and motion carried 6-0.

Jody made the motion to approve the Auditor's budget in the amount of $180,297 as amended. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Treasurer Judy Pund informed the Council that the ONB Lock Box Expense is new for 2016. She further explained that for the past 10 years we should have been charged for this service, but the bank waived the charges. The Council would like to for her to get quotes from other banks for a comparison in price. Jim made a motion to approve the Treasurer's budget in the amount of $111,451 as amended. John seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1 with Ron voting against.

Ron made the motion to approve the Recorder's budget in the amount of $95,097 as amended. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Sheriff Lee Chestnut was called regarding his budget and Matron Jayne Glenn attended. There were questions about Insurance – Auxiliary Deputies and Internet amounts. Jayne informed the Council that they have to have 2 systems for the internet. Comcast is for video conferencing and PSC for emails. She told the Council that they could cut the line item back to $1000 and the rest could be covered with Commissary funds in 2016. Jim made the motion to approve the Sheriff budget in the amount of $406,609 as amended. John seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Sheriff Chestnut then came in and said the same could be done with the Auxiliary Insurance. It was cut by $600 and the rest will come from the Commissary fund. Jim made the motion to approve the Sheriff's budget in the amount of $406,009, as amended. Jody seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Dianne made a motion to approve the Surveyor's budget in the amount of $6,000 as amended. Ron seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Dianne made the motion to approve the Coroner's budget in the amount of $29,435 as amended. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

It was stated that the Assessor's level of pay increased by law due to her being Level III certified. Jim made the motion to approve the County Assessor's budget in the amount of $125,359 as amended. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Jody made the motion to approve the Prosecuting Attorney's budget in the amount of $24,065 as amended. Jim seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Jim made the motion to approve the County Extension Service budget in the amount of $118,844 as amended. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Jim made the motion to approve the Veteran's Service budget in the amount of $25,890 as amended. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0

Dianne made a motion to cut the Council's salary by 10%. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1 with John voting against. John stated that he voted against the motion because in the beginning it was voted on to keep all salaries at the 2015 rates. Jim made the motion to approve the County Council budget in the amount of $39,708 as amended. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

It was stated that the Election budget is higher for next year because of the Presidential and County elections in 2016. After some discussion on the Election budget, Jim made the motion to approve the Election Board budget in the amount of $71,530 as amended. The second was made by Jody, motion carried 6-0.

The Council broke for lunch.

Jim made the motion to cut the Commissioners salaries by 10%. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-1 with John voting against. After much discussion, Jim made the motion to change the Part Time Administrator to Full Time Administrator with the salary of $27,254 which is the same as the First Deputy salary. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0. Jim made the motion to approve the Commissioners budget in the amount of $770,457 as amended, seconded by Jody. Motion carried 6-0.

Jim made the motion to approve the Animal Shelter budget in the amount of $20,000 as amended. The motion was seconded by John, and motion carried 6-0.

Jim made a motion to approve the Planning & Zoning budget in the amount of $12,666 as amended. Jody seconded the motion and motion carried 6-0.

Jim made the motion to approve the Courthouse budget in the amount of $138,092 as amended. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Dianne questioned the position of the Probation Officer. The Probation Officer was moved to County General because the Supplemental Probation Fund does not have enough funds to support this position. Also Auditor Goffinet explained the amounts requested for the Chief Probation Officer and the Probation Officer are based on the 2106 salary schedule adopted by the State. Jody made the motion to approve the Circuit Court budget in the amount of $421,526 as amended. Jim seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Steve Hauser, EMA Director, explained changes and amounts in his budget questioned by the Council. Jim made the motion to approve the Emergency Management budget in the amount of $143,808 as amended. Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

After a lengthy discussion among the Council, Jim made a motion to change the title of First Matron to Administrative Assistant and pay the Jail Commander and Administrative Assistant the same amount. There is no increase, it was taking the 2015 salaries added together and dividing by 2. Council called Sheriff Chestnut to answer questions regarding other Jail budget items. Lee explained the increases in the Part Time Jailer and Part time Matron salaries. It was due to figuring in the vacation, personal and sick time for the other jailers and matrons. Lee also commented on why he done the change from the First Matron to Administrative Assistant and the increase to the Jail Commander. He said the job duties of the First Matron have changed over the years. She is doing more administrative work than working with the inmates. On the Jail Commander position, the job duties are not changing;

but Lee feels he is under paid due to the liability of the positon. After more discussion, Ron made the suggestion to keep the Personal Services part of the Jail budget the same as it was in 2015, and Dianne agreed. Jim made the motion to revert the personal services in the Jail budget back to the 2015 amounts and positons seconded by Ron. Motion carried 6-0. Auditor Goffinet stated that the line item for Meals for Prisoners was added to County General because of not enough revenue in Jail Operations fund. Jim made the motion to approve the Jail budget in the amount of $485,492 as amended. John seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0, with Dianne absent.

The Council then went to Jail Operations budget while the Sheriff was present to answer any questions. Lee commented that the Medical Service Contract was increased by $8,000 due to the new law on inmates filing for Medicaid.

According to the Prosecutor, the line item Part-time Administrative Assistant can be cut to $15,280. The remaining portion will be paid from the Prosecuting Attorney IV-D Incentive fund as it has been in the past. Jim made the motion to approve the 4-D Child Support budget in the amount of $114,593 as amended. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Auditor Pam Goffinet explained to the Council that the Soil & Water budget was changed this year to one line item for Operating Expenses instead of several line items. This funding is used to supplement their budget. Jim made the motion to approve the Soil Conservation budget in the amount of $33,570 as amended. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Since the Health Department was present, the Council moved onto the Health budget. Health Nurse, Sara Gehlhausen explained that the position of the Public Health Initiative Nurse was a onetime move from the Local Health Maintenance fund. The State Health Department would allow a onetime match of $33,139 dollar for dollar. By moving the Health Initiative Nurse into the Health Fund, all other line items within the current health budget will be paid out of the Local Health Maintenance fund in 2016. If the County Council accepts this offer from the State Department of Health for 2016 then they cannot change it back to the way it was before this change. Jim made the motion to approve the Health fund in the amount of $194,533 as amended, seconded by Jody. Motion carried 6-0. A letter will be written for the September 30, 2015 budget adoption meeting that will require the Council President's signature.

There was much discussion between the Council members regarding the Park and Recreation budget. Dianne made the comment that since the current director has resigned this would be the time to look into making changes to this budget. She asked why the board can't do the administrative part and do a contract for the mowing. She commented that Tell City has only a part time director to do all their parks and boat ramp. It was decided to call Brad Franzman, Park and Recreation Board President, to see if he can come on Thursday morning at 8:00 am to answer some questions before making a motion on this budget.

Dianne made the motion to approve the SIRS budget in the amount of $45,000 as requested. Jody seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

John made the motion to approve the Cumulative Bridge Fund in the amount of $582,266 as requested, seconded by Jim. Motion carried 6-0.

Jim made the motion to approve the Reassessment – 2015 budget in the amount of $86,170 as requested. Dianne made the second to the motion, motion carried 5-1 with Ron voting against the motion.

Auditor Goffinet said this will give the Auditor's staff time to see where the Council is on the cuts that have been made today against their total cuts for 2016 of $816,688.

John made the motion to adjourn the meeting and resume Thursday morning at 8:00 am. Jim made the seconded. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting ended at 5:10 pm.