PERRY COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
WORK SESSION
OCTOBER 15, 2015

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 4:30 p.m. as was duly advertised. Council members in attendance were: Steve Goodson, Jody French, Danny Bolin, Ron Crawford Sr. and John Taylor. Dianne Rudolph came in late and James K Adams. was absent. Council Attorney James G Tyler was present along with a *News Representative* from the Perry County News.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Steve Goodson commented to the public in attendance that this is a work session meeting between the Council members to receive information about the Public Safety Tax (PST). He also reminded the public that there was no outside input unless called upon.

Jody started the meeting by discussing information that she learned from County Auditor Pamela Goffinet and from the Henry County Auditor's Office because their County just passed the PST in September. If the PST is passed before October 31, 2015, the tax will go in effect January 1, 2016. We will start receiving funding in January based on our COIT figures and monthly thereafter. Based on our current COIT figures with a rate of .25 %, the County should receive approximately $407,000.00 which will be $33,916.66 per month. The State will do this for a couple of years before we will know for sure what the amount will actually be. It is the Auditor's recommendation to not spend any of the funds for at least 3 to 6 months to let the fund build up because the funding is coming in monthly. It is also recommended not to do any salaries this first year to make sure the funds will be there to cover biweekly payrolls.

Jody also stated that some of the items the committee is looking to pay from the PST are:

- Ambulance Lease Payment
- Ambulance Equipment
- Meals for Prisoners
- Items from Sheriff's budget – salaries, car, and equipment
- Care of Patients in Institutions
- Jail Budget

Jody said that we need to set goals to build the General fund back to a working level. In other counties including Henry County, they are using the PST to help relieve the General Fund issues.

Dianne stated that when the meeting was held at the Schergen's Center the public wanted to know what the PST was going to be used for and how much would be used for each item. Dianne also commented if the Council is going to consider any new items to be paid from the PST.

Ron commented that if this tax is passed, then they need to look at the new ideas on items. Ron also said we need to help County General to be able to operate. There are certain things that need to be paid. The County Council will make the final decision on what items will be paid from the tax, the Committee just came up with some ideas. He stated the no one from the public was in attendance at the meeting this evening.

Council Attorney, James Tyler, commented that when the COIT and EDIT tax were adopted by Tell City, who was majority at that time, had the similar questions asked of them. Jim informed them that they can't say exactly on what this tax is to be used for, that the leaders of this community need this to provide additional services. He doesn't think the public realizes what property tax caps have done and how the loss of revenue has affected County Government. Property owners just like having the reduced property taxes.

Jim stated that the legislators gave the counties this option to pass this tax and we need to take advantage of it. Danny said he realizes what Dianne is saying, but also that they are addressing public safety.

The Council informed the Auditor to put the Public Safety Tax on the next County Council agenda. Jim Tyler informed them that if passed, there will be a resolution for them to sign.

Steve informed the public that even after the budget session this year going line item by line item to make cuts, this tax is needed. He stated we are a hardship County and the decision on the Public Safety Tax was not taken lightly.

The next meeting will be Thursday, October 22, 2015 at 4:30 p.m.

Dianne made the motion to adjourn the work session, Ron seconded the motion. Motion carried 6-0.

Meeting ended at 5:15 p.m.

_____
President of County Council

Minutes prepared by:
Pamela L Goffinet, Perry County Auditor