

CERTIFICATION OF MINUTES

Date July 18, 2023 (Budget Presentations)

I, Christina Sriver, duly qualified and acting County Auditor for the County of Fulton, Indiana, do hereby certify with regard to all proceedings of the date above; that all of the subjects included in the foregoing proceedings were contained in the agenda for the meeting, kept continually current and available for public inspection at the office of the County Auditor; that such subjects were contained in said agenda for at least twenty-four hours prior to said meeting; that the minutes of the meeting were in written form and available for public inspection immediately following approval of the body which held the meeting; that all news media requesting notification concerning meetings of said body were provided with advance notification of the time and place of said meeting and the subjects to be discussed at said meeting.

Christina Sriver, Fulton County Auditor



FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL
Tuesday, July 18, 2023 (Budget Presentations)

Meeting Called to Order at 8:00 a.m. with Pledge to the Flag. Present: Phyl Olinger, Ron Dittman, Steve Fishburn, Lorie Hurst, Chayse Thompsen, Randy Gundrum, Pete Karas, Deputy Auditor Aubry Franklin and County Auditor Christina Sriver (afternoon only).

COMMISSIONERS – Bryan Lewis reported that the budget request is relative to the 2023 budget. The County Attorney line item is increased but the contract has not yet been received. There is an increase in the request for building and casualty insurance in case there is an increase in premiums.

PUBLIC DEFENDER – MacKenzie Breitenstein reported that there is an increase to postage and conflict attorney has been lowered. The salary of the three full-time contracted attorneys are requested to increase to \$82,000 from \$80,000 (state minimum for reimbursement eligibility).

PARKS AND RECREATION – Bill Walsh reported that the majority of the budget is the same as prior years with an addition. They are in the process of applying for a grant but they won't know until next year if they are approved. The equipment is \$17,000 and is in the contract line.

COUNCIL – Phyl Olinger stated that she requested a salary increase of \$450. Per diems are new for everyone's budget due to a personnel policy change. The remainder of the budget was explained including bond payments and longevity pay.

PROSECUTOR – Mike Marrs is requesting a 10% increase in wages. There is an increase in expert testimony due to a recent trial that ran the budget in the negative. A recent job study revealed that Fulton County is the most understaffed in the state. He would like to begin a victim advocate program that will eventually cost the county some funds but he can primarily pay for it out of the child support incentive funds. The insurance and benefits would have to be covered by the county. There is no budget request for a new position in 2024.

ASSESSOR – Kasey Hensley is asking for a 7% increase in wages based on other offices' requests. The state LEVEL II stipend is \$500 per person. Kasey included a request for conferences and trainings. She requests an increase in pay for the reassessment deputy for \$21.53/hour. She is planning not to renew the Ad Valorem contract as she is undertaking the cyclical reassessment in office.

CLERK – Dawn Ziemek is requesting a 15% increase for the elected official pay and 7% increase for employees. Dawn also provided some information regarding estimates of revenue. She added back in the postal machine for 2024. She increased continuing education, mileage and added in a per diem line item. She requests \$2,000 per year for IT support during elections which is cheaper than having a vendor send someone for IT support. She averaged what other county's pay their election board as a suggestion of wages.

CORONER – Jeri Good reported that there has been growth for the department. Due to specialized training she is able to provide the cleaning for the forensic center. She has negotiated for specialized pricing for labs and X-Rays with Woodlawn Hospital reducing costs by 30%. There are three Deputy Coroners accounted for in the budget and she has increased the budget for \$1,000 per person.

JAIL MAINTENANCE – Chad Calvert presented the budget request. Fire suppression systems reflects an increase as well as cleaning.

DISCUSSION – The Council budget should include \$2,500 for flags for the veteran's cemetery. The Tourism budget has not yet been submitted so the County Auditor used the 2023 budget for the 2024 budget request.

TREASURER – Kathy Adamson is requesting a 5% increase in wages. There is an increase in office supplies. She is requesting a per diem but does not plan to use it.

AREA PLAN COMMISSION – Heather Reddinger included an increase to wages. There is an increase to postage, attorney fees and computer maintenance software.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT – Denise Ostafin is requesting a \$2/hour raise for everyone. A per diem was added by estimation. She increased the line item for interpreter. The Local Health Maintenance Fund (1168) and the Local Health Department Trust Account Fund (1206) are being replaced with the new health funding that Senate Bill 4 provided (Local Public Health Services Fund 1161).

FEDCO – Michael Ladd asks for an extension in preparing a budget request. FEDCO has lost AHEC which is a separate individual organization. Between FEDCO, the Chamber and AHEC the budgets are all intertwined and need to be reviewed. Michael will be able to provide a budget within the next few weeks.

PRUDUE COOPERATIVE EXTENSION – Jessica Riffle presented the 2024 budget request. A 10% raise is being requested in wages. The clerical assistant line item is reduced based on less hours expected to be worked. Office supplies, teaching supplies, and mileage that were reduced in 2023 were increased for the 2024 request. There is a 4% increase in the educator line item as established by Purdue.

CIRCUIT COURT – Judge Lee was unable to attend; Council reviewed the request in his absence.

PROBATION – Andy Holland was unable to attend; Council reviewed the request in his absence.

MAINTENANCE – Kerry Fear is requesting an increase in wages and added an overtime line item. Utilities are increased. Equipment repair & maintenance and building & repair were moved back into county general; it was budgeted from the host fee fund for 2023. The probation building budget was reviewed. It is anticipated that there will need to be work done to the brick near the roof of the building. Commissioner Ranstead commented that the boilers at the courthouse will need to be replaced upcoming. There is no generator at the courthouse currently, Commissioner Ranstead feels there should be.

COMMUNICATIONS/EMA – Gail Karas is requesting a 10% increase in wages. The cleaning services provided daily are not adequate. Evans provides cleaning services and once a year they will clean the consoles. The per diem cannot be included in the 1222 fund as it is not an allowable expense so they are in the LIT budget. At the end of each year Gail reports what it costs to run a 911 center. Last time the Telco tax that was here for our county we didn't do the whole \$3 we did \$1.75 therefore a monthly income only comes here for \$22,600 to Fulton County every month as a distribution because they went off of a tax that Council submitted for Fulton County and other agencies got caught as well they didn't tax the citizens the full amount off their phone bills. At the end of the year she will put whatever budgets including electric and generator and all that at the end of the year and submit that to the state so they know what it costs to operate. So if she says she needs something in her line item she needs the cost to back it up. On the \$22,600 you see monthly once or twice a year you will get a hold harmless one and receive \$41,000-\$43,000 extra from the state. When 911 was implemented it was not meant for the state to fund the whole PSAP center. They always come up with sunshine laws July 1st and there could be a time that is ripped away. When you go the

Director's wages it says dispatcher reimbursement she puts anywhere from \$30,000-\$50,000, just depending, but she tries to remain under a threshold of what deposits we get for the 1222 funds so she doesn't overbudget. There is approximately \$30,000 that she can distribute back to county general for compensation for wages so you can utilize that for benefit or whatever. We no longer have a dispatcher or assistant director out of these funds because it is an HR nightmare balancing the two and switching funds and gets all messed up at the end of the year. She doesn't have too many increases, it's all pretty much the same other than salary and repair and maintenance. The repair and maintenance budget covers the six towers throughout.

EMA – Gail thought the EMA office would be a simple cleanup but it is not. She put a couple of things in there for Craig's services. The Sheriff's department calls him out quite frequently to assist on roadways or such events so she put an increase in for full time. She would like his pay to be increased for his expertise at hand to \$23/hour and if he is to remain part time he gets a call-out stipend pay. For the 4th of July for instance he will work holidays and he coordinates with volunteers to handle major traffic events or whatever event that is for the day. When they call him after hours, he does own his own business so the time he doesn't work he's having to drop things and go out because he does have the passion for the position. So she would like to up to \$23/hour if she could, she knew full time probably wouldn't be in the budget or she needs to go to the group to go see that but that's where you see the \$41,000. She did the full time at 32 hours per week, if it's part time you can remove the benefit package to cover any cost to remain part time status with call outs. It is more expensive to be part time. We get \$18,000 back for a portion of hers and a portion of Craig's and they total it out. But we need to have a minimum of \$36,000 for those positions. For call-outs now he clocks in and out but he doesn't get compensated for working nights and weekends. For holidays he does get time and a half per county policy. Currently he does get time and a half for call outs because he's not full time. If he is full-time he would be compensated at time and a half. If he's part-time we need to have a policy in place with the committee to say that it is done in other departments. The budget can be cut be she wants him compensated for that. If he gets called out in the evening and he has already met 28 hours for the week then Gail goes. Pete suggests that he gets additional pay for being called out on nights or weekends. In Gail's opinion if it is ran right she can justify it being a full-time position. We found in the last year with the cleaning plans and engaging in the community and frees up resources for the Sheriff's department. When there are accidents or spills on US 31 we don't have the fire departments taking the big rig trucks and sending them out anymore so we ramped up the truck and have quite a bit of lights on the truck now. We have 17 volunteers that we can call out but they work during the day as well. The community is realizing the resources we have at the table and that are to be utilized. With EMA what everybody has to remember is that when we have an event or a state declaration of some sort that paperwork has to be done correctly so we can get the reimbursement. She would say in the last 6-7 years that was maybe haphazardly or maybe that knowledge wasn't available at the time of the current director. Craig usually works 24 hours per week; three days a week for eight hours a day. If it was extended it would be 32 and wouldn't take it to the max of 40 hours unless it was needed. When you are called out for EMA you are probably guaranteed to be out for 4 hours. If he was out on 31 for 2 ½ hours she wouldn't expect him to work 4 because there could be extreme hot or cold. Our services on 24/7 are different than say a maintenance job. She has to have the luxury of him being able to go home because it is a mental and physically tiring job. During COVID and what we do as a district, herself and the EMA Director were appointed to go to state meetings to know what to do. When you have the prior director that wasn't knowledgeable that planning had to be done and it is a lot of paperwork. The health department depends on their paperwork so it is mentally and physically exhausting all around and that's how we get our money back. Just depending on what is decided with Craig in the budget we may need to increase it or decrease it. He is mechanically inclined, he is trying to get vehicles out there running, he does do a lot of the late work, he loves to go on calls, paperwork is not his strong suit but that's ok together they make a great team that was implemented. Some of the issues out there with the building she has talked with Kerry and we need new doors and windows because they leak, and new gutters on the back. She went to Odell's to look at what some things would cost there, they do some of those services and they are going to go over and look

at it but she believes a lot of the cost would be for labor. Since Kerry is maintenance and going out to get the quotes she doesn't want to interfere so they will go out compare and present it so the budget is an estimate on that but the building does need some repairs desperately. She put a little bit of money in capital outlay for radios because she applied for the SHEP grant for \$150,000 for our responders and our volunteers, she did implement that and it is awarded this fall. She doesn't have a cleaning service out there but it would be fantastic to add that with the courthouse maintenance just to come out and sweep, dust, mop and clean the bathroom; they are doing it themselves. She would really like to add that to the budget. There were approximately 35,000 shields for COVID out there, barrels of hand sanitizer, there is a lot more out there than meets the eye. They have done a lot of the cleanup, a lot of the assets went back to Elkhart who is maintaining the district assets, their commissioners and council have agreed to do that. We do have a couple of gators that are district assets that we purchased through a grant here through the homeland security. Pulaski had one but they are now back in our possession so both of them are here. Elkhart is borrowing one of them currently but some of these assets are gone and out of here. Some of the military vehicles and wasted things has been gone, some has been worked on and operational so we can utilize here. We are going to try to use the Blazer here and it just needs a couple more fixings and that's good to go so we are trying to utilize and get that equipment going so we aren't asking for vehicles and so forth.

LEPC – Gail sent a correction with the total of \$4,100. They really cannot budget over that, she knows some LEPC members wanted to make it \$5,000 or more but we only get so much from the Tier 2 groups and the State of Indiana and we cannot overbudget what we get. We do have money in savings that we can utilize for any other projects but we need to stay at this level and not go any higher than that.

SURVEYOR – Seth White is increasing the budget for gas because it is running low now. Engineering has not been used since he has been here but they are using it now for a project coming on in Akron. It had been \$10,000 but was dropped to \$6,000 for his year and it needs to go back to \$10,000. For drainage board meetings he is requesting a \$2,000 supplemental for himself and the secretary. He is requesting a 10% increase for wages.

HIGHWAY – John Geier is requesting a 3% pay increase for all with the exception of a 5% increase for the clerk. John will present the full department budget at the next budget meeting.

AUDITOR – Christina Sriver requests a wage in line with other auditors of similar population size. The employee wages are requested at \$2 per hour increase and supplemental requests for additional duties. A grant software program is requested of ARPA funds.

VETERAN'S SERVICES – Ric Fouts requests a 6% wage increase and \$1/hour for drivers. The continuing education is for attending an annual meeting. The software is reimbursed by INDVA. There is approximately \$5,000 in the van donation fund, he is requesting a budget of \$2,000 but hopes he will not need it.

SUPERIOR COURT – Council reviewed the requested budget from Judge Heller. Other than wages witness fees is the only increase. A \$2,000 for extra help is requested but there is no part-time position established for the department.

SHERIFF – Council reviewed the requested budget submitted with notes from Travis Heishman. Phyl requested Council members to review the pages of notes the Sheriff submitted with his budget. Council would like the Sheriff to discuss his budget at the next budget meeting.

DISCUSSION – The schedule for Wednesday (including IT, Recorder and Soil and Water) will be requested to present their budgets at the next budget meeting.

Michael Ladd, Travis Heishman, Josh Sriver, Deb Bock, and Megan Malott will be requested to attend the next Council meeting on August 15th at 3:30 p.m. to present their budgets.

Funding the ambulance service will have to be a consideration for the 2024 budget.

OLD BUSINESS – None


NEW BUSINESS – None

RECESS – Lorie motioned to recess at 2:32 p.m. seconded by Pete; carries 7-0.

FULTON COUNTY COUNCIL



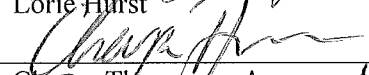
Phyl Olinger

Ron Dittman



Steve Fishburn




Lorie Hurst




Chayse Thompson



Randy Gundrum



Pete Karas



Attest: Christina Sriver, County Auditor

I affirm under penalties of perjury, that I have taken reasonable care to redact each social security number in this document, unless required by law: Christina Sriver

Prepared by: Christina Sriver