

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings (1st Reading) – August 17, 2004

**August 17, 2004
Public Hearing**

The meeting was called to order by Brent Waltz, President.

The following members were present: R.J. McConnell, Paul Reed, Rick Mason, Ron West, and Charlie Canary. Keith Wright arrived prior to the reading of the Adult Child Mental Health budget. Phil Wilson was present as the Council's Attorney.

Mr. Waltz noted that there has been a revision to the agenda; Cooperative Extension (#116) and Marijuana Eradication (#333) has been added after Local Road & Street (#207). He also stated that they planned to adjourn for lunch around noon and take a break later in the afternoon. He then asked if any Council member had any statements they would like to make before they got started with Adult Child Mental Health.

Mr. Canary commented that when they gave department heads the leeway to give raises if they could find the money within their 100 series, that was when they were uncertain of the county's financial situation. He then recommended that the Council freeze all salaries at the 2004's rates across the board, stating it wasn't fair for some employees to get raises, and some employees not too. If departments have extra money they were going to use for salary increases that money could then possibly be returned to the General Fund.

Mr. West expressed his opinion that freezing salaries at last year's level doesn't evoke any kind of conservation. Although the process of increasing salaries through attrition will take a couple years, the Council needs to be consistent in allowing department heads to reconfigure their budgets each year and not change the guidelines after the budgets are submitted and ask for that money to go elsewhere. Also, in the years where the larger departments can give raises and smaller departments cannot, then they would only have to find enough money to support the smaller department's raises. If salaries are frozen, then the departments will leave everything the same and nothing is gained.

Mr. McConnell stated that although he would like to allow departments to grant raises within their budget, the Council needs to look at the bigger picture of the county overall and be realistic in funding the budgets.

Mr. West commented that the total amount of purposed raises from each department would be small compared to the 1.3 million dollars that they need to cut; they need to be looking at the bigger ticket line items, such as the criminal justice system and health insurance, areas where they really have no control over. Therefore, why take away the little bit of wage increase that a department may find for its employees to reward them for their good work.

Mr. Wright arrived at this time.

#129 – Adult Child Mental Health

Robert Dunbar appeared before the Council to review the proposed 2005 budget. He distributed an annual report to each Council member and gave a brief explanation. He also noted that the legislature changed how the mental health levy was calculated; therefore the requested amount for 2005 is less than that for 2004.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#210 – Health

John Bonsett, Director of Environmental Health, Louise Brinkman, Director of Nursing, and Dr. Craig Moorman, Health Officer, were present to review the proposed 2005 budget. They also recognized members of their board and staff who were present in the audience.

Mr. Bonsett gave the members of the Council handouts showing the activity of the Health Department. He also expressed their department's concerns with various things such as an increased need for inspections, vehicles, and bio-terrorism. He also explained how they have tried to make adjustments to accommodate their needs without asking for additional funding such as increasing fees within their office to generate more revenue. He then requested that his budgets be approved as submitted.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the budget as presented, noting that a tally of salary increases needs to be kept throughout first reading of all budgets. Mr. West seconded the motion.

Mr. West then inquired if the Council re-addresses the raises, would department heads be allowed to come back at second reading to request that the amounts revert back to the 2004 amounts.

Mr. Bonsett commented that if that is the future action of the Council, then he would request that their line items revert back to the 2004 levels.

Mr. Waltz posed the question if a line item could be cut to fund raises, then was that amount of money needed in that line item in the first place.

Mr. Moorman replied that they are forced to make tough decisions within their budgets.

Mr. Bonsett also stated that there were several other places where they would like to have spent those funds.

Mr. Mason asked what the Travel & Training line item is used for specifically?

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Mr. Bonsett explained that it is used for attending any conferences or educational seminars to keep themselves current of new trends in public health, whether it is related to bio-terrorism or general public health.

Mr. Moorman also replied, for example, that they have one employee who is a certified handler of pesticides and is required annually to attend continuing education classes to maintain his certificate.

Mr. Mason also inquired about line item #210-391.0 – Dues & Subscriptions, asking how many are required?

Mr. Bonsett responded that he didn't know the exact amount, but he would guess that out of \$1,000.00, probably \$850.00. He stated that they purchase professional journals and education materials to stay current on things. They are also members of some associations. He also noted that they are reimbursed for mileage out of the Travel & Training line item for miles they accrue on their personal vehicles.

Mr. Mason suggested that for at least one year that the Council put each department's Travel & Training line item and Dues & Subscriptions line item into the Council's budget in effort to get a better understanding on how these line items are being spent with the hopes of reducing the expenditures.

Mr. Wright added that Travel & Training would be good to put into the Council's budget to get a better view of the expenses that departments submit for payment and verify their necessity.

Mr. Reed commented that he doesn't want to approve the budgets just to be approving them and then have departments come back at second reading to make cuts. He would rather approve the budgets without the increases; he then made a motion to approve the budget at the 2004 figures and move the Travel & Training line item and Dues & Subscriptions line item to the Council's budget.

Mr. West noted that a motion was already made and seconded.

Mr. Reed then withdrew his motion.

Mr. Waltz did a roll call vote where the motion failed two to five; Mr. Canary, Mr. Waltz, Mr. Reed, Mr. Wright and Mr. Mason voted nay.

Discussion was held on placing the Travel & Training line item and Dues & Subscriptions into the Council's budget as far as if that is the best way to get a better handle on how those line items are expended.

Mr. Reed then made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#210-113.0 – Salary Vital Registrar – reduce to \$27,700.00
#210-113.1 – Vital Statistics Clerk – reduce to \$21,300.00
#210-115.1 – Salary 1st Env Health Spec – reduce to \$38,500.00
#210-115.2 – Salary 2nd Env Health Spec – reduce to \$36,500.00
#210-115.3 – Salary 4th Env Health Spec – reduce to \$36,500.00
#210-115.4 – Salary 3rd Env Health Spec – reduce to \$36,500.00
#210-115.5 – Salary 5th Env Health Spec – reduce to \$33,000.00
#210-116.1 – Salary 1st Public Health Nurse – reduce to \$37,000.00
#210-116.2 – Salary 2nd Public Health Nurse – reduce to \$33,000.00
#210-116.3 – Salary 3rd Public Health Nurse – reduce to \$31,000.00
#210-119.0 – Salary Office Manager – reduce to \$27,000.00
#210-119.1 – Immunization Clinic Coord – reduce to \$21,300.00

Mr. Mason seconded the motion.

Mr. Bonsett asked since they were not approving the salary increases, would the Part-time line item be increased back to the 2004 level?

Mr. Waltz responded no, the motion was only to take out the salary raises.

Mr. Bonsett stated that was grossly unfair if that was eliminated under the guidelines that was originally given by the Council and asked for reconsideration.

The motion passed five to two; Mr. West and Mr. McConnell voted nay.

#214 – Health Maintenance

Mr. Bonsett was also present to review this proposed budget for 2005. He explained that this is State money given to them from the taxation of cigarettes.

Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

#463 – Tobacco Settlement

Mr. Bonsett was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005. He noted that this was additional money they receive from the State through a tobacco settlement.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as submitted. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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#215 – WIC

Tracy Smith, Coordinator, appeared before the Council to review the proposed 2005 budget. Mrs. Smith stated that her budget reflected no salary increases; only some small increases for Insurance and Professional Services.

Mr. West asked if the insurance was for health insurance or liability insurance?

Mrs. Smith responded both.

Discussion was held regarding the health insurance and the expenses associated with it.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews noted that some departments reimburse for health insurance and there are other departments that should be reimbursing the General Fund for coverage.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#218 – Family & Children/Welfare

Vickie Jones, Director, appeared before the Council to review the budget proposed for 2005. She stated that the amount is slightly higher than the current amount; however, she noted that counties that are similar in size, such as Bartholomew and Monroe have appropriations of over three million. She also stated that with the passage of Senate Bill #1 several counties lost a great deal of money because of the maximum levy limit but her budget would not be affected because she has not requested close to the maximum levy limit and is not in financial difficulties.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#102 – Auditor

Auditor, Brenda Jones-Matthews, appeared before the Council to review her 2005 proposed budget. She noted that her budget was the same as this year; however she has two changes to make, which were approved in January.

Mr. Mason moved to approve as presented with the changes and the removal of the Travel & Training line item and Dues & Subscriptions line item. The motion was seconded by Mr. Reed.

Mr. Canary asked for a clarification of removing those two line items and placing them into the Council's budget.

Mr. Mason replied that he would like to get a better feel of how these monies are being expended and why.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews explained how she spends the money within these two line items.

Mr. Mason then suggested that maybe a better way of overseeing these funds is to have the office holders submit monthly reports with itemized expenditures.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews noted that her office requires an agenda and itemized receipts before payment is made; she also noted that the Council needs to re-evaluate the Travel Ordinance, making it more restrictive.

Mr. Reed then withdrew his second to the motion.

Mr. Mason withdrew his motion. He then moved to approve the budget as presented with the two corrections as noted below:

#102-112.1 – Salary Commissioner Secretary – reduce to \$26,445.00
#102-113.5 – Deputy – Ditches & Gen Office – increase to \$26,000.00

Mr. McConnell seconded the motion, which carried six to one; Mr. Wright voted nay.

#904 – Plat Map Maintenance

Mrs. Jones-Matthews was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005. She commented that a portion of the Pleasant Township Assessor's First Deputy's salary is paid from this fund. Currently, the disbursements from this fund are slightly more than the receipts. However, after talking with Barb Davis, Donna Zelner, and Darla McKnight, she feels like although it will be very close, this budget could fund the salary for the Pleasant Township Assessor's First Deputy for at least one more year.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mason and carried unanimously.

#103 – Treasurer

Jan Richhart, Treasurer, was present to review the proposed 2005 budget. She stated that her proposed budget was the same as her 2004 approved budget. She reminded the Council that she appeared before them last week to transfer money into her part-time line item to hopefully get through until the end of the year.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the budget as submitted. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion.

Mr. West questioned if the requested amount in overtime would be sufficient?

Mr. Richhart responded "no".

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Mr. West asked what would be a reasonable amount?

Mrs. Richhart responded that a ballpark figure would be about \$2,000.00 She noted that she was not able to pay her staff overtime this past spring, she had to give them compensatory time.

Mr. Reed asked if her office was busy at the same time as other offices and would she be able to use a “floating” employee?

Mrs. Richhart replied that the only problem with using a “floating” employee is that her staff is very underpaid and when someone comes into their office from another office, where they are making more money, the moral in her office goes way down. Also, she does not have the money to pay for a “floating” person.

Mr. Waltz posed the question, “What would be more lowering of morale, to work harder because of few people in the office, or having another person coming in to help during a crunch time even though they are paid more?”

Mrs. Richhart responded that her staff would rather work harder.

Mr. West expressed that he still feels like a floater pool is a good idea and maybe they could get it started by taking all of the Overtime and Part-Time line items from each department to pay for these floating employees.

Mr. Mason suggested removing \$550.00 from Travel & Training and placing it into Overtime, if Mrs. Richhart was in agreement.

Mrs. Richhart concurred.

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#103-323.0 – Travel & Training reduce to \$1,000.00
#103-199.0 – Overtime increase to \$1,078.00

Mr. McConnell seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#104 – Recorder

Susie Misiniec, Recorder, was present to review the 2005 proposed budget. She stated that her budget was the exact same as the previous year.

She also commented that as an Elected Official/Department Head she relies strongly on part-time help, which helps her office get their work done and part-time keeps the costs down for the taxpayers and urged the Council to rethink removing that line item from all budgets.

Mr. West stated that he was not advocating taking away all part-time and overtime; he was just trying to make a point and put out some ideas to get more help in offices when they need it during certain times of the year without additional expenses.

Mrs. Misiniec expressed her appreciation for looking into other alternatives for finding help and asked that the office holders be given a chance to give their input on the ideas and perhaps a compromise can be made to benefit everyone.

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

At this time, they recessed for lunch; Mr. McConnell did not return after lunch.

#106 - Surveyor

Surveyor, Doug Lechner, appeared before the Council to review the proposed budget for 2005. He stated that his budget was within the guidelines that were set.

Mr. Wright inquired about Mr. Lechner’s take home vehicle, which was discussed last year, and asked about the policy.

Mr. Lechner responded that it is the same policy as last year; the Commissioners own the vehicle and set the policy for its use.

Mr. Wright stated that last year he asked if the take home vehicles were justifiable and did not get a good answer. He also stated that a few months ago, the Council had asked Mr. Pitcher, current Fleet Manager, about the status of take home vehicles. Mr. Pitcher had replied that there were currently four take home vehicles, one in Planning & Zoning, two in Highway, and one for the Surveyor. Mr. Wright then asked Mr. Lechner to justify his take home vehicle, since other departments do not have them.

Mr. Lechner again answered that the vehicles and policies are handled by the Commissioners.

Mr. Wright first made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the exception of moving all salaries back to the 2004 levels, keeping the overtime at \$3.00, and reducing the Surveyor’s salary by \$5,000.00, until the take home vehicle is addressed.

Mr. West asked if they were going to assess a value of \$5,000.00 to all take home vehicles?

Mr. Wright stated that that was an arbitrary figure.

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Discussion was held on valuing take home vehicles, accounting for personal miles, and reimbursing for mileage as well as asking the Commissioners to re-evaluate the current take home vehicle policy.

Mr. Wright then changed his motion to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#106-111.0 – Salary Surveyor – reduce to \$47,405.00
#106-112.0 – Executive Secretary – reduce to \$22,201.00
#106-113.0 – Party Chief – reduce to \$27,272.00
#106-113.1 – Deputy Surveyor – reduce to \$32,267.00
#106-113.2 – Instrument Man – reduce to \$22,137.00

Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which carried five to one; Mr. West voted nay.

#119 – Drainage Board

Mr. Lechner was also present to review this budget. He stated that it was the same as the previous year's budget.

Mr. West moved to approve as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion. The motion unanimously carried.

#107 – Coroner

Charles Shufflebarger, Coroner, and Deputy Coroner, David Lutz, (and who is also the only listed candidate for Coroner) were in attendance to review the proposed 2005 budget.

Mr. Reed inquired about the new line item for Utilities.

Mr. Shufflebarger responded that he budgeted for a phone line and voice mail and maybe a cell phone because Mr. Lutz is a resident of Edinburgh and has an 812 area code. This will make it easier for the taxpayers of Johnson County to reach him.

Mr. West made a motion to approve as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion; however he did note that the budget increased and maybe should be looked at again during second reading.

Mr. Shufflebarger then suggested to be consistent with other departments, he felt like the Travel & Training could be deleted, which would help offset the overall increase in the budget.

Mr. West stated that the reason he moved to approve it as presented was because he felt like this was a realistic budget.

Some discussion was held regarding approving realistic budgets verses passing the budgets at the same amounts because it looks better on paper, even though it is very likely that the officeholder will be back in the future to request an additional appropriation.

Mr. Mason then made a motion to amend the original motion to eliminate the Travel & Training line item.

The motion to amend was seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion passed five to one; Mr. West voted nay.

The motion to approve as presented with the following change passed five to one: Mr. West voted nay.

#107-323.0 – Travel & Training – reduce to \$0

#128 – County Park

Tim Davis, Superintendent, appeared before the Council to review his proposed 2005 budget. He commented that his proposal is less than 2004's budget.

Mr. West inquired about the activity in the Utilities line item.

Mr. Davis reported that they have installed four new meter bases and have had to upgrade a lot of their electric and had to transfer money from Utilities to Operating Expense to pay for the construction and renovation. He also stated that when they run out of money, they use their revenue to help offset the costs; they also pay for trash removal and septic on a regular basis out of their Non-Reverting Fund.

Mr. Reed relayed his appreciation to Mr. Davis for his good and hard work he does at the Park. He also asked about the increase for Vehicle Maintenance Supplies.

Mr. Davis explained that their fuel is paid from this line item too; he also commented that he locks in the fuel cost each year and stated that if any money is left at the end of the year, it reverts back to the General Fund.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#271 – Park Non-Reverting

Mr. Davis was also present to review this proposed budget for 2005. He noted that the budget was the same as the previous year.

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#109 – County Assessor

County Assessor, Marla Hash appeared before the Council to review her proposed budget for 2005. She stated that her budget was the same as 2004's budget.

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Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#265 – Reassessment

Ms. Hash was also present to review this budget. She stated that there were no changes from the previous year and noted that was mainly due to the fact that the lawsuit filed in Lake County has not been settled yet, which could possibly result in re-doing reassessment.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#110 – Blue River Township Assessor

Sandra Pendleton, Assessor, was present to review the proposed 2005 budget. She noted that her budget was identical to last year's budget.

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#111 – Franklin Township Assessor

Rita Sievertson, Assessor, appeared before the Council to review the 2005 proposed budget. Mrs. Sievertson stated that her budget did not change from the prior year's budget.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#112 – Pleasant Township Assessor

Donna Zelner, Assessor, was present to review the 2005 proposed budget. She noted that the only change was to reduce her First Deputy's salary because it will be funded out of Plat Map Maintenance (#904).

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following amendment:

#112-112.0 – Salary First Deputy Assessor – reduce to \$22,410.00

Mr. Wright seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#113 – White River Township Assessor

White River Township Assessor, Susan Sego Wayman, appeared before the Council to review her 2005 proposed budget.

Discussion was held concerning the additional \$1,000.00 that Ms. Wayman earned from earning her certification.

Ms. Wayman commented that the amount requested for her 2005 salary would make her equivalent to the other two larger township assessors, Pleasant and Franklin Township.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews stated that the Franklin Township Assessor actually makes less than the Pleasant Township Assessor.

Ms. Wayman replied that she was unaware of that; she thought they made the same amount.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as proposed with the following change:

#113-111.0 – Salary Assessor – reduce to \$35,529.00

Mr. Canary seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#117 – Plan Commission

William Peeples, Plan Director, appeared before the Council to review his proposed 2005 budget. He noted that the Commissioners sent around a memo to freeze wages at the 2004 level; therefore he read the corrected budgeted amounts that he is proposing.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the budget as amended by Mr. Peeples. Mr. Mason seconded the motion. The motion failed three to three; Mr. Reed, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Wright voted nay.

Discussion was held regarding the fact that departments followed the guidelines as approved by the Council on how to submit their budgets; however now, the Council is not allowing any raises that were requested and also not allowing the monies to go back into their original line items.

Mr. Mason then moved to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#117-100.0 – Plan Director – increase to \$48,000.00

#117-110.0 – Planner – increase to \$30,977.00

#117-120.0 – Planning Engineer – reduce to \$60,799.00

#117-121.1 – Building Inspector II – reduce to \$28,527.00

#117-122.0 – Technician – reduce to \$33,198.00

#117-130.0 – Chief Building Inspector I – reduce to \$34,833.00

#117-131.0 – Building Inspector III/Eng Asst – reduce to \$29,927.00

#117-132.0 – Building Inspector IV – reduce to \$27,191.00

#117-140.0 – Secretary I/Office Manager – reduce to \$24,375.00

#117-142.0 – Secretary III – reduce to \$21,866.00

#117-150.0 – Part-time – increase to \$2,000.00

#117-199.0 – Overtime – increase to \$3,000.00

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Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which passed four to two; Mr. West and Mr. Waltz voted nay.

#276 – Inspection & Testing

Mr. Peeples was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005.

Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Wright asked Mr. Peeples about the take home vehicle in his department.

Mr. Peeples replied that Neil Trisler, was the only person on his staff that has a take home vehicle; this was going on when he became the Plan Director. Mr. Trisler is the chief building inspector and subdivision inspector. In most cases, Mr. Trisler comes into the office and delegates the work to the other inspectors; however, there have been some occasions where Mr. Trisler has been called out to work with Emergency Management in the case of tornados, flooding, and unsafe buildings. He also noted that this is an incentive to the employee for working here.

#120 – Veterans

Gene Robinson, Veterans Director, appeared before the Council to review his 2005 proposed budget, which was submitted as the previous year's budget.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#121 – Weights & Measures

Jerry Napier, Inspector, was present to review his 2005 proposed budget, noting that nothing was changed from the prior year.

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

#127 – Emergency Management

Forrest "Tug" Sutton, Director, appeared before the Council to review his 2005 proposed budget. He began with reducing the full-time requested salary for the Director back to the 2004 salary amount, as requested by the Commissioners. He also wanted to note that his advisory board strongly recommends that this position become full time and needs to be addressed in years to come.

Mr. West asked Mr. Sutton how much money he has brought in for the County with grant money and how many hours a week he works.

Mr. Sutton responded that he works an average of 23.5 hours a week and that since 1999 he has brought in \$2,233,000.00 (minimum) for disaster relief grants and equipment. He also noted that the County now has a County Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and that the County is the second in the State for Community Response Teams.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the budget as presented with the following amendment:

#127-111.0 – Salary Director - reduce to \$17,915.00

Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#212 – Local Emergency Planning/Right to Know

Mr. Sutton was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005, noting that there was no change from the previous year.

Mr. Wright made a motion to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Mason seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

#125 – Museum

Sarah Rogers, Museum Director, was present to review the 2005 proposed budget. Mrs. Rogers commented that members of the board were also in attendance. She then distributed handouts to the Council showing them an update of their utility costs and their exhibits.

Mr. Waltz, temporarily stepped down as President, and made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mr. West relayed his appreciation of the museum and their staff's hard work. He also relinquished the chair back to Mr. Waltz.

#219 – Animal Shelter

Animal Warden, Julie Hively, appeared before the Council to review the budget proposed for 2005. She noted that there was no change from the previous year.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Wright seconded the motion.

Mr. West questioned the policy of the unemployment compensation and suggested that paying into some type of a pool for all employees may be cheaper.

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Mrs. Jones-Matthews stated that actually the current policy of “paying as you go” is cheaper than “paying into a pool” for all employees.

The question was called and the motion carried unanimously.

#122 – Board of Commissioners

Commissioner, Joe DeHart, and County Attorney, Joe Pitcher were present to review the 2005 proposed budget. Mr. DeHart went through the budget noting any changes, which included reverting the amounts for Social Security and Retirement back to the 2004 figures.

Mr. DeHart noted that they are requesting a new line item, #122-305.0 – Interest & Fees and asked that the Auditor explain the reason for this request.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews explained that this line item was created to pay interest and fees from an outside source for cash flow. She stated that this month we need to borrow \$3.2 million from the funds available within the County; noting we still owe Cum. Cap. \$1 million dollars. After December settlement, we should be able to pay everything back to Cum. Cap., Cum. Bridge, and Reassessment; however next year we cannot support to borrow funds from within, which only leaves borrowing from an outside source and budgeting for interest and fees associated with that. She stated that she has talked with Tim Holmes from Public Finance and he has figured that there would be at least 3% interest on the amount borrowed, which we need to borrow about \$5 million beginning in January 2005.

Mr. DeHart then continued to review any changes within the proposed budget.

Mr. Pitcher reported that instead of buying a new mail machine for the Sheriff’s Department, they are sending their mail over to the annex to be ran through. He also stated that Sheriff McLaughlin has agreed to take \$10,000.00 out of his budget for Postage and place it into the Commissioner’s Postage line item.

Discussion was held regarding the policy of take home vehicles, the cost of vehicle repair and maintenance, and the status of the Fleet Program.

Mr. Reed inquired about the Professional Services line item and asked why they needed two attorneys?

Mr. DeHart explained that one attorney (Joe Pitcher) is here most of the time, although many people say that they never see him; he is in and out, he goes out to the Sheriff’s Department or the Highway Department, he doesn’t just stay at the annex. He is always available by phone to department heads and elected officials to answer questions. Mr. DeHart also recollected years ago when each department had their own attorney and paid for their own attorney fees, by having one county attorney, it is less expensive and there is more consistency among departments. He also stated that Mr. Pitcher handles a lot of human resource issues and steps up when needed, such as Fleet Manager or a Board Attorney, at no additional cost; he volunteers a lot of his time.

Mr. DeHart stated that the other attorney (Tom Jones) is a litigating attorney and handles all of the lawsuits that are filed against the County.

Mr. Reed then asked why is it necessary to have two legal attorneys at the Commissioner’s meeting?

Mr. DeHart replied that Mr. Jones is paid a retainer and feels that he needs to appear incase he is needed; he does not get paid any more to attend the meetings.

James Rhoades, County Commissioner, also noted that Mr. Jones’ work speaks for itself.

Mr. Wright again inquired about the Fleet Manager position and about the policies of the take home vehicles.

Mr. DeHart responded that they want to keep that position in their budget; however, Mr. Pitcher, who is currently doing the job at no additional fee, does not want to continue this position forever. As far as the take home vehicles, the one in the department of Planning & Zoning was allowed his vehicle as an added benefit because they could not pay him more money for the work he does and they could not find a replacement for what he is paid. He also stated that he is unsure if the Surveyor’s take home vehicle is a necessity.

Mr. Rhoades commented that he feels like the Surveyor’s vehicle is a necessity and suggested that the Council members ride along with him some time to see exactly what he does and where he goes during the day. He himself has gone and it answered all his questions about this matter.

Mr. West asked that an agreement be made amongst the Council Members that if the money budgeted for interest and fees goes unspent, that that money does not get diversified and is spent for other things.

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as presented with the following corrections and the condition that the \$230,000 in line item #122-305.0 is used expressly for interest and fees associated with any borrowing of money by the County:

#122-142.0 – Social Security Contributions - reduce to \$824,000.00

#122-143.0 – Retirement - reduce to \$64,900.00

#122-322.0 – Postage Commissioners – increase to \$155,000.00 (*\$10,000.00 was transferred from the Sheriff’s budget line item for postage*)

Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

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#254 – Cumulative Capital Development

Mr. DeHart was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005. He noted that they are paying for voting equipment from this budget and that the Sheriff vehicles were deleted from this budget. He also stated that they are reducing the Highway Improvements so that those funds could be used elsewhere; however they are getting some roads repaired from some federal grant monies.

Mr. West asked the Auditor if the County has received any reimbursement from the State for the voting equipment?

Mrs. Jones-Matthews replied that we have received one reimbursement of \$331,000.00 and that that money is sitting in a special fund, as required; however there is some uncertainties of the validation of the voting equipment.

Mr. Wright questioned where the Sheriff vehicles were going to be paid from next year?

Discussion was held pertaining to the Fleet Program for the replacement of Sheriff vehicles at so many each year and the possibility of increasing the vehicle maintenance line items.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion; the motion then carried unanimously.

#123 – Courthouse

Director of Maintenance, Jack Matthews, appeared before the Council to review his 2005 proposed budget. He stated that the only increase in the budget was for Utilities, which he increased to reflect a more realistic budget. He noted that the following corrections needed to be made:

#123-113.2 – Salary Custodian – reduce to \$24,255.00

#123-122.0 – Salary Custodian – reduce to \$25,000.00

Mr. Matthews also stated that there was an amount budgeted for overtime for next year due to an error made on his part during second reading at last year's budget hearings.

Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the corrections as noted above. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#901 – Enhanced 911

Rob Norris, Computer Director, appeared before the Council to review the 2005 proposed budget. He noted that the salary increase requests needed to be withdrawn and reverted back to the 2004 rate.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#901-112.0 – E911/GIS Coordinator – reduce to \$33,398.00

#904-113.0 – 911 Coordinator/Dispatcher – reduce to \$23,995.00

Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#141 – Computer Services

Mr. Norris was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005. He also requested to withdraw the salary increase requests and restore the amount back into the Overtime line item.

Discussion was held regarding whether or not to restore the amounts that were decreased to use as salary increases.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the budget as proposed with the following amendments:

#141-101.0 – Director – reduce to \$51,819.00

#141-102.0 – Assistant Director – reduce to \$32,125.00

#141-104.0 – Computer Admin – Courts – reduce to \$27,400.00

Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which carried five to one; Mr. West voted nay.

Mr. Canary asked Mr. Norris if it would be possible to give the Council either monthly or bi-monthly some type of printout showing the details of the Travel & Training and Dues & Subscriptions line items.

Mr. Norris commented that he could produce that information for them.

#202, #203, #204, #205 – Highway

Don Sanders, Highway Director, and Libby Dalby, Bookkeeper, were present to review the 2005 proposed budgets. Mr. Sanders reviewed and explained any changes that were proposed.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budgets as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#206 – Cumulative Bridge

Mr. Sanders was also present to review this proposed 2005 budget. He commented that he is asking for a \$1,000.00 salary increase for the Bridge Foreman (206-122.0) only because he was called to active duty last year and did not get his raise. Mrs. Dalby stated that it was merely an oversight for him not getting the raise.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings (1st Reading) – August 17, 2004 – (Cont.)

Mr. Sanders requested to reduce line item #206-111.0 (Senior Designer) by \$1,000.00 to offset the requested increase for line item #206-122.0 (Bridge Foreman).

Discussion was held on whether or not the raise should be given considering the special circumstances that occurred.

Mr. Sanders also reviewed and explained other changes within the budget.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following amendment:

#206-111.0 – Senior Designer – reduce to \$44,000.00

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mason and carried five to one; Mr. Reed voted nay.

#207 – Local Road & Street

Mr. Sanders was also present to review this budget proposed for 2005 and explained any changes that was proposed.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

#116 – Cooperative Extension

Linda Souchon, County Extension Director, appeared before the Council to review the proposed 2005 budget. She introduced the members of their board and staff who were also in attendance. She noted that they tried to stay within the guidelines; however, there was an increase in the Professional Services line item that pays the contractual agreement with Purdue University that pays for the three Extension Agents' salaries.

Some discussion was held on how the contractual agreement with Purdue works.

Mrs. Souchon then offered to reduce the Travel & Training line item by \$1,785.00 to support the increase in the Professional Services line item.

Mr. Mason asked how the travel and training is expended?

Mrs. Souchon explained, for example, that when she turns in a mileage claim to Purdue, they then send her a paper that she then submits to the County Auditor's office, which then issues a check to Purdue, who in return sends her a check. The whole process takes about three months.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as presented with the following change:

#116-323.0 – Travel & Training – reduce to \$6,840.00

Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#333 – Marijuana Eradication

Jim Williams, Chairman of the Weed Member, appeared before the Council to review the proposed budget for 2005.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#114 – Election Board

Clerk, Jill Jackson appeared before the Council to review her 2005 proposed budget. She noted that the proposed budget is less than the current year's budget due to no elections next year.

Mr. Mason asked why the Professional Services line item increased?

Mrs. Jackson explained that they are going to be working on a statewide voter project next year to try to help fix the polling sites, which includes a mass mailing. Also, they are going to work on a poll worker training video.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented with the following amendments:

#114-113.0 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$22,941.00

#114-113.1 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$24,000.00

Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#115 – Registration of Voters

Mrs. Jackson was also present to review this 2005 proposed budget. She noted that this budget was the exact same as the current approved budget.

Mr. Mason moved to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#313 – Clerk's Perpetuation Fund

Mrs. Jackson was also present to review this proposed budget for 2005. She asked that money be appropriated from this fund to help supplement salaries and benefits for an employee.

Discussion was held concerning salaries from the Clerk's budget and supplementing them from this fund.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings (1st Reading) – August 17, 2004 – (Cont.)

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which passed five to one; Mr. Reed voted nay.

#101 – Clerk

Mrs. Jackson was also present to review this proposed budget for 2005.

Mr. Waltz asked Mrs. Jackson to give a historical overview of her budget and why she made the changes to her budget that she did.

Mrs. Jackson first stated that she is the only newly elected official to take office this year. She did see the 2004 budget after it was prepared by the former Clerk and she was unable to attend the second reading of budget hearings and was unaware that it got cut. She stated that those cuts included \$10,000.00 from part-time and all overtime; also she has had a full-time employee on disability leave for over a year. Therefore for 2005, she is requesting that she get some money put back into Overtime and is proposing to take \$16,301 from her IV-D money to supplement salaries. She commented that she has struggled to find a way to follow the guidelines that the Council set and still run her department efficiently, including rewarding the hard work of her staff, hence the salary supplements from the IV-D budget.

Mr. Canary commented that two years ago, a full time position was cut and the remainder of the staff received raises.

Mr. Waltz expressed that to be consistent with what the Council is doing today in not allowing any salary raises, that perhaps the amount originally requested for salary supplements be used to increase part-time and allow the overtime since it was cut out last year without Mrs. Jackson's knowledge.

Discussion was held on how to re-arrange the proposed amounts in a way of not giving any salary increases and not having any increases to the general fund.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#101-111.0 – Clerk – reduce to \$43,231.00
#101-112.0 – Chief Deputy – reduce to \$32,160.00
#101-113.0 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$27,606.00
#101-113.1 – Deputy Clerk – increase to \$26,242.00
#101-113.3 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$27,956.00
#101-113.6 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$25,760.00
#101-113.7 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$23,501.00
#101-113.8 – Deputy Clerk – increase to \$26,363.00
#101-113.9 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$23,601.00
#101-114.0 – Clerical Assistants – increase to \$17,000.00
#101-115.1 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$23,501.00
#101-115.2 – Deputy Clerk – reduce to \$23,921.00
#101-199.0 – Overtime – increase to \$6,000.00

Mr. Canary seconded the motion.

More discussion was held concerning what was being paid out of the Clerk's Perpetuation Fund.

The motion was then amended by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. Canary to reflect the following change:

#101-199.0 – Overtime – reduce to \$0 (Overtime will be paid directly from the Perpetuation Fund)

The motion unanimously carried.

Mr. Canary moved to reconsider budget #313 – Clerk's Perpetuation Fund; which was unanimously consented. He then moved to change the name of line item #313-110.0 – from Deputy Clerk to Overtime. The motion was seconded by Mr. West and carried five to one; Mr. Reed voted nay.

Mrs. Jackson commented that she had spent a lot of time preparing her first budgets and felt like she did a good job on following the guidelines as presented and she asked for reconsideration at second reading.

#297 – Supplemental Adult Probation

Richard Pfifer, Chief Probation Officer, appeared before the Council to review the 2005 proposed budget. He reported that his budget was less than the current year; however there are salary increases, which are state mandated. He also noted that this is not an un-funded mandate; it is paid through user fees, which the fees have almost doubled and the collection rate is high; if the fees are not paid, typically the offender goes to jail.

Mrs. Jones-Matthews commented that she did check with the State and the County does have to allow the salary increases which are mandated by the State.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried four to two; Mr. Reed and Mr. Mason voted nay.

#142 – Community Corrections/General Fund

#208 – Community Corrections Adult Grant

#209 – Community Corrections Adult Project Income

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings (1st Reading) – August 17, 2004 – (Cont.)

#213 – Community Corrections Juvenile Grant

#216 – Community Corrections Juvenile Project Income

#217 – County Misdemeanant

#332 – Alcohol & Drug Fund

Deana McMurray, Executive Director appeared before the Council to review the 2005 proposed budgets.

Mr. Waltz stated that the biggest question he has about these budgets is in regards to insurance; typically, the general fund has not been reimbursed for health insurance and asked Ms. McMurray to address this issue.

Ms. McMurray replied that Community Corrections was founded in 1989 and from that point until a few short months when she met with Brenda Jones-Matthews the County has never been able to tell her the cost of insurance. Mrs. Jones-Matthews had calculated out the cost of insurance; however the rates are based upon COBRA rates and she does not have the funds available right now to pay those rates at this time. Now that she has a figure for insurance costs, she is going to take those figures to the Department of Corrections (D.O.C.) to gain additional funding, but she felt like it may be difficult because they are based upon COBRA rates.

Mr. Canary asked what is being reimbursed at this time?

Ms. McMurray responded that only a small amount is being reimbursed.

Mr. Canary then suggested just setting a rate for reimbursement in order to get something started and then go from there.

Ms. McMurray replied that historically, when other counties have addressed this issue to the D.O.C. and have presented them with a good fixated cost, they were able to do an adjustment and get additional funds. She also stated that only twenty-five percent of her budget is funded by D.O.C. and the remainder is funded from user fees.

Discussion was held on how much should be charged for insurance cost reimbursement and much they are reimbursing currently.

Ms. McMurray also noted that line item #142-115.0 – Counselor needed to be reduced to \$7,280.00 and explained the circumstances for the change.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budgets as requested with the following change:

#142-115.0 – Counselor – reduce to \$7,280.00

#332-142.0 – FICA – reduce to \$2,989.00

#332-143.0 – PERF – reduce to \$2,544.00

#332-144.0 – Insurance – reduce to \$1,000.00

Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mr. Waltz then recessed the meeting until Thursday, August 19, 2004 at 9:00 am.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004

August 19, 2004

Public Hearing

All Fire Districts

Mr. West made a motion to approve all Fire Districts' Budgets as proposed for 2005. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#133 – Superior Court #2

Superior Court #2 Judge, Cynthia Emkes, appeared before the Council to review her 2005 proposed budget. She reminded the Council how all of the Judges got together and made a presentation to them in March in regards to salary adjustments. She also explained how all of the courts re-structured their cases and are intending to shift money from court to court to help with these changes.

Mr. McConnell extended his appreciation for all of the Judges hard work in trying to find available funds to make salary adjustments, but given the financial shape that the county is in, he didn't see how they could single out the courts and allow salary increases.

Mr. West expressed his opinion of allowing departments who can find the funds to allow them to do so to give salary increases; this would only leave the Council left to find funds to help out the smaller departments that cannot find other available funds.

Mr. Reed asked why the Jury Expenses line item was reduced so much?

Judge Emkes responded that she is using the money from that fund to supplement the salary adjustments not only in her court, but she is transferring money to the other courts as well.

Discussion was held on the Jury Expense Funds and the User Fee/Jury Fee Fund as to how to determine how much money should be budgeted, knowing that when a jury trial occurs it has to be paid.

Mr. McConnell made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004 – (Cont.)

#133-113.0 – Salary Court Reporter – reduce to \$30,060.00
#133-114.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$24,761.00
#133-117.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$25,952.00
#133-121.0 – Asst Court Reporter/Bailiff – reduce to \$27,455.00
#133-391.0 – Jury Expenses – increase to \$8,560.00

Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which passed four to three; Mr. Mason, Mr. Reed, and Mr. West voted nay.

#132 – Superior Court #1

Superior Court #1 Judge, Kevin Barton was present to review his 2005 proposed budget. He stated that the majority of the changes that were made were based upon the same explanation that Judge Emkes gave.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#132-113.0 – Salary Court Reporter – reduce to \$30,060.00
#132-117.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$27,317.00
#132-118.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$27,317.00
#132-119.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$23,667.00
#132-391.0 – Jury Expenses – increase to \$10,500.00

Mr. Canary seconded the motion, which passed four to three; Mr. Mason, Mr. Reed, and Mr. West voted nay.

#134 – Superior Court #3

Superior Court #3 Judge, Kim VanValer Shilts, was present to review the 2005 proposed budget. She also stated that the changes in her budget were based upon the same explanation that Judge Emkes had given.

Mr. McConnell made a motion to approve the budget as proposed with the following reductions:

#134-113.0 – Salary Court Reporter – reduce to \$30,060.00
#134-114.0 – Assist Court Reporter/Bailiff – reduce to \$25,025.00
#134-115.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$23,112.00
#134-116.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$24,794.00

Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried six to one; Mr. West voted nay.

#131 – Circuit

Circuit Court Judge, Mark Loyd, appeared before the Council to review the budget proposed for 2005. Judge Loyd stated that he understood what the Council has been doing with the other court budgets and stated for the record that he would voluntarily reduce line item #113-117.0 Court Admin/Law Clerk back to the 2004 salary amount, since this salary is statutorily set by the Judges.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented with the following amendments.

#131-113.0 – Salary Court Reporter – reduce to \$30,060.00
#131-113.1 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$22,867.00
#131-113.2 – Bailiff/Assist Court Reporter – reduce to \$24,992.00
#131-113.3 – Juvenile Court Reporter – reduce to \$30,060.00
#131-115.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$23,408.00
#131-117.0 – Court Admin/Law Clerk – reduce to \$48,104.00
#131-122.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$24,858.00
#131-391.0 – Jury Expenses – increase to \$15,684.00

Mr. McConnell seconded the motion. The motion passed six to one. Mr. West voted nay.

#137 – Title IV-D

Judge Craig Lawson was present to review this 2005 proposed budget. He commented that his budget was not affected by the re-structuring of the courts and he has no jury expenses; the total budget is the same as 2004.

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#140 – Juvenile Detention Center

Jim Higdon, Director, and Kristi Bruther, Assistant Director, were present to review the proposed budget for 2005. Mr. Higdon stated that the total of the proposed budget is \$1,206.00 less than the current budget and noted that there are two salary line items that have been increased by \$1,000.00 due to the fact that these employees received their EMT certification. He noted that they are required to have certified EMTs on staff and a few years ago he got permission from the Council to have eight EMTs on staff.

Mr. Canary asked if there were still two vacancies in his department?

Mr. Higdon responded yes, they have not filled those positions yet.

Mr. Reed asked if it is required to give \$1,000.00 increase to an employee who earn their EMT certification?

Mr. Higdon answered that that was the agreement that was made with the County Council several years ago.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004 – (Cont.)

Judge Loyd added that this policy has been in effect for a long time and it has been a consistent policy and they do limit the number of EMT employees per shift.

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as proposed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Canary and passed five to two; Mr. Reed and Mr. Mason voted nay.

#296 – Supplemental Juvenile Probation

Suzanne Miller, Chief Probation Officer, and Colleen Saylor, Assistant Chief Probation Officer, appeared to request approval of her 2005 proposed budget. Ms. Miller first asked to reduce line item #296-372.0 back to the 2004 amount. She also noted that the salary increases are mandated by the State.

Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the budget as presented with the following change:

#296-372.0 – Communications – reduce to \$2,000.00

Mr. McConnell seconded the motion. The motion passed six to one; Mr. Reed voted nay.

#274 – CASA/GAL

Judge Loyd appeared to review the proposed budget for 2005, noting that there was no change.

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as proposed for 2005. Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#361 – CASA Fee/Donation

Judge Loyd was also present to review this 2005 proposed budget. He noted that to be consistent with not allowing salary increases, line item #361-115.0 should be reduced back to the 2004 amount and PERF and Social Security should be adjusted accordingly.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the 2005 proposed budget with the following reductions:

#361-115.0 – Salary Supp #131-123.0 – reduce to \$467.00

#361-142.0 – Social Security – reduce to \$42.00

#361-143.0 – PERF – reduce to \$38.00

The motion was seconded by Mr. Mason. The motion carried unanimously.

#353 – Family Court

Judge Loyd appeared to review this 2005 proposed budget. He noted that this fund is funded with grant money from the State.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#353-114.0 – Salary Supplement #137-112.0 – reduce to \$333.00

#353-115.0 – Salary Supplement #137-113.0 – reduce to \$167.00

#353-116.0 – Salary Supplement #137-115.0 – reduce to \$667.00

#353-117.0 – Salary Supplement #137-116.0 – reduce to \$333.00

#353-142.0 – Social Security – reduce to \$114.75

#353-143.0 – PERF – reduce to \$120.00

Mr. Mason seconded the motion and the motion unanimously carried.

#136 – Magistrate

Richard Tandy, Magistrate Judge, appeared before the Council to review his 2005 proposed budget. Judge Tandy commented that the salary adjustments were based upon the same basis as the other courts. He also requested that the Jury Expense line item be reinstated due to upcoming jury trials beyond his control.

Mr. McConnell moved to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

#136-112.0 – Small Claims Court Reporter – reduce to \$29,919.00

#136-113.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$26,073.00

#136-113.1 – Proceedings Supp Court Reporter – reduce to \$23,408.00

#136-114.0 – Assistant Court Reporter – reduce to \$23,408.00

#136-115.0 – Civil Court Reporter – reduce to \$28,091.00

#136-391.0 – Jury Expenses – increase to \$1,950.00

Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which carried six to one; Mr. West voted nay.

#130 – Soil & Water

Bill Kirklin, Chairman of the Soil & Water Board, was present to review the proposed budget for 2005.

A motion was made by Mr. West to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mason and unanimously carried.

#105 – Sheriff

Sheriff Terry McLaughlin appeared to review the proposed budget for 2005. He explained that the proposed budget reflects mainly a \$500.00 salary increase for all employees, an increase in Pension, a reduction in Postage (which was actually transferred into the Commissioner's budget), and a few other minor adjustments.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004 – (Cont.)

Mr. Waltz gave a brief update on the Sheriff's pension.

Some discussion was held on what figures should actually be used for the pension.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the budget as presented with the following changes:

- #105-111.1 – Salary – Chief Deputy – reduce to \$52,082.00
- #105-112.1 – Major – reduce to \$48,603.00
- #105-112.2 – Major – reduce to \$48,603.00
- #105-113.2 – Lieutenant – reduce to \$43,918.00
- #105-113.3 – Lieutenant – reduce to \$43,918.00
- #105-113.4 – Lieutenant – reduce to \$43,918.00
- #105-113.5 – Lieutenant – reduce to \$43,918.00
- #105-113.6 – Lieutenant – reduce to \$43,918.00
- #105-113.7 – Lieutenant – reduce to \$43,918.00
- #105-114.4 – Sergeant – reduce to \$40,926.00
- #105-114.5 – Sergeant – reduce to \$40,926.00
- #105-114.6 – Sergeant – reduce to \$41,726.00
- #105-114.7 – Sergeant – reduce to \$40,926.00
- #105-114.8 – Sergeant – reduce to \$40,926.00
- #105-114.9 – Sergeant – reduce to \$40,926.00
- #105-115.1 – Deputy – reduce to \$33,636.00
- #105-115.2 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-115.3 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-115.4 – Deputy – reduce to \$33,636.00
- #105-115.5 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-115.6 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-115.7 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-115.8 – Deputy – reduce to \$38,958.00
- #105-115.9 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-116.1 – Deputy – reduce to \$38,512.00
- #105-116.2 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-116.3 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-116.4 – Deputy – reduce to \$40,039.00
- #105-116.5 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-116.6 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-116.7 – Deputy – reduce to \$40,039.00
- #105-116.8 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-116.9 – Deputy – reduce to \$36,933.00
- #105-117.1 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-117.2 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-117.3 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-117.4 – Deputy – reduce to \$40,039.00
- #105-117.5 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-117.6 – Deputy – reduce to \$40,039.00
- #105-117.7 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-117.8 – Deputy – reduce to \$36,933.00
- #105-117.9 – Deputy – reduce to \$35,428.00
- #105-118.0 – Deputy – reduce to \$34,495.00
- #105-118.1 – Deputy – reduce to \$39,239.00
- #105-118.2 – Deputy – reduce to \$35,428.00
- #105-126.0 – Bookkeeper – reduce to \$26,806.00
- #105-127.0 – Administrative Assistant – reduce to \$27,152.00
- #105-127.1 – Records/Warrants Clerk – reduce to \$25,000.00
- #105-127.2 – Civil Process Clerk – reduce to \$23,500.00
- #105-127.3 – Investigation Secretary – reduce to \$25,000.00
- #105-127.4 – Claims Clerk/Receptionist – reduce to \$23,500.00
- #105-127.5 – Payroll Clerk – reduce to \$24,360.00
- #105-128.0 – Computer Administrator – reduce to \$27,000.00
- #105-128.1 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$25,547.00
- #105-128.2 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$29,233.00
- #105-128.3 – Communications Coordinator – reduce to \$33,000.00
- #105-128.4 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$29,233.00
- #105-128.5 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$29,233.00
- #105-128.6 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$24,389.00
- #105-128.7 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$24,003.00
- #105-128.8 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$29,233.00
- #105-128.9 – 911 Coord/Dispatcher – reduce to \$5,973.00
- #105-130.0 – Civil Process Server – reduce to \$28,601.00
- #105-130.1 – Civil Process Server – reduce to \$25,988.00
- #105-131.0 – Dispatcher – reduce to \$24,389.00
- #105-132.0 – Crime Technician – reduce to \$29,868.00
- #105-164.0 – Pension – reduce to \$421,520.00 *(based on 22.2%)*
- #105-322.0 – Postage – reduce to \$2,000.00 *(the \$10,000.00 reduction is going into the Commissioner's postage line item)*

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004 – (Cont.)

Mr. McConnell seconded the motion, which carried six to one; Mr. West voted nay.

#124 – Jail

Sheriff McLaughlin was also present to review this budget and stated that all employees were given a \$500.00 raise. He also stated that the Pension increased, as well as the Prescription Medicines.

Mr. Reed moved to approve the budget as presented.

#124-111.0 – Major – reduce to \$47,003.00
#124-112.0 – Matron – reduce to \$36,125.00
#124-125.0 – CO Shift Supervisor – reduce to \$28,462.00
#124-125.1 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-125.2 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-125.3 – Shift Leader – reduce to \$28,601.00
#124-125.4 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-126.0 – CO Assist Jail Commander – reduce to \$33,918.00
#124-126.1 – SO Assist Shift Supervisor – reduce to \$27,136.00
#124-126.2 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-126.3 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-126.4 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$28,601.00
#124-126.5 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-127.0 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,262.00
#124-127.1 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,775.00
#124-127.2 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-127.3 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,136.00
#124-127.4 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$25,988.00
#124-127.5 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,775.00
#124-127.6 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,262.00
#124-127.7 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,262.00
#124-127.8 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-127.9 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,262.00
#124-128.0 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,136.00
#124-128.1 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,136.00
#124-128.2 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-128.3 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$27,136.00
#124-128.4 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,775.00
#124-128.5 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,775.00
#124-128.6 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-128.7 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-128.8 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,775.00
#124-128.9 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-129.0 – Administrative Clerk – reduce to \$20,550.00
#124-129.1 – Administrative Clerk – reduce to \$22,606.00
#124-130.2 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-130.3 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-130.4 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-130.5 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$23,617.00
#124-130.6 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-130.7 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-131.1 – Correctional Officer – reduce to \$24,581.00
#124-162.0 – Salary Cook – reduce to \$22,754.00
#124-162.1 – Head Cook – reduce to \$26,577.00
#124-162.2 – Salary Cook – reduce to \$22,754.00
#124-169.0 – Pension – reduce to \$10,435.00 (*based on 22.2%*)

#126 – Courthouse Security

Sheriff McLaughlin noted that the only change to this 2005 proposed budget was the \$500.00 salary increases. He also expressed the necessity of having Courthouse Security and explained their duties.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the proposed budget with the changes listed below. Mr. McConnell seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#126-110.0 – Security Officer Supervisor – reduce to \$28,468.00
#126-111.0 – Security Officer – reduce to \$25,988.00

#135 – Council

Mr. McConnell made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Part-time Rates

Barbara Davis explained that she had given the Council a list of all part-time rates that were requested above the normal rates and she had listed both the current rate and proposed rate.

Discussion was held on the importance of part-time help and the savings to the county from lack of benefits; however, how could they give part-time help raises, when they couldn't give full-time employees raises.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004 – (Cont.)

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve department #105 to department #215 inclusive at the 2004 levels. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. The motion failed three to four; Mr. Canary, Mr. Waltz, Mr. West, and Mr. McConnell all voted nay.

Mr. West then made a motion to approve the whole list as presented. Mr. Canary seconded the motion.

Mr. Mason commented that if this motion passes, it sends a message to the departments that a part-time person who works periodically is more worthy of a raise than a full-time person who has worked here over twenty years.

The question was called and the motion passed four to three; Mr. Reed, Mr. Wright and Mr. Mason voted nay.

Discussion was held pertaining the motion that was just passed as to exactly what it entailed.

Mr. McConnell moved to reconsider the previous question. Mr. Wright seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. West then made a motion to approve the whole list of requested part-time rates, from department #105 to #361 inclusive, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Canary and failed three to four; Mr. Wright, Mr. Mason, Mr. Reed, and Mr. Waltz voted nay.

Mr. Reed made a motion to approve the part-time rates from department #105 to department #361 inclusive at the 2004 amounts. Mr. Wright seconded the motion.

Mr. Mason questioned the reason for the new rate requested for department #361?

There was really no one present who could answer that question at the time.

Mr. McConnell moved to divide the question from #105 to #140 and from #209 to #361. The motion died due to a lack of a second.

Mr. Reed then moved to amend his motion to revert #361 and discuss it at second reading, when more information would be available. Mr. Wright agreed to the amendment and the motion passed five to two; Mr. West and Mr. McConnell voted nay.

#105 – Sheriff - \$9.50 Dispatchers
#116 – Cooperative Extension - \$11.00 Program Assistant
#124 – Jail - \$8.50 Clerical/Payroll/Computer
#128 – Park - \$9.00 Clerical
#130 – Soil & Water - \$10.00 Adm. Assistant
#131 – Circuit Court - \$10.00 Legal Intern/Clerk
#132 – Superior Court #1 - \$10.00 Law Clerk/Bailiff
#133 – Superior Court #2 - \$10.00 Law Clerk/Bailiff
#137 – Title IV-D Juvenile Court - \$10.00 Law Clerk
#140 – Juvenile Detention Center - \$8.50 Cook; \$9.50 Youth Care
#209 – Community Corrections - \$10.97 Work Crew & Correctional Officer
#210 – Health - \$8.75 Vital Records & Immunization Coordinator; \$11.80 Nursing Assistant; \$15.25 Nurse
#214 – Health Maintenance - \$14.50 Health Specialists
#215 – WIC - \$15.61 Registered Dietitian
#216 – Community Corrections/Project Income - \$9.37 School Aide; \$9.37 Case Manager
#286 – Pretrial Diversion Program - \$10.00 Legal Intern
#327 – Prosecutor Deferral Program - \$8.25 Clerk Secretary
#332 – County Alcohol & /Drug Fund - \$14.00 Part-time Counselor

Mr. Mason moved to table #361 until second reading. Mr. Reed seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#361 – CASA Fee & Donation Fund – tabled until 2nd reading

Mr. Mason also moved to table #212 until second reading where more information could be obtained. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wright. The motion unanimously carried.

#212 – Emergency Planning & Right to Know – tabled until 2nd reading

Mileage Rates

Mr. West made a motion to approve the mileage rate at \$.30 per mile. Mr. Mason seconded the motion that unanimously carried.

#108 – Prosecutor

Lance Hamner, Prosecutor, and Michelle Murray, Administrative Assistant, were present to review the 2005 proposed budget. Mr. Hamner stated that there were no changes from the current budget.

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#118 – Prosecutor IV-D

A motion was made by Mr. West to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Reed seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#286 – Pre-trial Diversion

Mr. Canary asked Mr. Hamner if he has requested any salary increases from his discretionary funds.

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings – August 19, 2004 – (Cont.)

Mr. Hamner replied that he has not increased any salaries.

Mr. West made a motion to approve the budget as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mason and the motion carried unanimously.

#327 – Deferral

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as proposed. Mr. Reed seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

#295 – Regional Gang

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

#305 – Victim Assistance

Mr. Hamner commented that most of the prosecutor grants are mandated by the State, however, each year the money available is dwindling, and he wanted to make the Council aware of this situation.

Mr. Canary made a motion to approve the budget as presented. Mr. West seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#336 – Stop Grant #1

A motion was made by Mr. Mason to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

#338 – Crisis Intervention

Mr. West moved to approve the budget as presented. Mr. Mason seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Mr. Waltz stated that that was the last item on the agenda for first reading.

Mr. Mason made a motion to approve the budget as approved during first reading. Mr. Wright seconded the motion, which passed six to one; Mr. West voted nay.

There being no further business, Mr. Mason moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. West and carried unanimously.

APPROVED BUDGETS FOR 2005:

County Council 2005 Budget Hearings (2nd Reading) – August 24, 2004

The meeting was called to order by Brent Waltz, President.

The following members were present: Paul Reed, Ron West, Charlie Canary, R.J. McConnell, Keith Wright and Rick Mason. Phil Wilson was present as the Council's Attorney.

Mr. Waltz reported that he spoke with the Commissioners yesterday and by a vote of two to one, they approved to allow the Council to borrow one and half cent from the Bridge Fund which calculates to about \$780,000.00. He also stated that they are hopeful that the CAGIT money will be greater than expected, which should calculate to be \$350,000.00. And lastly, he noted that it is the intent of the Council to ask the County Assessor to use the annual disbursement for the reassessment fund, which calculates to \$283,000.00.

With these three things in mind, he stated that the Council might only want to re-address certain line items from certain budgets instead of going back through each and every budget. Those budgets would include Sheriff, Jail, Surveyor, County Assessor, Board of Commissioners, Health, Clerk, Computer Services, Plan Commission, Juvenile Detention Center, all of the Courts, and the part-time rates for departments #212 and #361.

The following budgets were approved after second reading for 2005: