

COUNTY COUNCIL

August 17, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER: The Parke County Council convened in a scheduled meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 17th, 2023 in order to conduct a public hearing on the 2024 budget and conduct other such business properly brought before the Council.

II. ROLL CALL: Council members present were John K. Pratt, President; Roy Wrightsman, Vice President; Jack B. Butler, Rick Patton, James E. Howard, Cameron Martin, Tom Rohr. Present from the Auditor's Office were Mary Anne Wood, Auditor; Susan Kramer, 1st Deputy. Department heads present included Mary Alice Gregg, Recorder; Katie Potter, Assessor; Kim Shorter, Treasurer; Nicole Collings, Clerk; Jim Meece, Commissioner; Steve Cvengros, Deputy Prosecutor; Greg Lohrmann, Surveyor; Chris Newcomb, Park & Rec; Cassie Wittenmyer, Planning and Zoning; Don Pruner, Custodian; Donna McVay, Coroner; Katlyn Wells, CASA; Diana Bartlow, CVC; Stephanie Laws, Health Department; Julie Lanzone, Ambulance Service; Chris O'Brien, E911; Kurt Lanzone, Extension Office; Stephany Dowd, LCC Administrator; Randy Norman, Highway Dept.; Lindsay Bishop, Soil and Water; Jason Frazier, Sheriff; Jason McHargue, Probation; Gina Sunderman, Title IV-D; and Judge Swaim; Stan Rukes, Veterans' Administration; Michael Slagle, Chief Public Defender. Others present included John Martin.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Hearing Regarding the Parke County 2024 Budget:** The Council heard presentations from the various department heads regarding budget requests submitted for the 2024 Parke County budget. Each department head was given the opportunity to present their requests to the council and answer questions posed by the council. Taxpayers also had the opportunity to ask questions regarding the budget and no taxpayers requested time to be heard.

The Parke County 2023 budget requests are summarized below by fund:

CASINO/RIVERBOAT	0
RAINY DAY	0
GENERAL	\$11,442,951
REASSESSMENT	\$170,000
DEBT SERVICE	\$320,000
LOCAL INCOME TAX	\$926,473
HIGHWAY	\$4,860,769
LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$150,000
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$807,915
HEALTH	\$155,884
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	\$292,796
PARK & RECREATION	\$383,951
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$737,500
ECON DEV INCOME TAX CREDIT	\$959,000
ADULT PROBATION	\$111,040
JUVENILE PROBATION	\$7,500
CORNERSTONE PERPETUATION	\$15,250
SALES DISCLOSURE	\$6,000
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$1,369,285

RECORDER'S PERPETUATION	\$25,000
LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION	\$1,000
COVERED BRIDGE	\$275,000
C.A.S.A.	\$44,444
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$40,612
INNKEEPERS COMMISSION	\$250,000
PUBLIC DEFENDER	0
CLERK'S PERPETUATION	\$5,600
PARK & REC CONCESSION	\$47,000
IDENTIFICATION SECURITY PROTECTION	\$1,000
PROBATION ADMINISTRATION	\$15,000
PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION	\$42,049
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT	\$8,000
S.C.R.A.M. (Secure Continuous Remote Monitoring)	\$12,000
AUDITOR'S INELIGIBLE HOMESTEAD DEDUCTION	\$2,080
ACCIDENT REPORTS	\$2,000
MISDEMEANANT	\$10,000
COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS TRAINING	\$5,000
PROSECUTOR INCENTIVE	\$10,905
LCC MINI GRANT-LEO TRAINING	\$3,000
RDC OPERATIONS	\$10,000
RDC REVOLVING LOAN	\$100,000
FIREARMS TRAINING	\$10,000
POLICE PENSION TRUST	\$228,659
SEX & VIOLENT OFFENDER	\$3,000
WEST CENTRAL TIF	\$90,000
CENTRAL PARKE TIF	\$275,000
PLAT BOOK	\$24,000
K-9 EQUIPMENT DONATION	\$2,000
SHERIFF METH OVERTIME GRANT	\$3,000
BULLETPROOF VEST FUND	\$5,000
LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES	\$199,043
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT	\$36,000
MARINE PATROL GRANT	\$7,500
LOCAL HEALTH TRUST	\$26,700
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY	\$68,138
EMERGENCY PLANNING & RIGHT TO KNOW	\$11,350
PROBLEM SOLVING COURT	\$49,193
DRUG COURT VENDING MACHINE	\$1,800
L.H. EMER PREPARED	\$25,000
AMERICAN RESUE PLAN FUND	\$154,000
SHERIFF DEPT FORFEITED ASSET	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$24,850,387

IV. JIM MEECE, COMMISSIONER:

- Requesting an increase in the compensation for the Historical Society's Curator from \$5,000.00 to \$7,500.00.
- Requesting additional compensation for the President of the Board of Commissioners. \$1,000.00-\$2,000.00 (10%-20% increase)
- Some discussion about insurance – Hendricks Regional Ortho program.
- IT for the Internet access at Rockville Lake Park.
- State Mandated Video streaming of all Parke County Meetings.
- Quotes for the replacement of the siding at the Parke County Jail.

V. STEVE CVENGROS, PROSECUTOR:

- No changes to the budget.

VI. GREG LOHRMANN, SURVEYOR:

- No changes to the budget.
- All the deeds in the county start from a corner section.
- Corner stones are correct in the County.
- Sometimes GIS does not match.

VII. STAN RUKES, VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER:

- No changes in budget.
- 2022 GDX paper from the Veterans' Administration shows 1,084 Veterans in Parke County. It goes down a little bit every year.
- In 2022, Parke County Veterans have received \$5.8 million annually at their own will.

VIII. CHRIS NEWCOMB, PARK & REC:

- No change in budget.
- In the 1179 Fund, moved postage and office supplies to the 1219 Fund.
- WIFI capability for the Rockville Lake Park. A nice amenity to offer visitors.
- Two big purchases for 2024 come from the 2019 Budget. One is a four-wheel drive mower that is will be used for mowing the trails and ditches. The second big purchase is a used Park truck.

IX. KATIE POTTER, ASSESSOR:

- Added \$500.00 to the travel budget as the mileage reimbursement rate went up and added \$200.00 to postage since the postage rate is going up.
- Asked for raises.

X. MARY ALICE GREGG, RECORDER:

- Submitted for raises.
- No change in budget.
- Company to Scan all of the Recorder's books. They work 24 hours. It may be a little over a \$100,000.00 to complete this project.

XI. KIM SHORTER, TREASURER:

- Budget basically the same as previous year.
- Asked for \$500.00 more in postage because next year the Amish Buggy plates will need to be mailed.
- Originally requested \$1,800.00 because IT had told her they were due to upgrade their PCs, not realizing she already had money in the account for that. Does not need that money anymore.
- Originally requested \$1,000.00 for 2 new printers. However, she was able to acquire 2 gently used printers from Martin County and does not need that money either. The budget can be zeroed out on the office equipment line.

XII. NICOLE COLLINGS, CLERK:

- Request a raise for the Clerk's Deputies for the Cost of Living etc.
- Went with what was spent last year on the election.

XIII. CASSIE WITTENMYER, PLANNING AND ZONING:

- Cut back on mileage. Going to leave the extra clerical in the budget. Stated budget does not change much from year to year.
- Can anything be done about residents not mowing lawns? Cassie replied not really.
- Solar panels and Wind mills were supposed to already have an Ordinance in place but cannot be located. The Commissioners have placed a moratorium on Solar and Wind. More discussion needs to take place.

XIV. DON PRUNER, CUSTODIAN:

- Not much change from last year.
- Quote for sod on 2 sides of the Courthouse. It might be \$5,000.00. Does not have the funding available and wondered if there were funds that can be found. The County Council can cover this under the Special Projects Fund.
- Chiller needs to be replaced and a new chiller needs to be budgeted in. Spent \$5,000.00 on a leak that still is not really fixed.

XV. DONNA MCVAY, CORONER:

- The numbers of Autopsies are up a little and would like an increase on this line item.
- Autopsies are being conducted at Sanders in Montgomery County through a traveling pathologist out of Marion County and would like to start using them as soon as possible. The cost is on par with what we pay now and there would be better service.
- The Montgomery Coroner is a former paramedic and is going to help with training so that we can draw our own toxicology. This will save some money.

XVI. DIANA BARTLOW, CVC:

- Asked for the budget to be the same.
- Discussion on the 25% to County Account from the 8% Innkeepers Tax Revenue. Roy Wrightsman set the account at \$85,000.00.

XVII. STEPHANIE LAWS, HEALTH DEPARTMENT:

- The 2024 regular budget is in line with previous years with no inflationary pieces.
- New budget is the 1161- Health First Indiana – Governor’s Health Commission Funding. This new budget will focus on chronic disease management for diabetes, heart health and respiratory issues.
- The 1206 and the 1168 funds will no longer receive revenue from the State.
- Will be focused on lead testing and vaccines.
- Environmental Health Specialist is budgeted into the 1161 fund as well as an offset of \$104,491.00 for resources coming from the Parke County Ambulance Services.

XVIII. JULIE LANZONE, AMBULANCE SERVICE:

- Requested Salary and Service Contracts to be increased.
- There were 16 applicants for an open position this year. This is up from last year’s prospective applicant pool.

XIX. CHRIS O’BRIEN, E911:

- 1222 – Statewide 911 Fund– Will get \$230,000.00 from the State and is asking for increases in salaries in conjunction with the Sheriff’s department for the dispatchers and an increase in Service Contracts.
- 1152 – E.M. Plan and Right to Know Fund – This account is good with no change. We get \$3,500.00 from the State to keep the fund going.
- 1000 – Emergency Management – requesting an increase in salaries. We get \$18,450.00 from a grant for Salaries.
- Important that the money in the Overtime account stays there for the 2024 budget.
- 911 revenue is stable

XX. KURT LANZONE, EXTENSION OFFICE:

- Salaries and wages have increased. The contractual salaries with Purdue University were raised.
- Fully staffed.
- Had a good 4-H Fair and 4-H enrollment numbers are up.
- More participation in Junior Leadership.

XXI. MARY ANNE WOOD, AUDITOR:

- Not many changes to the budget.
- Salary, Postage and Travel have gone up.
- Salary Ordinance needs to be amended due to adoption of the Emergency Preparedness Fund 9117. The salary for the Administrator needs to be amended by \$11,313.00. John Pratt made the motion to approve the Salary Ordinance Amendment and it carried unanimously.

XXII. JASON FRAZIER, SHERIFF:

- Asked for 9% raise for Dispatch and Jailers.
- Would like to increase the Deputies salaries even though ARP contributes \$2,000.00 to each Deputy's Salary.
- Medical for the prisoners have increased 4.4%.
- Courthouse Security may move to 5 days a week.
- Bought 2 cars in 2023 and may need to purchase another car in 2024.
- Like to build up the Commissary.
- Stipends are a move in the right direction.
- Have 1 application for 1 open Deputy position.

XXIII. KATYLN WELLS, CASA:

- No changes submitted for the 2024 budget.
- Still asking the Council to match a \$25,000 grant. She is also in partnership with Vermillion County.

XXIV. JASON MCHARGUE, PROBATION:

- Kept pretty much same budget as previous year.
- Asked for a raise for the Office Administrators.
- On the Juvenile budget, \$500.00 in telephone expenses can be moved to a new account for juvenile incentives because the \$1,500.00 in telephone expenses is never used up.

XXV. GINA SUNDERMAN, TITLE IV-D:

- Same budget as last year.

XXVI. MICHAEL SLAGLE , PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD:

- The amount of increase in Service Contracts is about \$25,000.00 due in part by the increase of criminal cases filed and how many public defenders are needed.
- 40% of the cost of the cases are reimbursed by the State back to the County.

XXVII. JUDGE SWAIM, CIRCUIT COURT:

- No significant changes in the 2024 budget.
- Needed more funds in the transcript fund. Took \$6,000.00 from the maintenance fund and \$1,000.00 from one of the Juror funds to supplement the transcript fund.
- Interpreters can become more of an expense and needed in the future.
- Happy with the Public Defender.

XXVIII. LINDSAY BISHOP, SOIL & WATER:

- Requested an extra \$1,500.00/yr. for her salary.
- Working on a grant for Big Raccoon Watershed.
- Improving our waters in Parke County.

XXIX. STEPHANY DOWD, LCC ADMINISTRATOR:

- Roy Wrightsman was concerned that the revenue of \$51,000.00 for this fund is not enough to support the Fund when the asking budget is \$68,000.00. He does not know where the money would come from to support the difference of \$18,000.00. It was decided to reduce each account evenly to bring the budget back down to the self-sustaining budget of \$51,000.00
- Assist the Hamilton Center.
- Continue to support law enforcement with training.
- Support the drug court

XXX. RANDY NORMAN, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

- Asked for more money for stone and gravel, fuel, tires and tubes due to inflation costs.
- Deck replacement on some bridges in the future.
- Melcher Bridge will be repaired
- Rosedale Bridge was inspected and was recommended to be replaced.
- Asked for \$1.00 per hour raise for the Highway Department employees.
- Putting in a culvert on 100 N.

COUNCIL DISCUSSION

XXXI. RE: COMMISSIONER'S STIPEND:

- Jim Meece is wanting a stipend. An increase was approved for \$2,200.00.

XXXII. RE: ROSEDALE BRIDGE/CULVERT

- No money is going to be spent on replacing the Rosedale bridge/culvert. It cannot be in that bad of shape to need replacement.

XXXIII. RE: CASA:

- It was decided to match the grant money of the additional \$5,000.00 that CASA had requested in their 2024 Budget.

XXXIV. RE: HISTORICAL SOCIETY CURATOR RAISE:

- It is a reasonable request to raise the Historical Society's Curator compensation \$2,500.00. It was approved to bring the total Compensation to \$7,500.00.

XXXV. RE: COURTHOUSE SECURITY:

- Currently, security is at the Courthouse on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday because those are court days. Going to stay with three days a week on Courthouse Security, reducing the appropriation to \$36,000.00.

XXXVI. RE: PARKS AND RECREATION WIFI:

- WIFI capability at the Rockville Lake Park would be a nice amenity. Will help fund the Rockville Lake Park WIFI.

XXVII. RE: COUNTY SHARED ENGINEER:

- There is a \$40,000.00 pace holder for the County Shared Engineer. There is no concrete information. The decision was made to not include the engineer in the budget at this time.

XXVIII. RE: HEALTH DEPARTMENT FUND 9117:

- Emergency Preparedness Fund will be zeroed out.

XXXIX. RE: HEALTH INSURANCE:

- Health Insurance will increase by 5% in 2024 Budget.

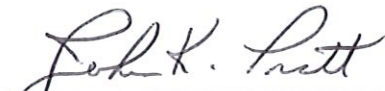
XL. RE: SALARY INCREASES:

- 7% increase for full-time salaried employees
- \$1.25 per/hr for EMS hourly employees
- \$1.25 per/hr for HIGHWAY Department hourly employees
- \$.50 per/hr for permanent scheduled part-time employees
- \$.25 per/hr for all other part-time employees
- \$5,000.00 for the Sheriff
- \$7,000.00 for Merit Deputies and the Matron
- \$200.00 for each of the 7 Councilmen and the 3 Commissioners.


Budget hearing concluded at 2:00 p.m. with no need to continue on August 18th.

AYE

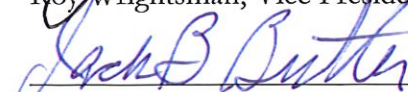
NAY



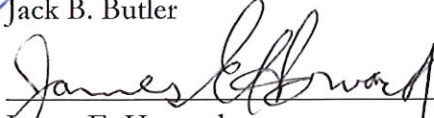
John K. Pratt, President



Roy Wrightsman, Vice President



Jack B. Butler



James E. Howard

Rick Patton

Rick Patton

Tom Rohr

Tom Rohr

Cameron Martin

Cameron Martin

John K. Pratt

John K. Pratt, President

ATTEST:

Mary Anne Wood

Mary Anne Wood, Auditor