

## COUNTY COUNCIL

August 18, 2022

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** The Parke County Council convened in a scheduled meeting at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in order to conduct a public hearing on the 2023 budget and conduct other such business properly brought before the Council.

**II. ROLL CALL:** Council members present were John K. Pratt, President; Larry Gambaiani, Vice President; Jack B. Butler (afternoon only), Rick Patton, James E. Howard, Cameron Martin and Roy Wrightsman. Present from the Auditor's Office were Laura J. Fischer, Auditor; Nicole Collings, 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy, Michelle Woods, 3<sup>rd</sup> Deputy. Department heads present included Mary Alice Gregg, Recorder; Katie Potter, Assessor; Kim Shorter, Treasurer; Henry Harper, Clerk; Jim Meece, Commissioner; Kevin Stalker, 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; Janet Cooper, Health Department; Julie Lanzone, Ambulance Service; Chris O'Brien, E911; Christie Jacob, Extension Office; Stephany Dowd, LCC Administrator; Randy Norman, Highway Dept.; Debbie Barnett, Soil and Water; Justin Cole, Sheriff; Jason McHargue, Probation; Gina Sunderman, Title IV-D; and Judge Swain. Others present included John Martin, Mary Anne Wood, Tom Rohr.

### III. NEW BUSINESS:

- **Public Hearing Regarding the Parke County 2023 Budget:** The Council heard presentations from the various department heads regarding budget requests submitted for the 2023 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	\$59,500
GENERAL	\$10,315,970
REASSESSMENT	\$170,000
DEBT SERVICE	\$280,800
HIGHWAY	\$4,697,626
LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$150,000
CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$582,711
HEALTH	\$55,000
EMERGENCY TELEPHONE SYSTEM	\$284,318
PARK & RECREATION	\$231,451
CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$783,500
ECON DEV INCOME TAX CREDIT	\$891,000
ADULT PROBATION	\$102,596
JUVENILE PROBATION	\$7,500
CORNERSTONE PERPETUATION	\$11,230
SALES DISCLOSURE	\$5,500
PUBLIC SAFETY	\$1,134,226
RECORDER'S PERPETUATION	\$16,000

LAW ENFORCEMENT EDUCATION	\$800
COVERED BRIDGE	\$75,000
C.A.S.A.	\$37,052
LOCAL HEALTH MAINTENANCE	\$36,500
INNKEEPERS COMMISSION	\$165,000
PUBLIC DEFENDER	\$5,750
CLERK'S PERPETUATION	\$5,600
PARK & REC CONCESSION	\$50,500
IDENTIFICATION SECURITY PROTECTION	\$1,000
PROBATION ADMINISTRATION	\$15,000
PRE-TRIAL DIVERSION	\$40,896
NATIONAL NIGHT OUT	\$1,000
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	\$4,000
PROSECUTOR INCENTIVE	\$10,773
LCC MINI GRANT-LEO TRAINING	\$2,000
RDC OPERATIONS	\$8,500
RDC REVOLVING LOAN	\$50,000
FIREARMS TRAINING	\$35,000
POLICE PENSION TRUST	\$185,676
SEX & VIOLENT OFFENDER	\$3,000
WEST CENTRAL TIF	\$10,000
CENTRAL TIF PARKE	\$1,600,000
PLAT BOOK	\$18,100
K-9 EQUIPMENT DONATION	\$2,000
SHERIFF METH OVERTIME GRANT	\$3,000
BULLETPROOF VEST FUND	\$25,000
MARINE PATROL GRANT	\$7,500
CLERK INCENTIVE	\$10,308
LOCAL HEALTH TRUST	\$14,500
DRUG FREE COMMUNITY	\$68,138
EMERGENCY PLANNING & RIGHT TO KNOW	\$11,350
PROBLEM SOLVING COURT	\$52,920
DRUG COURT VENDING MACHINE	\$1,800
L.H. EMER PREPARED	\$0
AMERICAN RESUE PLAN FUND	\$120,000
PROBLEM SOLVING CRT PRG INCOME	\$2,375
SHERIFF DEPT FORFEITED ASSET	\$5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,490,046</b>

**IV. JIM MEECE, COMMISSIONER:**

- Is good with the numbers. Stated the Auditor handles most of this and always finds the money.

**V. KEVIN STALKER, DEPUTY PROSECUTOR:**

- Prosecutor's office submitted for raises. Everything else is about the same.

**VI. GREG LOHRMANN, SURVEYOR:**

- No changes to the budget

**VII. STAN RUKES, VETERAN'S SERVICE OFFICER:**

- Unable to attend.

**VIII. CHRIS NEWCOMB, PARK & REC:**

- Has worked on enclosing hydrants. Has painted the cabins and fixed picnic tables.
- Did not submit many changes in the budget.

**IX. KATIE POTTER, ASSESSOR:**

- Submitted raises for her staff but not for herself.
- Would like to change to a new software company next year and would like the Assessor, Auditor and Treasurer to be all the same.

**X. MARY ALICE GREGG, RECORDER:**

- Submitted for raises and \$500 more in travel. Asked Council to consider raising the mileage rate from \$.40/mile.

**XI. KIM SHORTER, TREASURER:**

- Budget basically the same as previous year. Stated a raise would be nice. Would like to keep the service contract line at \$13,000.00.

**XII. HENRY HARPER, CLERK:**

- Requested budget like 2021 and postage like 2022. Stated there is no election next year.

**XIII. CASSIE WITTENMYER, PLANNING AND ZONING:**

- Cut back on a few line items. Stated budget does not change much from year to year.

**XIV. DON PRUNER, CUSTODIAN:**

- East side courthouse steps (beam) are getting bad. Already fixed West side years ago. North and South sides were done under construction phase so they are good. Chiller is in pretty good shape.
- Requested same amounts as '22 budget.

**XV. DONNA MCVAY, CORONER:**

- Assistant and 2 deputies' split salary. Now one is used more than the others so is asking for more money for the assistant. Autopsies going up a little.

**XVI. DIANA BARTLOW, CVC:**

- Asked for the budget to be the same. Stated State parks and recreation areas keep them afloat. Does not need as much in Postage so has asked for less there and more in Covered Bridge Maintenance. Also extra not needed in Operating Supplies is now requested in Covered Bridge Maintenance.

**XVII. JANET COOPER, HEALTH DEPARTMENT:**

- Talked about issues with Liddy Wrights salary and reporting problems to the state.

**XVIII. JULIE LANZONE, AMBULANCE SERVICE:**

- Brand new ambulance is there now. Oldest truck is the only one saved from fire.
- Increases in budget very minimal. Laundry line not needed so moved that money to Service Contracts. Kept Postage minimal. Salary request only real increase.

**XIX. CHRIS O'BRIEN, E911:**

- 911 account-asked for raise.
- Would like dispatchers paid hourly instead of salary to make tracking easier. Stated that part-time and overtime is very important.

**XX. CHRISTIE JACOB, EXTENSION OFFICE:**

- 5% increase on salaries across the board. Other lines remain the same. Melinda Long is now the program assistant.

**XXI. LAURA FISCHER, AUDITOR:**

- Not many changes to the budget. Lowered Postage and Office Supplies.

**XXII. JUSTIN COLE, SHERIFF:**

- Asked for raises for all employees. Cost increases on all.
- Short a jailer. New hire took another job. Will be getting one more new vehicle next year. Have hired a new maintenance employee. Overtime is going well.

**XXIII. KATYLN WELLS, CASA:**

- No changes submitted for the budget
- Still asking the Council to match \$20,000 grant. She is also in partnership with Vermillion County.

**XXIV. JASON MCHARGUE, PROBATION:**

- Kept pretty much same budget as previous year. Except Travel & Training.
- Salaries are mandated by the court system.

**XXV. GINA SUNDERMAN, TITLE IV-D:**

- Same budget as last year except for salaries.

**XXVI. MIKE SLATEN, PUBLIC DEFENDER BOARD:**

- First budget for this office. Contracts are what they are. His salary is based on Prosecutors salary.
- Almost everything is reimbursed to county except misdemeanors.

**XXVII. JUDGE SWAIM, CIRCUIT COURT:**

- Court reporters are way underpaid compared to other counties. Sullivan County is the only other county as low as Parke County.
- Reporting software has not been replaced since 2010. Recently had a software glitch, tech updated windows and then the software would not work. Was able to get it fixed. Around \$12,000 to upgrade, would like to do that sooner than later.

**XXVIII. DEBBIE BARNETT, SOIL & WATER:**

- \$5,000.00 /yr stipend. Debbie is retiring at the end of the year. They handle several grants throughout the year.

**XXIX. STEPHANY DOWD, LCC ADMINISTRATOR:**

- Same budget as last year.
- Area schools can receive grants for Red Ribbon Week. All schools in the county have each received \$1,000.00.
- Assisted law enforcement with National Night Out.
- Parke Heritage funding for vape detectors and drug kits.

**XXX. RANDY NORMAN, HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:**

- Asked for raises. Requested more money on several lines.
- The cost of everything is going up. Fuel, tires, repairs, gravel, ect.
- Added in money for Rosedale culvert. Does not really need to be fixed.
- Currently have about 23 employees, should be closer to 33. No laborers, short on truck drivers.
- Sanitorium bridge is closed. Crossbeam needs to be replaced.

**COUNCIL DISCUSSION**

**XXXI. RE: SOIL AND WATER STIPEND:**

- New position would have to pay \$6,000 and have perf and social security taken out. Council wants written agreement.

**XXXII. RE: ROSEDALE BRIDGE:**

- Since the bridge does not actually need fixed, money needs to be used for things that truly need fixed. Engineer can go look at the bridge.

**XXXIII. RE: EMS PAY:**

- Should forget sleep time and go to 24 hour pay. Lower paid time off. Request made to move EMT's to hourly pay rate versus salary. Council approved hourly pay method, rate will be set in salary ordinance.

**XXXIV. RE: LONGEVITY:**

- Add longevity for 20+ years. Raising longevity \$500 for civilians and \$1,000 to deputies. Council agrees to amend resolution increasing tiers, but not adding 20 year longevity tier.

**XXXV. RE: ARP:**

- \$96,000 if fully staffed. Council determined to award ARP stipends to sheriff's department employees, remove from EMS employees due to change to hourly pay rate.

**XXXVI. RE: SHERIFF VEHICLE:**

- \$53,000 for Sheriff to purchase new Tahoe.

**XXVII. RE: SHERIFF SIGNIFICANT INCREASES:**

- \$140,000 for prisoner medical and dental. Was put in for \$135,000.

**XXVIII. RE: PUBLIC DEFENDER:**

- Asked for \$241,000 and then for \$288,500. Council not pleased about increase but feel they have no choice. Will put it all on one line.

**XXXIX. RE: SOLID WASTE:**

- Will put money back in to budget.

**XL. RE: IT LINE:**

- Commissioners have moved forward to Microsoft 365 for the county. Everything IT will be put in one line. Rainy day fund is at zero. Council is in agreement.

**XLI. RE: SALARIES:**

- In the past a flat rate was given for raises. Councilman Pratt suggests doing a percentage this time. Stated how bad inflation is. Salary employees will receive a 5% raise. Full and part time salary individuals. Clerk – from \$35,750 to \$37,538 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy – from \$29,350 to \$30,818 2<sup>nd</sup> (and on) Deputy – from \$28,450 to \$29,873 Recorder and Treasurer – from \$35,250 to \$37,013
- Council can afford to do the salary increase as a percentage. 30% reserve so not excessive but not bare bones.
- Part-time employees will get a raise of \$.25/hour. Part-time/Part-time from \$12.00 to \$12.25 Full-time/Part-time from \$12.75 to \$13.00
- Highway employees got a raise mid-year last year so raise will be set at \$.75/hour.
- Council agrees that EMT's will now be paid \$15.00/hour and Paramedics \$19.00/hour.


**XLII. RE: BUDGET AND RESOLUTIONS:**

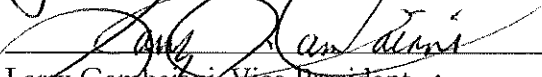
- Council agrees that Roy Wrightsman can hire someone to help prepare the budget. John Pratt to turn in claim to pay that person. Roy will prepare resolutions for Public Hearing on September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

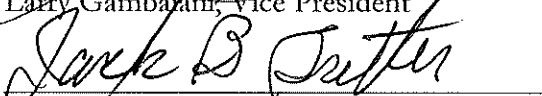
Budget hearing concluded at 2:00 p.m. with no need to continue on August 19<sup>th</sup>.


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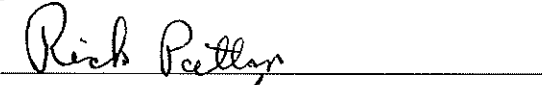
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John K. Pratt, President

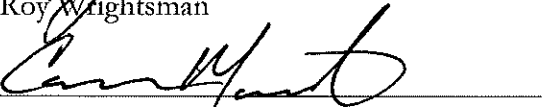
  
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Larry Gambarani, Vice President

  
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Jack B. Butler


  
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James E. Howard

  
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Rick Patton

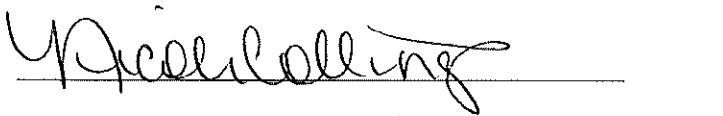
  
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Roy Wrightsman

  
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Cameron Martin

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John K. Pratt, President

ATTEST:

  
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Laura J. Fischer, Auditor  
Nicole Callines, First Deputy