

Minutes approved 10.22.24



Finance Committee (Budget)

James Carius Community Room
Tuesday, September 3, 2024 – 3:30 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Chairman Nick Graff, Max Schneider, Michael Deppert, Bill Atkins, Greg Longfellow, Greg Menold, Nancy Proehl, Tammy Rich-Stimson, Eric Stahl

Committee Members Absent: Mike Harris, Sam Goddard, Dave Mingus

Others Attending: Mike Deluhery, County Administrator

Finance Director, Mindy Darcy, provided the Committee with a presentation and overview of the projected FY25 budget and provided handouts outlining inter-fund transfers, the Capital Improvement Plan, all funds summary, general fund summary, and operating surplus. Ms. Darcy stated that in the FY25 budget they decided to put cell phone and iPad usage into the departments that actually use them. She stated that those items were previously in the building maintenance line.

Director Darcy stated that this will be the last year that there will be an ARPA fund transfer to the general fund. She stated that later this year the rest of the ARPA dollars will be claimed.

Member Crawford voiced his concerns regarding the County's communication with the citizens of Tazewell County to explain the financials.

Administrator Deluhery stated that in previous years the budget book and presentation was posted online to help give a narrative to the citizens.

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER SCHNEIDER, SECOND BY MEMBER ATKINS** to open for review the General Fund.

Circuit Clerk budget reviewed.

Jury Commission budget reviewed.

State's Attorney budget reviewed.

Public Defender budget reviewed.

Member Crawford voiced his concerns regarding the impacts on the criminal justice center with increased crime, more people in the jail, etc., and asked if we

factored this additional impact in terms of staffing for the State's Attorney, Public Defender, Sheriff, and Courts.

State's Attorney Mike Holly stated that they are having a very difficult time finding adequate staffing as they are competing with private firms. He stated that new law school graduates are not coming back to this area.

Public Defender Luke Taylor stated that due to covid, the most recent class of law graduates that are licensed to practice would have started law school in 2020 and so many potential first year law students deferred a year or two because they did not want to attend law school via Zoom. He stated there are slim pickings of potential employees. He stated that last year, he received a \$95,000 grant, which was spent on hardware and subscriptions. He stated that they would receive that again, and his plan is to utilize that money for a signing bonus to try to fill an open position he has. He claimed that he has six full-timers and 9-10 part-timers currently.

Sheriff Jeff Lower stated that he has been fully staffed for a long time, however, it has been a challenge finding people to work at the jail.

Courts budget reviewed.

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER MENOLD, SECOND BY MEMBER RICH-STIMSON** to amend the Courts budget changing line 5002 to \$170,271, line 5070 to \$17,036, line 5080 to \$18,060, and reducing line 5292 (Guardian Ad Litem) to \$0 from \$60,000.

Director Darcy stated that she met with Judge Doscotch, and the contracted Guardian Ad Litem recently resigned. Therefore, they will have a current employee who does this kind of work and have them take this over.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Court Services budget reviewed.

MOTION **MOTION BY MEMBER PROEHL, SECOND BY MEMBER ATKINS** to amend the Court Services budget changing line 5240 increasing it by \$2,000 to help retain and hire new employees and a correction to a formula that resulted in an adding error in the amount of \$7,500

Court Services Director John Horan stated that the \$2,000 would be spent on job fairs to help retain new employees.

On voice vote, **MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Court Security budget reviewed.

Sheriff budget reviewed.

EMA budget reviewed.

Coroner budget reviewed.

Community Development budget reviewed.

County Board budget reviewed.

Administrator Deluhery stated that he increased the budget for the reimbursements for per diems and mileage due to there being new county board members.

County Auditor budget reviewed.

County Clerk/Recorder budget reviewed.

Administrator Deluhery stated that it does revert to moving some expenses from the recorder fee fund back to the general fund.

Chairman Graff stated that a fee fund study was done last year and it was recommended that these expenses get moved back into the general fund.

Member Crawford questioned if we have completely eliminated splitting FTE's

Administrator Deluhery stated that for this department it would be completely moving FTE's to the general fund.

Member Crawford stated that he hoped the County maintained the salary for the election judges so we can have efficient elections.

Administrator Deluhery stated that the salary for election judges was approved by the board approximately two years ago.

County Clerk Ackerman stated that it is mandated by the state to offer paid time off to election judges if they work over 40 hours per week.

County Treasurer budget reviewed.

County Administration budget reviewed.

Administrator Deluhery stated that this includes some grant awards that are listed on Pg. 134. He stated that some of the grant awards were decreased after Covid and most of them have been brought back up to pre-Covid amounts. He stated that most recently they have increased the Center for Prevention of Abuse. He stated that he spoke to R.O.E. and they are requesting a 2% increase.

Administrator Deluhery stated that the adjustments line is where we budget for raises throughout the county.

Information Technology budget reviewed:

Administrator Deluhery stated that the change is in place where we have completely outsourced Information Technology to Heart so there is an elimination of the salary lines. He stated that they are still working through the backlog of projects and different upgrades that we need to accomplish to 100% modernize all of the IT operations. He stated that additional funds were added to accomplish that.

Human Resources budget reviewed.

Administrator Deluery stated that the education assistance line has been included for educational expenses that was approved last month by the board.

Finance budget reviewed.

Finance Director Mindy Darcy stated that we will own all of our copy machines as of October of this year so there is a decrease in the copier maintenance line. She stated that we would extend the maintenance agreement and get them serviced and purchase toner for the same rate that we have been paying for the past five years.

County Audit budget reviewed.

Farm budget reviewed.

Member Schneider questioned if solar farm income is included and Community Development Director Jackie Workman stated that the solar farm income is under rental income.

Assessments budget reviewed.

Board of Review budget reviewed.

Building Administration budget reviewed.

Administrator Deluhery stated that Mike Schone is working on getting a new maintenance tracking software.

Justice Center budget reviewed.

General County Revenue budget reviewed.

Administrator Deluhery stated that for some of the items, they are keeping the revenues flat due to uncertainty about the economy.

Chairman Graff stated that the revised General Fund expenditure total is \$50,066,125, including 5% contingency.

MOTION AS AMENDED CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairman Graff concluded the first budget meeting and advised that the next meeting is scheduled for September 9, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

The meeting was recessed at 4:55 p.m.

(transcribed by S. Gullette)