

**GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL
SPECIAL SESSION
OCTOBER 13, 2016**

The Grant County Council met in special session on Thursday, October 13, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers.

In attendance were council members Jim McWhirt, Mike Scott, Shane Middlesworth and Frank Hix. Also present were Auditor Roger Bainbridge, Chief Deputy Auditor Tammy Miller, Assistant Chief Deputy Chris Hancock and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens. Michael D Conner, Tresa Baker and Mark Leming were absent.

At 6:00 p.m. there were not enough Council members present for a quorum. Councilman Frank Hix arrived at 6:36 p.m. and president McWhirt reconvened the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Roll Call was taken and 4 members were present.

President McWhirt, "The purpose of this meeting is to go over the various issues that we were presented with to consider, during the budget hearing process for the various offices and funds in county government. Decisions will affect our preparation for budget adoption that is scheduled for next Wednesday, so the budget adoption will be next Wednesday at our regular meeting, October 19, 2016 at 6:00 p.m. What I have done is given each of you a copy of the list of things we need to talk about and consider to move forward in the process. What I would like to see us do is be able to make decisions on these items tonight. Items we don't take care of tonight, we will have to take care of next week. The better we can be prepared to resolve the quest this evening, that way the Auditor's office can finalize the numbers, so we can have the various funds budgets ready for us to consider adoption next week. We will see how it goes this evening; my goal is to get as many of these things, if not all, resolved this evening. I'm just going to head down the list; my thought is that we will direct these item by item. I can give a couple remarks to cash balance. I will restate our goals, at this point in our budget process; we want to have a budget that is reasonable, one that will fund the needs of the offices, with minimizing the reason to come back for additional appropriations. We want to do what we can to remunerate our employees. The third item is to make sure we maintain a reasonable financial position for each of the funds. That is the most important one overall. All those goals are important to us as we move through this process. Obviously when money is tight it makes those decisions more difficult and results are things that people would like to see different, we understand that, but all we can do is what we can do. I wanted to let you know, based on the form 4 B summary we received in our last meeting, projected operating balance, of the General fund, Health fund, Reassessment fund and Cum Bridge fund combined, and this is after we moved the special LOIT distribution percentage of 25% to the general fund, the projected balance is 958,000 for those 4 funds combined. A factor to keep in mind is that assumes 100% collection of tax levy, which 100% is probably not reasonable, but that is what this mathematics entails. It also does assume circuit breaker losses of a million four and that may or may not be the right number. We have heard Mr. Bates, one of our financial advisors, say it could be less than that now, after looking at some things, but we don't know that for a fact at this point, it's just a guess. That does include the increases in salary, which we are required to make, and that is the probation office staff. We have to meet a state mandated schedule for those positions. So those are all included, and the other item included is the categories 2-7 that we have approved in our budget hearing process. So that is where we stand. We have not addressed the salaries for the other positions in county government, and some other personnel related items, such as the health insurance, FICA, pensions, those kinds of things we have not officially acted on, that are all part of category 1. Are there any questions before we get started after those comments, anything else you want to bring up or discuss? If not we are going to address the items that we were asked to consider".

The first item on the agenda is General Fund:

County Extension Office-President McWhirt, "We were asked to consider reinstating a budget amount to go from 76,000 to 107,340 which is reinstating a reduction we made last year, in the contractual services part of the budget. That is an increase of 31,340. In our last meeting in September Mrs. Clupper did suggest we could take any portion of that. Do we want to do anything to adjust the current appropriation of 76,000 that we have in contractual services for that department? This money is paid to Purdue to fund positions, there were 3 and we reduced

that down to 2 ½. So we are being asked to reinstate that back or a portion of that. If we have no action or motion on this it will remain at 76,000, which is what is currently in the budget. There is no motion regarding this so it will remain at 76,000 in the budget for 2017”.

County Assessor- President McWhirt, “We are being asked to increase the hourly rate of part-time workers from 15.41 per hour to 16.00 per hour in 2017, and raising the appropriation from 20,000 to 21,301. Is there any action recommended regarding this? The reaction of the council is not to raise anything at this point. We are in a position where we just can’t do it. There is no action or motion on this so 2017’s hourly rate will remain the same as well as the appropriation”.

Commissioners (department 68) - President McWhirt, “The state has required us to make some changes, such as the COIT, we had as a second separate budget fund, in 2017 the COIT money will go into the general fund. So we need to move appropriations that used to be in the COIT fund to be part of the general fund. I have numbers for FICA, PERF, Life Insurance, Unemployment and Workman’s Comp. listed on the hand-out. Those numbers are included in our current analysis of our current budget for 2017.” Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the department 68 budget FICA 800,000, PERF 1,030,000, Life Insurance 70,000, Unemployment 40,000 and Workman’s Comp 150,000 for the 2017 budget as presented. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 4-0.

Data Processing (department 106) - President McWhirt, “Currently our budget adopted through our public hearing at this point includes 110,000 for new equipment/hardware for IT. We also offset, or reduced contractual services by 25,000, because at least what we are being told is by buying new we reduce our maintenance costs. We do have a net below 110,000 as far as total budget goes. We did mention as we went through this process that we would consider any additional equipment request to that if we felt like we could afford it. Or reduce it if we feel like we could not afford it. Is there a motion to change that 110,000 we currently have in the budget for that purpose? The 110,000 is the first payment of 5, this is a 5 year agreement. No action is taken so this stays as is, 110,000 in the budget for that purpose”.

EMS- President McWhirt, “We were asked to increase the salaries of the full time drivers, which are currently being paid 19,121 each to 26,880 each. That is a change of 23,000 plus total. Discussion ensued concerning a change in revenue for EMS. The budget request is 622,914; if we see a change we can always go back and revisit this, right now we should leave it as it is. To do something we are not sure of is difficult to do right now. No action is taken so this will stay as it is”.

County Prosecutor (department 009)-President McWhirt, “Prosecutor Jim Luttrell presented his budget and he has had a retirement that will free up 81,600. To hire a new person to replace that vacancy would be in the range of 53,000, making the difference 28,600. Jim Luttrell is asking for the 28,600 to “spread among the staff” giving the other deputy prosecutors a raise. This would not exceed the 2016 budget, but he would like to use these dollars in 2017. Do we grant him this request or any portion of the request?” Councilman Scott expressed the money should be use do hire a part-time prosecutor. Councilman Middlesworth expressed we need to remain consistent, the Sheriff’s department wanted to do the same thing and we did not grant them their request. Councilman Hix also expressed concerns about saving all we can “we may need this for next year”. President McWhirt, “Sounds like no action will be taken, this will remain as is”. Jim Luttrull spoke on behalf of the prosecutor’s office explaining how this will impact his staff and their work load. President McWhirt expressed that the salaries for the staff will remain the same in 2017 as they are in 2016. The prosecutor’s office will be able to fill the vacancy at the 53,000 level.

Victim’s Assistance (department 009)-President McWhirt, “This department will be fully funded by a grant in 2017. We have been asked to increase the salary by 2,151 making to the total salary 44,662 for 2017, fully paid by the grant.” A motion was made by Councilman Middlesworth to grant the request to increase the Victim’s Assistance positions in coordination

with the grant and what it provides. This makes the salary 44,662 for 2017, plus any other expenses involved with that department. Second by Councilman Hix; motion carried 3-1.

Public Defender (department 204)-President McWhirt, “We are being asked to increase the Public Defenders salary from 29,075 to 30,175, that is an increase of 1,100 in 2017. In the past we provided 500 for each of these positions for office supplies/equipment, and 600 for malpractice insurance. We have at this time already reduced the budget by eliminating the 500 per Public Defender for office supplies. We did retain the 600 for malpractice. We have additionally been asked to add on a Public Defender to the staff, going from 10 to 11 Public Defenders. So the question is do we do those 2 requests? In regards to adding the one Public Defender request the concern was raised, if we don’t do something with the staff numbers we may have a more difficult time remaining in compliance with the state to get the reimbursements.” Councilman Scott expressed not granting the one Public Defender position and granting the 500 for supplies and 600 for malpractice, which satisfies the 1,100 increase. Councilman Scott made a motion to retain the malpractice insurance at 600 per Public Defender, retain the elimination of 500 salaries per Public Defender, decrease the amount for salary raise of 1,100 to 500, and do not increase current staffing. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 4-0.

President McWhirt, “That is all in the General fund; there are some things in this packet that show other funds that we haven’t acted on officially. They involve personnel issues. Do we want to act on those funds, or just do those as we approve fund budgets next week? If we are going to grant no raises, we could approve those fund budgets with no changes in personnel and approve the other categories that apply to funds we have already dealt with. We can do that all in one motion at the end.”

Local Health Maintenance (#1168)-President McWhirt, “We have been asked to increase the hourly wage rate for the communicable disease nurse and health educator from 18.00 per hour to 20.00 per hour. These are part-time positions strictly grant funded. In the September meeting we did grant that change for 2016. It makes sense to carry that action over into 2017. Is there any action or recommendation at this time?” Councilman Middlesworth made a motion to approve a change in the hourly wage rate from 18.00 to 20.00 per hour for 2017 for these positions from the local health maintenance fund. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 4-0.

Sales Disclosure Fund (1131)-President McWhirt, “This fund has already been paying a partial pay for a position. We have not approved it for 2017 yet, but bottom line is, if it is going to be paying for a partial position at less in 2017, then what it was paying in 2016. It all comes down to, it reduces the funds, and at this point we are being asked to agree to the personnel piece of 4,500 plus benefits. The remaining part is reassessment fund”. Councilman Middlesworth moved to approve the sales disclosure fund budget for 2017 with the requested employee pay of 4,500 plus benefits, with the remaining portion going to the reassessment fund. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 4-0.

Health Insurance Fund-President McWhirt, “Do we maintain the 17,000 per employee? It was recommended by our insurance consultants to go to 20,000, we are hoping to keep it at 17,000 and still be solvent. In looking at the numbers it would appear that the budget at 6 million for the year, which is being requested is reasonable. The rate of 17,000 per employee would be able to keep us at a reasonable position”. Councilman Middlesworth made a motion to retain the 17,000 per employee to be transferred from various funds as purposed, into the insurance fund. That funds budget being 6 million as presented to us as requested. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 4-0.

Disaster Fund-President McWhirt, “Mr. Bardsley, from the Commissioners, asked that we start a disaster fund, he recommended we do this at 50,000 a year over a 5 year period, with the goal

being 250,000. We do have a rainy day fund available to us that we could transfer some of that into a disaster fund. We can put this off at this point and transfer funds from the rainy day fund if we have to at some point. There is no action on this at this time.”

County Highway Fund (1176)-President McWhirt, “Mr. White (Grant County Highway Superintendent) has asked us to give his Safety Director the same pay as his other 3 foreman. Right now the Safety Director is paid 893 less than the other foremen. He has also asked that we consider increasing the salary of a mechanic. We talked about this in our April meeting and did not grant this at that time. He has asked we increase the mechanics pay from 31,358 to 32,769, which is an increase of 1,411. The third thing he is asking for is under longevity pay, he asked we consider changing the base year from which it is calculated. Currently the Highway’s base year is 2001.” Discussion ensued among council members on their thoughts on the longevity. After further discussion Council has tabled these 3 items until the October 19 meeting.

CEDIT Fund (1112)-President McWhirt, “In looking at the funds 4B statement, we can accommodate a budget of 1,144,000 in 2017 and still leave an operating balance of 50,026 by the end of 2017. My thought is to just let this go as is.” Councilman Scott made a motion to approve the CEDIT fund budget for 2017, at a total of 1,144,000 with the breakdown as shown. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 4-0.

Debt Services Fund (4600)-President McWhirt, “I will read through the funds and we can take this all in one motion, the ones we had some personnel category 1 items left to cover. My thought is to pass a motion to approve the budgets with all these funds I will read these leaving category 1, personnel, as presented and the others we already adopted in the previous sessions. The funds would be:

- Clerk’s Records Perpetuation Fund
- Clerk’s IV-D Incentive Fund
- Surveyor’s Corner Perpetuation Fund
- Local Health Department Trust Account Fund
- Sheriff Workcrew Fund
- Reassessment Fund
- Cumulative Bridge Fund
- Recycling Fund
- Deferred Prosecution Fund
- Pre-Trial Diversion Fund
- Supplemental Juvenile Probation Services Fund
- Adult probation Administrative Fund
- Drug Court Fund
- Plat Book Fund
- Auditor’s Ineligible Deductions Fund

“We are asking for motion on these funds.” Councilman Middlesworth made a motion to approve the budgets of all the funds that we just read with the category 1 cost remaining the same with no raises involved there, and no changes in appropriations in cat 2-7 or whatever the numbers apply. Second by Councilman Scott; motion carried 4-0.

President McWhirt, “We will adopt the budget and address the Highway fund at next Wednesday’s meeting (10-19-16). The only raises we are going to grant are the Probation staff that we are required to because of the state schedule, and the changes we made in the Public Defenders and Victims Assistant, because of the grant.

The next meeting will be October 19th, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

President McWhirt adjourned the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

