

Grant County Council
Special Session
October 4, 2017

The Grant County Council met in Special Session on Wednesday October 4, 2017 at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers.

Call to order

President McWhirt called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.

Roll Call

In attendance were Council members Jim McWhirt, Shane Middlesworth, Mark Leming, Frank Hix, Mike Roorbach, Mike Scott and Mike Conner. Also present were Council Attorney Phil Stevenson, Auditor Roger Bainbridge, Chief Deputy Auditor Angie Jarvis, and Financials Deputy Stacey Stevens.

New Business

Public Hearing-Facility Project Financing- Council Attorney Phil Stevenson introduced the first reading of the bond ordinance for the Facility Project Financing. The second reading will be at the regular session Council meeting on October 18, 2017. This first reading does need to be passed this evening to keep this moving appropriately. The bond has an 8,750,000.00 max, not to exceed 6% interest rate and not to exceed 20 years to pay. Councilman Conner moved to approve ordinance #2-2017 first reading. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried to second reading 6-1.

Old Business

2018 Budget-discussion and potential action regarding various budget matters-President McWhirt expressed this is a public hearing and is now open. President McWhirt went over the notice to tax payers that are on Gateway. The notice to tax payers is as follows:

Prescribed by the Department of Local Government Finance
Approved by the State Board of Accounts

Budget Form No. 3 (Rev. 2015)
Print
10/4/2017 3:19:47 PM

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS

The Notice to Taxpayers is available online at www.budgetnotices.in.gov or by calling (888) 739-9826.

Complete details of budget estimates by fund and/or department may be seen by visiting the office of this unit of government at AUDITOR'S OFFICE.

Notice is hereby given to taxpayers of GRANT COUNTY, Indiana that the proper officers of Grant County will conduct a public hearing on the year 2018 budget. Following this meeting, any ten or more taxpayers may object to a budget, tax rate, or tax levy by filing an objection petition with the proper officers of Grant County not more than seven days after the hearing. The objection petition must identify the provisions of the budget, tax rate, or tax levy to which taxpayers object. If a petition is filed, Grant County shall adopt with the budget a finding concerning the objections in the petition and testimony presented. Following the aforementioned hearing, the proper officers of Grant County will meet to adopt the following budget:

Public Hearing Date	Wednesday, October 04, 2017	Adoption Meeting Date	Wednesday, October 18, 2017
Public Hearing Time	6:00 PM	Adoption Meeting Time	6:00 PM
Public Hearing Location	401 SOUTH ADAMS ST., MARION, IN 46953	Adoption Meeting Location	GRANT COUNTY COUNCIL ROOM
Estimated Civil Max Levy	\$14,254,554		
Property Tax Cap Credit Estimate	\$1,373,974		

1 Fund Name	2 Budget Estimate	3 Maximum Estimated Funds to be Raised (including appeals and levies exempt from maximum levy limitations)	4 Excessive Levy Appeals	5 Current Tax Levy
0101-GENERAL	\$25,012,560	\$18,076,182	\$494,629	\$11,771,359
0124-2015 REASSESSMENT	\$509,697	\$651,481	\$0	\$476,990
0180-DEBT SERVICE	\$628,405	\$376,272	\$0	\$651,396
0702-HIGHWAY	\$3,788,911	\$0	\$0	\$0
0706-LOCAL ROAD & STREET	\$580,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
0790-CUMULATIVE BRIDGE	\$680,000	\$946,966	\$0	\$687,118
0801-HEALTH	\$635,207	\$583,549	\$0	\$397,142
2391-CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT	\$366,000	\$469,847	\$0	\$386,635
2411-ECONOMIC DEV INCOME TAX CREDIT	\$1,209,651	\$20,790	\$0	\$0
Totals	\$33,410,431	\$21,125,067	\$494,629	\$14,370,640

President McWhirt expressed he is going to start the review process by starting with going back to the list of budget issues that was emailed to Council members earlier. President McWhirt will start with number 34 on the list, Review of Financial position. The projected operating balance at December 31, 2018 for combination of the General Fund, Health Fund, Reassessment Fund, and Cumulative Bridge Fund is (\$1,128,471). We have some decisions to consider. The following is one approach we can consider for these four funds.

Operating Deficit	\$1,128,471
Use rainy day fund for employer insurance transfers	(400,000)
Move Dispatchers from General fund to County 911 fund	(442,694)
Eliminate Employees' share of perf	(247,675)
Reduce Cumulative Bridge fund budget	(200,000)
Maintain Sheriff Merit pension fund contribution level	<u>(33,863)</u>
Projected Operating Balance	\$195,761

"This is just something I am putting out there to you, we can change this and I am open to any other suggestions you all may have". Councilman Scott asked if there was any new information on the "dormant" funds we have. President McWhirt and Auditor Roger Bainbridge expressed they are still working on this and have been in contact with the State Board of Accounts concerning these funds. Councilman Conner expressed "at budget time next year, before we cut employee jobs we need to meet with the elected officials and department heads and see where things can be cut and not be the judge of what positions to eliminate or cutting other parts of their budgets". Councilman Scott agrees with Councilman Conner, in that the elected officials and department heads need to step in and help make the decisions on what they can actually cut from their budgets. Councilman Roorbach spoke about information he received about the state health care plan and allowing cities and counties to join. Councilman Roorbach asked if he could "throw out some figures" he has put some thought into. "I like the rainy day fund at 400,000. Let's put cum bridge at 250,000. Leave the dispatchers where you have it, leave the Sheriff Merit pension. What I would not like to do is eliminate the perf. We have our dormant or mystery fund that could help give us an operating balance. In taking 100,000 of that and the 195 off then you would not have to eliminate the perf. This will cut us closer but the one thing we have to put in here is money left over at the end of the year. In looking at 2019 we could ask the employees to pick up their perf, we should give them some warning of this happening, not take it now at the first of October and it take effect in a couple months, give them time to plan". Councilman Middlesworth expressed he like the idea of not having the employees not paying their perf. Commissioner Mike Burton spoke about the cum bridge fund and keeping it at the 200,000 balance. After a brief discussion with Highway Superintendent David White the Commissioners agreed to make the cum bridge fund work at the 250,000 level. Commissioner Mark Bardsley spoke about the E-911 fund. Dale Carr spoke about Council not cutting the perf of the county employees.

President McWhirt moved on to item E Prosecutor's IV-D. Mr. Luttrull has moved 2 case manager positions from the IV-D incentive fund do to the financial position of the fund. Are we ok with this move or do we assign those positions to the Clerk's IV-D fund or the title IV-D incentive fund. Councilman Leming made a motion to move the 2 case manager positions from the Prosecutor's incentive IV-D fund to the Clerk's IV-D incentive fund for 2018. Second by Councilman Conner; motion carried 7-0.

The Commissioners have requested an increase in the cell phone appropriation account from 7,800 to 9,200 for 2018. Councilman Roorbach made a motion to approve the appropriation in the Commissioners budget for cell phone from 7,800 to 9,200 for 2018. Second by Councilman Conner; motion did not carry 3-4. This appropriation remains at 7,800.

Highway Superintendent David White requested that we change the base year of Longevity Pay calculations to 2017, it is currently at 2012. No motion this will stay the same. In the recycling fund we have some changes to make. Councilman Conner made a motion to change the recycling fund budget to category 2 will remain the same, category 3 will be at 30,000 and equipment will be at 20,000. Second by Councilman Middlesworth; motion carried 7-0.

Next is the 911 fund budget. We originally approved this budget at 326,450. Do we want to include the dispatchers pay in this budget? This includes salary, longevity, perf, and FICA, its 442,694. Discussion ensued concerning central dispatch and the 911 fund budget. No motion was made on this fund.

Discussion ensued concerning balancing the 2018 budget. Councilman Scott made a motion to approve balancing the budget by doing the following:

Use Rainy Day fund for employer insurance transfers	410,000
Move Dispatchers from General fund to County 911 fund	442,694
Reduce Cumulative Bridge fund budget	250,000
Maintain Sheriff Merit Pension fund contribution level	<u>33,863</u>
Projected Operating Balance	8,086

Second by Councilman Roorbach: motion carried 6-1.

President McWhirt expressed we will adopt the budget at the October 18th regular session Council meeting.

President McWhirt adjourned the meeting at 7:58 pm.