

WABASH COUNTY COUNCIL 2018 BUDGET HEARINGS

The Wabash County Council met on the second floor of the Courthouse in the Commissioners Room on Tuesday, September 12, and Wednesday, September 13, 2017 at 12:30 P.M. and on Thursday, September 14, 2017 at 5:00 P.M. for the Wabash County 2018 budget hearings. Chairman Jeff Dawes called the hearings to order on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. Council members present included Jeff Dawes, Randy Curless, Matthew Mize, Lorissa Sweet, Matt Dillon, Philip Dale and Kyle Bowman.

Tuesday, Sept. 12, & Wednesday, Sept. 13, 2017 Hearings - The 2018 proposed budgets were presented by the elected officials and the directors of the following departments: County Commissioners, County Prosecutor, Veterans Service Office, County Treasurer, County Clerk, County Sheriff, Purdue Extension, Circuit & Superior Courts, CASA Grant Program, Soil & Water Conservation, County Health Department, Central Dispatch, Weights & Measures, County Assessor, County Surveyor, Planning Department, County Recorder, County Auditor, Probation Department, County Highway, Emergency Management, and the County Coroner. The Salary & Wage Committee had recommended that all departments receive an across-the-board 1% increase for 2018. Some specific salary increases beyond the 1% increase had been requested by the Sheriff's Department, the Prosecutor's office and the Circuit & Superior Courts to the Salary & Wage Committee, but the committee failed to complete their scheduled agenda when they met previously, so there were no recommendations to Council concerning these increases. It was the consensus of the County Council that these requests must be heard and recommendations given by the Salary and Wage Committee before the Council could consider the increases. The affected departments were instructed to present their requests to the Salary & Wage Committee at a meeting yet to be scheduled in 2017. The requests would then be scheduled on the Council's agenda for consideration of additional appropriations to the 2018 approved budgets. Council members reviewed every county budget and fund. The hearings were recessed to be continued on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017.

Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 Hearing - County Auditor, Marcie Shepherd reported that the growth quotient for 2018 budgets is 4.0% with the estimated 2018 maximum levy at 4,827,598. She had calculated a figure of \$360,991 in cuts that needed to be made from the proposed levies and the proposed 2018 budgets of some or all of the tax-rated funds in order to be at the maximum levy allowed. Auditor Shepherd reported that it was confirmed by the DLGF that the Cum. Capital Development Fund is outside the maximum levy and that the DLGF computes the amount outside the levy at the maximum rate cap of .0190 instead of the certified county tax rate of .0164. This results in an additional 34,000 of tax levy allowed outside the maximum levy. It was Council's consensus to advertise and to consider increasing the Cum. Capital

Development certified rate after the first of the year which could result in more tax levy collected for the CCD Fund.

The Council's consensus was to decrease, increase or move expenditures as follows:

GENERAL FUND: Total of \$254,157.00 in increases and decreases

Clerk's office: cut \$30,256 from personal services/one deputy salary - per Clerk

Auditor's office: cut \$31,958 from personal services/one deputy - per Auditor

Sheriff's office: cut \$4,191 from personal services/salaries

Coroner's office: cut \$66,000 from other services & charges, cut \$70,000 from capital outlay for vehicle

Prosecutor's & IV-D office: cut \$1,150 from personal services/salaries

Assessor's office: cut \$30,700 from other services & charges; in another budget

County Election: cut \$10,000 from other services & charges - per Clerk

County Extension office: cut \$5,398 from personal services/salaries, cut \$498 from other services & charges.

Planning Dept.: cut \$540 from other services & charges

Drainage Board: increased other services & charges by 1,995 for watershed layer to avoid encumbering.

Commissioners: increased personal services by \$115,000 for sheriff pension contributions, cut \$31,750 from other services & charges for ARC of Wabash County; advertised too high, increased other services & charges for Wards of the Court & Institutions by \$60,000, moved \$85,000 from other services & charges/Professional Services & Exam of records to the Riverboat Fund.

Emergency Management: cut \$12,000 from capital outlay for vehicle.

Courthouse Complex: cut \$30,700 from other services & charges; in another budget.

Jail: cut \$3,326.00 from personal services/salaries

Circuit Court: cut \$2,954 from personal services/salaries, cut \$5,300 from software supplies

Superior Court: cut \$4,431 from personal services/salaries.

LIT PUBLIC SAFETY: Total of \$122,000 in decreases

Moved \$115,000 for sheriff pension contributions to the General Fund, decreased \$7,000 from capital outlay for K-9 program - per Sheriff.

There were no changes to the other tax-rated funds or any of the other fund budgets.

Council directed the Auditor's office to make the changes to the 2018 budgets and prepare budget form 4, the budget approval and signatures and the form 4b that includes the tax levy and tax rates for official approval at the final adoption hearing advertised and scheduled for Monday, September 25, 2017.

After hearing no questions from the public in attendance, Chairman Dawes adjourned the budget hearings.

The following individuals also attended the 2018 BUDGET HEARINGS:

**If any names are spelled incorrectly, we apologize.*

Deputy Auditor B.J. Grube, and in attendance for part of the hearings were County department officials and a few county employees. Present on Thursday, Sept. 14, 2017 was “The Paper” editor, Joe Slacian.