

Owen County Council  
Minutes-Public Hearing October 12, 2021

Meeting was called to order by President Andy Wood.

Pledge of Allegiance was said, Opening Prayer was given by Mr. Robertson.

Roll was called; noted was the absence of Chuck Hess who is in the hospital. Sign in sheet attached for record.

Also present was Attorney Bryan and Auditor Reeves.

Mr. Wood opened the Public Hearing at 6:05pm.

Copies of the proposed Budgets in the amount of \$16,763,938 was provided to members for pre-adoption.

Mr. Neff first asked if the budgeted amount for the Building Department would be supported with the projected amounts. Mr. Bryan offered that with the changes in Funds and Revenue Streams that it is projected to be balanced.

Mr. Neff then offered concern for the increase in prices for fuel costs. Mr. Wood stated it was a world concern and this will be a moving target to be monitored.

Next was the direction for Sheriff's Retirement Funds to make sure that all the allotted/budgeted Funds are utilized for all payments before using any other funds. So agreed by all.

Mr. Wood asked for verification on the Settlement Timeline. It was related that it would be December 14<sup>th</sup> that they will meet and review with LOW Financial and processed as quickly as possible after that.

Public-Terry McMorran asked if any estimated revenue numbers were available. Mr. Neff related that the only information at this time is the Income Tax Revenues and Property Tax, and Misc. is still pending.

Ms. Frank related that she has had a shortfall both in 2020 and 2021 for Part-time Staff. She noted at present they have had 45 cases and has a request for an additional appropriation for \$5000 tonight.

Following discussion and concern, a motion to approve an increase for the Coroners 2022 Budget to \$9738 that will also increase the Fica to \$1461. The motion was made by Mr. Neff; seconded by Mr. Hess.

Motion Carried 6-0.

Mr. Melton noted that the Funds for the Local Road & Street was to be split in separate line items. The total only was presented tonight, and the specific amounts will be put in the proper line items. Mr. Wood asked that quarterly financial reports be provided.

Mr. Marks commented that he had moved to Owen County with a live and let live attitude and very hospitable and wants everyone to try and get back there. Are County Budgets-Government versus the Corporate Business (this current budget is definitely all mixed up) He further asked about Insurance costs being up. Mr. Burton explained that first it was/has been underbudgeted, so it has not exactly increased. Also, that he has reduced the costs by over \$137000 for a huge savings as he has worked with extensively with our Carriers, and that correct amounts have not been entered by the previous auditor.

Sheriff's Budget in 2021 was 2.4 million; all funds have been moved to the new PSAP 2022 Fund in the amount of 2.9 million and an estimated revenue of est. \$3million. Mr. Bryan it will be a much more accurate budget with only utilizing the one fund for expenses. The 2023-2024 Budgets will be a different projection due to the timeline and current clock running on a new jail.

No other comments were made.

A motion to approve the Budget presented with the noted corrections to the Additional Amounts to the Coroners Fund and line-item disbursement to the Highway was made by Mr. Neff; seconded by Polly Chesser. Motion carried 6-0. Mr. Marks also asked for verification that it is included on the Firearms Fund-\$26000.

Additional Appropriation requests were previously presented for:

Drug Court#9110 Cash to Contract Services \$10000

MVH #1176 Cash to Gas/Oil/Lube \$50000

PSAP Lit#1235 to Contract Services \$ 4400

They will be presented at the October 25<sup>th</sup> Meeting along with the prior list that was not allowed for consideration due to advertising issues (was only 9 days).

No other comments were made.

Mr. Wood called for a motion to close the Hearing. Mr. Neff made that motion-Meeting adjourned.