

SPECIAL COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

August 25, 2021

The Perry County Council met on the above date at 5:00 p.m. at The Depot in Tell City. Council members in attendance were: President Luke Thomas, David Etienne, Charles Baumeister, Earla Williams, Danny Bolin and Paul Malone. Lynn Fulkerson was absent.

The first topic at hand was Dispatch Funding. Charlie asked if both sides are in agreement with the numbers. Luke said he met with Mayor Chris Cail and Chief Lawalin and everyone seemed ok with it so far. There was nothing at this time from the Commissioners. Mayor Cail spoke up saying the only thing different is that Tell City will not have an agreement with Cannelton or the Town of Troy, it will be the County. If they are short on their funding, the County will make up the difference and not Tell City. He said it shouldn't be much.

Luke said the plan going forward is to eliminate the Public Tax Replacement Credit from tax bills and then increase the Public Safety Tax to help fund the Dispatch amount. He said most tax payers will see an increase of \$36.00 to \$152.00 per year in their tax bills. He had Assessor Mendy Lassaline work with him for an average assessed value for home owners that circuit breaker losses would affect. The best numbers to look at are the ones with a medium assessed value. These numbers he is looking at are based on 2020 pay 2021 rates. He hopes the rates go down for 2021 pay 2022. He said property taxes are less regressive than income taxes. The higher the assessed value on a home, the more you will pay. Luke informed all that there will be one year of increased taxes. For 2022, the plan is to switch around the income taxes to bring in more in some areas and for 2023, the plan is lower the overall rate of the income taxes with eliminating the Special Purpose tax, which is the Detention Center. With removing the Public Tax Replacement Credit, this only affects homeowners in the county. This is only the extra credit given, all other deductions are still applied to properties.

David commented that sometimes the LIT credit does not reduce the taxpayer's bill. It would have been capped without the LIT credit. So, instead, the LIT credit has replaced part of the tax cap credit. This only happens 48.52% of the time. The other 51.48% of time, it is simply reducing tax liabilities of the taxpayer.

Luke informed the Council in order to eliminate one credit and change another tax, there has to be a public hearing and an ordinance prepared. Luke said he prepared a draft ordinance from the template on the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) website and he read it aloud to the Council and the public. He said that Attorney Rod Acchiardo needs to look it over also.

Luke commented that the taxpayers in the county need to take over some of the burden of the costs. This is why the draft is stated as it is. He said the draft has been sent to the DLGF for them to review to see if it will pass. Luke said he needed to consult with Rod on dates for public hearing and adoption to make sure they fall within guidelines. Paul asked what happens if one of the entities falls short on coming up with the money. Mayor Chris Cail spoke up saying that if Cannelton or Town of Troy falls short on funds, the County will have to find the money.

The second topic of discussion was on the Health Department Overtime. It was stated that the numbers are going up and so is the overtime work. Every county is doing the same as us. Earla commented that the Health Department received a grant from the Indiana Department of Health for over \$39,000.00 that can be used for overtime. David McCormick with the IDOH said that paying overtime for employees is an allowable expense. Earla commented on the work being done by the employees and the volunteers each week. She appreciates the people coming out. They cannot do without the volunteers. She asked about snacks or meals being provided for the volunteers. She said herself and others have helped to provide meals for them. Charlie asked if the grant funds can be used for this. Luke said this is the first place to look for any funding for the meals. He is not comfortable using levy funds for meals, only for overtime work. It was said they are not asking the restaurants anymore because they have gone through their hard times also. Charlie commented that if the funding is found, he will help set up

the meals again. They may want to reach out to the churches again.

Good of the Order:

Charlie said he spoke to Sheriff Alan Malone on his additional appropriation request for tomorrow's meeting. He said he doesn't like to do a blanket amount for the repair line items. Luke asked about the dishwasher. Auditor Pam Goffinet said she asked Alan about it and it will still take about another two weeks. The company is behind on deliveries.

There being no further business, Charlie made the motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Danny. Motion carried 6-0. Meeting adjourned at 5:36 p.m. The next Council meeting is on Thursday, August 26, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

President, County Council

Minutes prepared by Pamela Goffinet, Perry County Auditor