

# PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

## MINUTES PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING March 12, 2024

**County Council Members: Jon Craig, Greg Willis, Dennis Bishop, Max Elliott, Randy Harris, Todd Meadors, Travis Troutman**

### **CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

Pike County President Jon Craig called the meeting to order. All County Council members were present. Also present were County Auditor Judith Gumbel, Pike County Coroner Ray Brooks, Pike County Sheriff Jason K. McKinney, Assistant E-911 Director Brittany Staake, EMA/E-911 Director Brandon Truitt, Shellie Wickham, Pike County Administrator Kristi Dischinger, Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, Health Department Office Assistant Natalie Byrd, and Chief Deputy Auditor Audra Warner.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 13, 2024**

President Craig asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve the minutes. Councilman Dennis Bishop seconded by Councilman Max Elliott motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### **RECESS REGULAR COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

President Craig called for a motion to recess the regular County Council Meeting. Motion was made by Councilman Bishop and seconded by Councilman Greg Willis. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### **CONVENE HEARING TO RE-ESTABLISH CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT RATE**

President Craig called the Hearing to Re-Establish the Cumulative Capital Development Rate to Order. President Craig proceeded to explain the Cumulative Capital Development Rate stating that it was a rate that fluctuated over time and that the rate had to be reestablished periodically to keep it at the Council's intended rate. The rate is now \$0.0148 per \$100. The rate cap is \$0.0333/\$100. The rate is applied annually to the Certified Assessed Value. The CAV for 2023 was \$715,243,583. Therefore, an estimated \$238,176 would be generated for 2025 should the CAV remain constant. The current rate of \$0.0148/\$100 generated an estimated \$105,856 in 2024.

President Craig asked if any councilman had further comments or questions. There were none.

President Craig opened the meeting for public comments. He called for comments three times.

### **ADJOURN HEARING AND RECONVENE THE REGULAR COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING**

President Craig then called for a motion to close the hearing. Motion was made to close the hearing by Councilman Dennis Bishop and seconded by Councilman Willis. Motion passed 7 – 0.

President Craig then reconvened the Regular March 12th County Council meeting.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF CUMULATIVE CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT RATE OF \$0.0333 PER \$100 OF ASSESSED VALUATION.**

President Craig then called for consideration of the Adoption of the Cumulative Capital Development Rate of \$0.0333 per \$100 of the Certified Assessed Value. He called for any discussion on the proposal. Hearing none he called for a motion to adopt the Cumulative Capital Development Rate of \$0.0333 per \$100 of Certified Assessed Value as published in the Press Dispatch. Councilman Bishop motioned to adopt the rate as published. Motion was seconded by Councilman Randy Harris. Motion passed 7 – 0.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

#### **Sheriff's Dept. Public Safety Fund – 4200**

President Craig stated that he and Sheriff McKinney had met to discuss the uses of the fund. The fund is established and is generating just over \$60,000 per month to be used for the expenses of the Sheriff's Department. The question is "What expenses from the Sheriff's budgets should be moved to the Public Safety Fund with a particular focus on moving expenses from the General Fund?" President Craig stated that he believes that salaries should be paid from the Public Safety Fund. He also reiterated that Councilman Todd Meadors had earlier stated that he thought that the fund should be used for Sheriff Department expenses rather than Jail expenses. President Craig stated that the Sheriff is advocating for the fund to be as flexible as possible.

President Craig stated that it is probably two discussions: (1) What do we do right now with the funds, and (2) what will be done at budget time with the funds? This is fiscal policy so it will have to remain flexible and will be addressed on an annual basis.



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Sheriff McKinney stated that he had consulted with other counties to see how they were using their Public Safety funds. He stated that he had removed several of the jail expenses from his request. He stated that others were using it for some salaries. He said that he wants to quit having to come to the Council so much for additional appropriations. He said when he has to do that it makes it look like the department is not doing its business correctly. He feels that if the Council decides to use the money all for salaries, it will take the Sheriff's Department back to not having anything left for 2025 budget year.

President Craig stated that if there was an action item for the day it would be to identify the accounts that would be targeted, but that the use of the accounts would not start until after at least the April meeting. He stated that at the beginning of the year \$488,150 was the total for the "Deputy" account line. The total that is expected to be received by the Sheriff's Public Safety Fund is \$731,603 throughout all of 2024. President Craig said that removing the Sheriff's Pension line from CEDIT was also discussed with the Sheriff at \$95,100. (Note: there is also funding from the Riverboat for the Sheriff's pension at about \$57,000.)

Councilman Meadors asked what the difference was between the Sheriff and the EMS. It was pointed out that EMS was one fund. The Sheriff will now be looking at three budgets, two of which are in the General Fund and now the Public Safety Fund. There will never be enough money in the Public Safety Fund to support the Sheriff's Department expenses. Also, the EMS has revenue lines for income that the service generates.

Councilman Willis said that his thought is that at whatever time the unit starts using the public safety revenue, that what is coming in from that point in time be used for the determined purpose. So, if the funds start to be utilized on May 1st, there should be about \$244,000 cash in the account. That amount should remain in the fund at year end unless there was a deliberate decision made to use it.

Sheriff McKinney stated that if the money were to be used for 10 Deputies and 2 sergeants that would take over \$600,000. That would leave him with only thirty or so thousand dollars to start the year. Sheriff stated that he feels so scrutinized every time he asks for additional monies.

Councilman Elliott asked if all of this was just going toward the Sheriff. President Craig replied that the Sheriff would need \$833,000 to pay wages alone. This doesn't include equipment, uniforms etc. Total Sheriff Department budget for 2024 was set at a little less than 1.1 million. The Public Safety dollars are \$731,602.98 for the entire year. So, the dollars can't cover the total budget.

Councilman Willis asked President Craig if his thought was to use all of the public safety money received in 2024. President Craig said that was not what he had in mind. He would like to end the year with a healthy balance in the public safety fund. President Craig stated that Deputies alone will cost \$488,000 in all of 2024, disregarding overtime. In 2024, Sheriff said Deputies and two Sergeants would have a salary of \$650,000.

President Craig said that in the last two years they have added 4 merit deputy positions. This is three totally new positions and changing the process officer to a merit deputy. He said that he understands that the Sheriff doesn't want what he has in the General Fund to be cut. But President Craig said that it was the Council's intent to reduce "at least" some of the General Fund expenses because of the new fund. Otherwise the Council wouldn't be able to balance the General Fund. He feels that at this time they just need to do something reasonable to get to the new year. He feels that some high-level expenses should be put the fund for 2024, and everyone go into the budget discussions with an open mind.

Councilman Willis stated that his wish would be to keep the \$244,000 previously mentioned in the fund using the balance of the expected revenue for 2024 expenses. President Craig stated that Council might want to put an equipment line in this year's fund with maybe \$500 in it as a place to appropriate the purchase of unexpected equipment.

Sheriff McKinney said that he would really like to see the Sheriff's pension portion now in CEDIT moved to this fund. He said he wants to save money in the General Fund as much as anyone else does, but he wants to run the department the way he wants to run it. He wants to keep his officers and the community safe.

Councilman Elliott asked if it should be tabled for now. Councilman Willis asked if nothing was decided until April would the expenses be able to start in the fund on May 1st. Auditor Gumbel said that could not happen unless they held a special meeting. The money has to be appropriated and that takes 10 days to be advertised prior to the appropriation.

Councilman Willis asked if it would complicate things for payroll if wages were paid out of public safety and overtime out of General. The answer was no. What could not be done is an overtime line in both funds.



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Councilman Meadors said that he agrees with President Craig. A middle ground needs to be found somewhere that both Sheriff and Council can live with. Next year we may learn from this year that something needs to be done differently.

Councilman Harris stated that additional information is needed to meet the time lines, so be it.

Councilman Meadors and President Craig felt that putting it off probably wouldn't help it. Experience will be the factor. President Craig said that he would rather put a group together and work on how it would be done next year.

Consensus was that appropriation for the public safety funds should be figured for 10 deputies beginning May 1st and 2 pension payments. That should be \$327,060 for payroll and \$75,028 for two Sheriff pension payments.

President Craig said that if we followed this plan into 2025 and gave a 3% raise that would put the public safety fund expense at least at \$502,640 (incentive amounts will also change) for the total year in wages plus the pension plan of \$95,100 spending \$597,740 leaving a balance of \$133,863 assuming the LIT contribution and pension would remain the same.

Sheriff McKinney said that he wants to work with the Council but just doesn't want to spend a lot of time figuring out what his department would like to do if the Council already has other ideas.

After much discussion Councilman Bishop made a motion to move the Deputy wages for the remainder of 2024 and two Sheriff pension payments to the Sheriff's Public Safety Fund budget for 2024, for the Auditor to make recommendations for the reductions of appropriations in General Fund and other affected funds, and for the implementation date to be May 1, 2024. Councilman Harris seconded the motion. President Craig asked if there was further discussion. Hearing none, he called for a vote. The vote was 6- 1 with Councilman Travis Troutman dissenting.

### NEW BUSINESS

#### Jail Custodian Wage Adjustment – Wage & Salary Ordinance

Sheriff McKinney stated that after consulting with the custodian the Wage and Salary Ordinance should remain as is due to the effect that an increase in pay would have on his current custodian's existing retirement plan. Sheriff McKinney said that this will probably fluctuate annually as the custodian's plan varies.

### ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

#### a. EMS Requests Additional Appropriation form Fund 8101, EMS Grants Amount Fund/Account Balance Prior to Action

\$3,700	FROM	Fund 8101, EMS Donations	\$4,835
\$289.00	TO	8101-30550-9601, Equipment Records	\$0.00
\$47,429	FROM	Fund 8465, AFG Grant (Assistance to Firefighters)	\$47,428.57
	TO	8465-40617-0000, Radios/Department	\$0.00
<p>\$3,700 was advertised, but the amount should have been 289.00 to appropriate the remainder of the funds received from grants from the Community Foundation. The \$47,429 is to appropriate the grant funds received from FEMA for the radios.</p>			

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the requests and resolutions. Motion passed 7 – 0.

#### b. Highway Requests an Additional from Fund 9129, CCMG, 2022-2) Amount Funds & Accounts Balance Prior to Action

\$1,691 (\$1690.52)	FROM	Fund 9129, CCMG 2022-2	\$1690.52
\$33.77	TO	9129-51502-0000, DES 2201502 EXP	\$0.00
\$958.27	TO	9129-51503-0000, DES 2201503 EXP	\$0.00



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\$77.29	TO	9129-51504-0000, DES 2201504 EXP	\$0.00
\$219.28	TO	9129-51505-0000, DES 2201505 EXP	\$0.00
\$148.61	TO	9129-51506-0000, DES 2201506 EXP	\$0.00
\$189.37	TO	9129-51507-0000, DES 2201507 EXP	\$0.00
\$63.93	TO	9129-51508-0000, DES 2201508 EXP	\$0.00
Money is necessary to complete the grant expenses for Fund 9129 CCMG 2022-2			

This was remaining money as budgeted and stated in a Community Crossings Grant for the specific DES accounts. The remainder of the grant money was spent in 2023 and was not encumbered. This will close the grant out.

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation Request and Resolution. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**c. Highway Requests Additional Appropriation from Fund 9130, CCMG 2023-1**  
**Amount Funds & Accounts Balance Prior to Action**

\$1764 (\$1763.10)	FROM	Fund 9130, CCMG 2023-1	\$1763.10
\$81.35	TO	9130-51511-0000, DES 2300484 EXP	\$0.00
\$113.88	TO	9130-51512-0000, DES 2300485 EXP	\$0.00
\$183.03	TO	9130-51513-0000, DES 2300486 EXP	\$0.00
\$76.31	TO	9130-51514-0000, DES 2300487 EXP	\$0.00
\$313.11	TO	9130-51515-0000, DES 2300488 EXP	\$0.00
\$695.07	TO	9130-51516-0000, DES 2300489 EXP	\$0.00
\$300.35	TO	9130-51517-0000, DES 2300490 EXP	\$0.00
Money is necessary to complete the grant expenses for Fund 9130 CCMG 2023-1			

This is the same situation as the previous request. Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Meadors motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation and Resolution. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**d. Highway Requests Additional Appropriations from Fund 1112, CEDIT.**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>		<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$102,455	FROM	Fund 1112, CEDIT	\$5,671,123.58
\$	TO	1112-20500-0531, Materials	\$0.00
Needed to purchase a box culvert for Bridge 31 on CO RD 475 N.			

Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd explained that this is a wood deck bridge that has been damaged. Councilman Harris seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation and Resolution. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**e. Sheriff Requests Additional Appropriations from Fund 1237-Opioid Restricted & 1238 – Opioid Unrestricted.**

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<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>		<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$21,522	FROM	Fund 1237 – Opioid Restricted	\$67,186.39
\$	TO	1237-40626-0005, Body Cams, Other Equipment	\$0.00
\$18,042	FROM	Fund 1238 – Opioid Unrestricted	\$41,110.51
\$	TO	1238-40626-0005, Body Cams, Other Law Enforcement Equipment	\$ 0.00
Sheriff desires to purchase additional body cams for the new deputies.			

Sheriff McKinney stated that he did request and received the Commissioners approval of this request as this fund is at their discretion, but the Council needs to appropriate it. This is to purchase body cams for the new deputies and 3 additional in car cameras for the new vehicles. Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation request and Resolution. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**TRANSFER REQUESTS**

**a. Assessor Requests Transfer in Fund 1224, Reassessment**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>		<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$178.00	FROM	1224-30130-0000, Travel Expense	\$2,527.59
	TO	1224-30300-0000 Vehicle Insurance	\$2,100.00
Auto insurance increase. Transfer will add enough to pay the bill			

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the transfer. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**b. Pike County Health Department Requests Transfers in Fund 1159.**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>		<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$ 510.00	FROM	1159-30120-0610 Postage	\$700.00
\$ 700.00	FROM	1159-30560-0610 Rebinding Records	\$700.00
\$ 1,210.00	TO	1159-30660-0610 Equipment Repair	\$500.00
Unexpected Generator Cost			

President Craig asked if there were any questions. Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve the transfer. Motion passed 7 - 0

**c. Pike County Highway Requests Transfer in CEDIT, Fund 1112**

<b>Amount</b>	<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>		<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$166,900.00	FROM	1112-32300-0531, CO RD 300 N Rehab	\$1,095,932.29
	TO	1112-40610-0531, Machinery & Equipment	\$16,000.00
Transfer is needed to purchase a tri-axle dump truck.			

Superintendent Byrd explained that one of the trucks that were discussed at the last meeting was now out of service and won't be put back in service. An insurance claim was filed which is in negotiations. \$25,000 to \$30,000 should be the insurance claim. The out-or-service truck is set up for a snow plow and sander. It will be replaced in next year's budget. Commitment letters have been signed with Sternberg as was discussed at the last meeting. This truck, had to be bid and the bids will be opened at the March 18th Commissioner's meeting. This truck will be needed this summer. The amount requested is an anticipated amount.



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Councilman Harris seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve the transfer request. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Superintendent Byrd stated that he did need to share that they have had a grader go down. It was on the inventory discussed last month. They had been offered \$19,000 on it if taken as a trade-in. Highway doesn't want to buy a new grader since we just bought one. A used one has been located at Evansville, but it has not been checked out. He has requested that oil samples be taken. The asking price is \$65,000. To put a new engine on the grader that is down will cost \$40,000.

The brush cutter has been taken out of service. The bush hog head came off. They are down to two brush cutters. The tractor is ok. A new brush cutter to put on the tractor would cost around \$80,000. So that isn't a good idea. They can pull a bush hog with the tractor as is.

**d. Pike County Coroner Requests Transfer in Fund 1000-0007.**

		<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>	<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$118.00	FROM	1000-20340-0007 - Fuel, Oil & Lube	\$1,512.56
	TO	1000-30300-0007, Insurance	\$2,100.00
Transfer is needed to pay balance of increased vehicle insurance premium.			

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the transfer. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**PRE-APPROVED TRANSFERS**

**a. Pike County Auditor Requested Transfer in Fund 1000-0002**

		<b>Funds &amp; Accounts</b>	<b>Balance Prior to Action</b>
\$13.15	FROM	1000-30130-0002, Travel Expense	\$500.00
	TO	1000-30810-0002, Dues & Subscriptions	-\$13.15
Transfer is needed to pay dues for deputy auditors.			

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to approve the transfer retroactively. Motion passed 7 – 0.

**BUSINESS/INFORMATION BY COUNCIL**

**Clerk and Treasurer's Monthly Financial Reports**

President Craig called Council's attend to the financial reports.

**EMA/E-911 Director**

President Craig welcomed new EMA/E-911 Director to the County.

**Circuit Court Audio Mixer**

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger passed out a letter from Judge Biesterveld notifying the Council that his Audio Mixer was not functioning and that he was going to have to purchase a new one. It was struck by lightning. He stated that it would be an additional appropriation request next month in the amount of \$8,865.00.

**Courthouse Window Project & Tuckpointing**

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained that they have a punch list for 2nd and 3rd floor and that everything is about 95% complete. She is waiting on quotes for window tinting and blinds.

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She also stated that companies will not guarantee work done in sections. One concern is how the appearance would match if just done in sections rather than the entire structure. The mortar has to be groundout, replaced and sealed.

**BUSINESS BY PUBLIC**      None

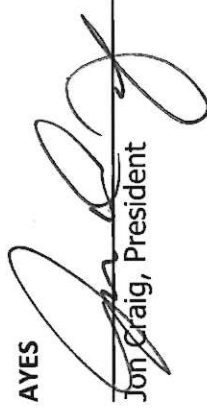
**NEXT REGULAR MEETING - Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.**

**ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS REQUESTED TO REMAIN UNTIL ALL PAPERWORK IS SIGNED.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business to come before the County Council, President Craig called for a motion to adjourn. Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Meadors motioned to adjourn. Motion passed 7 – 0.

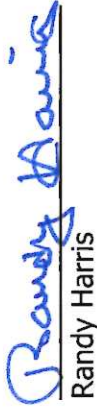
**AYES**

  
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Jon Craig, President

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Greg Willis, Vice President

  
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Dennis Bishop

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Max Elliott

  
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Todd Meadors

  
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Travis Troutman

**NAYS**

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Greg Willis, Vice President

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Randy Harris

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Todd Meadors

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Travis Troutman

ATTEST:

      4/9/24  
Judith Gumbel, Auditor      Date