

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING May 14, 2024

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

County Council President Jon Craig called the meeting to order with all Council members present. Also, in attendance were Auditor Judith Gumbel, Sheriff Jason McKinney, County Coroner Ray Brooks, Greg Martz of GM Development, County Extension Director Brooke Goble, EMA/E911 Director Brandon Truitt, County Administrator Kristi Dischinger, EMS Director Chris Young, Chief Deputy Auditor Audra Warner, County Public Health Nurse Amy Gladish, County Commissioner President Mark Flint, Chief Deputy Dallas Killian, County Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, and Press Dispatch Editor Sherri Sebella.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES April 9, 2024

President Craig asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, he called for a motion to approve. Motion was made by Councilman Dennis Bishop and seconded by Councilman Todd Meadors. Motion passed 5-0 with Councilmen Max Elliott and Greg Willis abstaining due to not attending the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Schedule of Budget Meetings

President Craig explained that due to a conflict with his full-time employment, he would be unable to attend the Budget Hearing scheduled for September 10th. The Commissioners have a meeting scheduled for Tuesday September 3rd. Auditor Gumbel stated that she would rather have the meeting a week later than a week earlier. That will give her longer to get the budget ready for the hearing following the August workshop. The intent is not to advertise the budget in Gateway until after the workshop. Councilman Randy Harris seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to establish the following schedule for the Budget Meetings: Budget Workshop – August 13 & 14, 2024, Budget Hearing September 17, 2024, and Budget Adoption October 8, 2024. Motion passed 7 – 0.

NEW BUSINESS

Arthur EMS Building – EMS Director Chris Young & Greg Martz

Greg Martz with GM Development explained that the Commissioners advertised for Companies interested in the development of a BOT – Build- Operate- Transfer Agreement to respond to a request for Companies with Qualifications on January 1, 2024. GM Development was selected. The original cost was just north of one million. He stated that now after multiple tries of lowering the cost, the cost was at an exact one million dollars. This price is guaranteed. He will not be asking for any more money unless the County changes the scope of work. He shared that the Commissioners approved the contract. It will be about six weeks to get the contract to the 100% design status. The plan is to break ground on July 1st. The question was raised as to the plan for the remainder of the funding in addition to the \$805,000 to be appropriated from the ARPA funds. He stated that he would be willing to finance up to \$200,000 as GM Construction at the current return that he is getting from his investment fund. That is currently 4.9%. He anticipates the construction period to be no more than eleven months with the \$800,000 being paid out as normal construction draws.

President Craig asked the Council if they had any questions. He stated that the purchase of the property has been closed and completed. An easement is in place for the driveway. The property survey has been completed through the use of the LATCF funds.

Motion to proceed with the BOT Agreement with GM was made by Councilman Troutman and seconded by Councilman Elliot. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Location Corrections – Auditor

Auditor Gumbel explained that her office is still trying to clean up the fund numbers which included the naming of the proper locations (departments). She requested authorization to make the changes. There would be no movement of money, just renaming (numbering) the account lines.

Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to allow the Auditor to change locations as necessary. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Tax Collections Received To-Date

Auditor Gumbel shared that as of May 10th, collections were about \$200,000 less than received in 2023.

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President Craig shared that Auditor Gumbel had shared multiple address issues in regard to the delivery of tax bills. The problems ranged from software issues to post office issues both local and national.

Recommendation of 2025 Department Budget Ceiling Increases

President Craig stated that Auditor Gumbel had been advised that the maximum Growth Quotient would be 4% for budget year 2025. He suggested that amount might be what the Council should recommend to Department Heads to be the maximum increase of Cost-of-living increases for employees in the 2025 budget. President Craig reminded the group that the recommendation last year was 5%. Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Greg Willis motioned to recommend a maximum wage increase of 4% for cost-of living increases in the 2025 budget. Motion passed 5 – 2 with Councilmen Troutman and Elliott dissenting. Note- President Craig misstated the vote was 4-2 in his comments following the vote. He clarified to the Auditor after the meeting that the vote was actually 5-2.

PTO Buy-Back Policy Exceptions

It was discussed that there was a misunderstanding of the PTO Buy-Back Policy by two departments. Therefore, some employees did not opt to take advantage of the PTO Buy-Back. The total dollar in question is \$4,964. The Commissioners approved this payout since the PTO plan is Commissioner’s Policy, but it has to be approved by Council because it also effects the budget. EMS Director Chris Young requested permission to go ahead and pay the Buy-Back to his employee now if Council approves to pay, but he would prefer to not request an additional appropriation until closer to the end of the year when the full picture is known. There will be buy-Backs for 2024 also. A question was asked as to what would be the rate of pay. It will be the 2023 rate of pay because that was the period covered by the 2023 buy-back. The other department affected is E-911. This decision would apply to both. Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to allow the buy-back paid now with any required additional appropriation to occur at a later date. Motion passed 7-0.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & RESOLUTIONS

Pike County Commissioners Request Additional Appropriation and Resolution From Fund 1112, CREDIT.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$195,000	FROM	Fund 1112, CREDIT	\$5,471,949.62
	TO	1112-40633-0068, Building Purchase	\$1,732,403.78 budgeted for remainder of the year
Purchase of the building to house the Health Department			

This is in regard to the purchase of the Winslow Medical Building to be the new home of the Pike County Health Department. Commissioner President Mark Flint stated that the purchase had been negotiated through County Attorney Val Fleig. The offer was accepted under the condition that the closing could be completed on May 15th. The Commissioners are holding a special meeting to finalize the agreement following the Council’s approval of the additional appropriation and required Resolution IF the Council does approve it.

Council President Craig asked if there was further discussion. Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation and Resolution. Motion passed 6 – 1 with Councilman Harris voting nay.

Auditor Gumbel then explained that Resolution 2024-13 was in their packets in regard to the authorization by Council for the Commissioners to purchase the building.

Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve Resolution 2024-13. Motion passed 6 – 1 with Councilman Harris voting nay.

Health Department Requests Additional Appropriation and Resolution From Fund 1159, Health Department.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$100,000	FROM	Fund 1159, Health Department	\$528,990.73

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	TO	1159-40810-0160 Facility Remodel	\$0.00
The Additional is requested to cover repairs (and updates) to the building that is being purchased by the Pike County Commissioners.			

County Public Health Nurse Amy Gladish stated that the Health Board approved the use of \$100,000 from Fund 1159 to be used for updating the building for which the additional appropriation was just made to allow the Commissioner's to purchase the building. It was noted that the money was available due to the fees the department received from the State Health Department for administration of the COVID vaccine. Approximately \$186,000 was received for the vaccines. The Department in coordination with Commissioner Flint has developed a prioritized list of things that must be completed such as HVAC, roofing, and Parking Lot Paving. The target date for occupying the building is fall of 2024. They have to give the school corporation a six-month notice. President Craig asked, "If necessary, was it the Health Department's intent to continue the use of the balance of the \$186,000?" The answer was "yes". She also stated that the County may also be able to use funds from Health First, (Fund 1161)

President Craig asked if there was any further discussion. Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation and Resolution. Motion passed 6 – 1 with Councilman Harris voting Nay.

The Council then looked at Resolution 2024-13 authorizing the purchase of said real estate for the lowest appraised value of One Hundred and Ninety-five Thousand Dollars (\$195,000.00).

Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the Resolution 2024-13. Motion carried 6 – 1 with Councilman Harris voting Nay.

Pike County Commissioners Request Additional Appropriation and Resolution From Fund 8950, ARPA.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$805,000	FROM	Fund 8950, ARPA	\$1,295,555.29 480,050.37 allocated.
	TO	8950-40201-0301, Building Construction	\$0.00
This additional is to allocate \$805,000 from ARPA Funds to be used for the Pike County EMS Ambulance Barn.			

This is the appropriation that must be made from ARPA to fund the BOT for the Ambulance Barn.

President Craig stated that Council had heard the presentation by developer Greg Martz earlier in the meeting. He stated that he wanted to thank Patoka Township Fire Department for being unbelievable hosts for several years. He also stated that he believed that the use of the ARPA funds for the building was the perfect use for the ARPA monies.

Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Pike County Commissioners Request Additional Appropriation and Resolution from Fund 8952, LATCF.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$50,017	FROM	Fund 8952, LATCF	\$50,017.00
	TO	8952-40201-0000, Building Construction	\$0.00
The Appropriation will be used for building the new EMS Arthur Station.			

EMS Director Chris Young stated that the money was being requested to go toward the purchase of the EMS barn. If used it would bring the balance remaining of the \$1,000,000 purchase acquisition to \$150,000 that would need to be paid from sources other than ARPA and LATCF.

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Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation from the LATCF fund. Motion was approved, 7 – 0.

E-911 Requests Additional Appropriation from Fund 1222, Statewide E-911

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$6,875	FROM	Fund 1222, Statewide E-911	\$114,223.36 (\$96,076.33 is allocated.)
	TO	1222-30670-0000, Maintenance Contracts	\$0.00
This additional appropriation request is to pay for a bill received from Power Phone in 2023 that has not been paid nor was it in the budget to be paid.			

EMA/E-911 Director Brandon Truitt explained the bill from Power Phone was received in late 2023. It was not paid, and the cost was not encumbered nor placed in the 2024 budget.

President Craig asked if there were any questions. Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approved the Additional Appropriation request and resolution. Motion carried 7 – 0.

Pike County Sheriff Requests Additional Appropriation From Fund 8452, IN ST Opioid Pike

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$20,000	FROM	Fund 8452, IN ST Opioid Pike	\$10,000 Memorandum of Understanding in place for total of \$20,000
	TO	8452-50000-0380. Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Pike County Sheriff has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Grant Holder-Good Samaritan Hospital to provide referral of Inmates for Opioid Counseling. If this is done per agreement, Pike will be awarded \$5,000 per quarter during 2024.			

Sheriff McKinney explained that Pike County agreed to be a part of the Good Samaritan Opioid Addiction Treatment program. The agreement is that the jail will provide referrals to the program. Use will be made of the jail's video court system. Pike will receive \$5,000 per quarter for providing the referrals. Auditor Gumbel stated that to date the County has received \$10,000. Since this is a federal grant it was decided that the dollars would be more easily tracked in a separate fund.

Sheriff McKinney stated that the plan was to purchase additional hardware/software to upgrade the jail's video court system for court hearings and counseling.

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve the Request for the additional appropriation. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Pike County Sheriff Requests Additional Appropriation From Fund 4950, Sheriff's Public Safety Fund.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$403,394.	FROM	Fund 4950, Sheriff's Public Safety Fund	\$243,867.66 to-date Total of \$731,602.98 to be received.
\$307,860	TO	4950-10134-0005, Deputy	\$0.00
\$19,706	TO	4950-10432-0005, Holiday	\$0.00
\$75,828	TO	4950-10720-0005, Pension/Perf	\$0.00

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This Additional Appropriation Request is to establish the Sheriff's Public Safety Fund with 3 line items, Deputy Wages, Holiday Pay, and Pension.

President Craig stated that the establishment of this fund and its use has been on going for several months. He asked if there was any discussion.

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

President Craig then reminded the Auditor to have the reduction of General Fund 1000-0005 on next month's agenda.

Pike County Highway Requests Additional Appropriation and Resolution from Fund 1135, Cumulative Bridge Fund.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$3,700	FROM	Fund 1135 CUM Bridge	\$213,391.26 \$235,758.99 allocated Received \$255,390.07 in 2023 all sources
	TO	1135-30230-0000, Professional Services	\$30,000
To pay fees associated with the alternative analysis study on historic bridge 32			

County Road Superintendent Josh Byrd stated that this study had to be done in order to do obtain a Federal Grant to complete work on the bridge. Councilman Harris seconded by Councilman Meadors motioned to approve the Additional Appropriation Request. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Pike County Highway Requests Additional Appropriation and Resolution from Fund 1135, Cumulative Bridge Fund.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$2,000	FROM	Fund 1135 CUM Bridge	\$213,391.26 \$235,758.99 allocated Received \$255,390.07 in 2023 all sources
	TO	1135-30130-0000, Travel	\$0.00
To pay for travel expenses related to CDL training.			

The County has paid the tuition for CDL training from Fund 1135. However, the travel for the employees to get back and forth to the training was not budgeted. This is to pay mileage expenses for training.

Councilman Meadors seconded by Councilman Willis motioned to approve the request. Motion passed 7 – 0.

k. Pike County Highway Requests Additional Appropriation and Resolution From Fund 1135, Cumulative Bridge OR From Fund 1176, MVH.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$12,000	FROM	Fund 1135 CUM Bridge	\$213,391.26 \$235,758.99 allocated Received \$255,390.07 in 2023 all sources
		OR	
	FROM	Fund 1176, MVH	\$1,953,383.37 \$530,748.51 allocated

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TO	1135-30500-0000, CDL Classes	\$6,010.00
	OR	
TO	1176-30500-0000, CDL CLASSES	\$0.00
To pay cost of CDL Training.		

This expense has typically been paid from Fund 1135, Cum Bridge. However, this fund is getting low. Auditor Gumbel requested that the Highway request the expense of additional CDL training from two funds 1135 and 1176 to enable the Council to have a decision on where the training should be appropriated from. It was explained that at this time two employees need to complete the training and that the expectation was to hire a 3rd individual. President Craig called for a motion.

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to allow the Request for an additional appropriation of \$12,000 from Fund 1176, MVH. Motion carried 7 – 0.

**Pike County Highway Requests Additional Appropriations and Resolutions
From Fund 1176, MVH.**

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$13,400	FROM	Fund 1176, MVH	\$1,953,383.37
\$3,200	TO	1176-30300-0533, Vehicle Insurance	\$540,748.51 allocated
\$5,000	TO	1176-40430-0531, Road Signs	\$0.00
\$5,200	TO	1176-40610-0533, Equipment	\$1,048.05
To pay insurance bill of the 2019 Volvo, purchase required road signs, and to replace shop welder.			

This request was needed to pay for insurance on the newly acquired Volvo, to purchase road signs that are required for the bridges – several were stolen a week before bridge inspection, and to replace a welder. It was shared the EMS was having difficulty with having their backboards stolen until they started add the words, "stolen from Pike County EMS" printed on the boards. Mr. Byrd indicated that the stickers on the back of the road signs indicated that they were owned by Pike County. President Craig asked if there were any questions. Hearing none, he called for a motion.

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to approve the three requests for additional appropriations. Motion passed 7 – 0.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Assessor Requests Transfer in General Fund 1000-0008, Assessor's Office.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$35,042.70	FROM	1000-10174-0008, Deputy Level II	\$35,042.70
	TO	1000-10133-0008, Deputy Level I	\$0.00
Level II Deputy Account is what was budgeted. Newest deputy is currently only Level I certified and needs to be paid from correct account.			

Auditor Gumbel explained that the Assessor's newly hired employee was not expected to reach the Level II Deputy status until probably early 2025. There for the wages needed to be moved to the correct account line. Also, the new person moved from another department and had earned incentive pay. This was not anticipated.

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

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**County Extension Service Requests Transfer in General Fund 1000-
Amount Funds & Accounts Balance Prior to Action**

\$2,000.00	FROM	1000-30130-0011, Travel	\$4,381.14
	TO	1000-10153, PT Clerical	\$3,900.00
Level II Deputy Account is what was budgeted. Newest deputy is currently only Level I certified and needs to be paid from correct account.			

County Extension Director Brooke Goble explained that she would be going on maternity leave for 12 weeks in late May to return in September. She stated that the only one who would be in the Extension Office as a full-time employee would be Tiffany Lundy who is a newly hired Office Manager. The vacant AR position will probably not be filled at this time. Most of Brooke's travel is done in the summer, and this money will not be used. Therefore, she requested that \$2,000 of the budgeted travel money be transferred to part-time clerical so that there would be a second person in the office to help with busy summer months including fair season.

Councilman Harris congratulated Ms. Goble on her soon to be parenthood. President Craig called for a motion. Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the transfer request. Motion passed 7 – 0.

PRE-APPROVED TRANSFERS

Health Department Requested Transfer in Fund 1159, Health Department.

Amount	Funds & Accounts	Balance Prior to Action
\$92.10	FROM 1159-30130-0610, Travel	\$1,724.18
	TO 1159-30521-0610, Vital Records	\$1,205
Vendor increased the price.		

This is the level of transfer that the Auditor is allowed to complete prior to Council Action. Councilman Meadors seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve the transfer retroactively. Motion passed 7 – 0.

BUSINESS/INFORMATION BY COUNCIL

Clerk and Treasurer's Monthly Financial Reports

Due to the May Election and Tax Collections these reports were not available.

Property Maintenance Committee

The Commissioners are planning to establish a Property Maintenance Committee with the intent of developing a plan to insure that local properties are kept in good order. President Craig stated that Councilman Troutman had expressed interest on being a member of the committee. So therefore, he was appointing him to the committee.

Called Meeting of Indiana County Council Members

President Craig stated that the Council members would find information about the meeting in their packets concerning the called meeting of County Council members to be held on Saturday, June 22, 2024 at the Renaissance Indianapolis North. He stated that he attended the meeting in 2023 and found it very beneficial.

Other County Information

President Craig asked if there were any Department Heads who wanted to share information.

BUSINESS BY PUBLIC - None

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NEXT REGULAR MEETING - Tuesday, June 11, 2024 at 8:30 a.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT

President Craig made a last call for further business to come before the Council. Hearing none he called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Meadors motioned to adjourn. Motion carried 7 – 0.

NAYS

Jon Craig, President

Greg Willis, Vice President

Dennis Bishop

Max Elliott

Randy Harris

Todd Meadors

Travis Troutman

AYES



Jon Craig, President



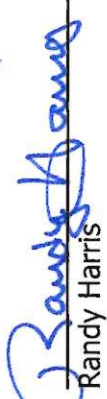
Greg Willis, Vice President



Dennis Bishop



Max Elliott



Randy Harris

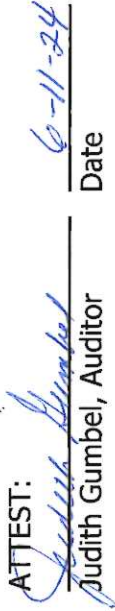


Todd Meadors



Travis Troutman

ATTEST:



Judith Gumbel, Auditor

6-11-24 Date