

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

MINUTES PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING

June 11, 2024

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

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Jon Craig. All Council members were in attendance. Also present, County Auditor Judith Gumbel, County Administrator Kristi Dischinger, County Coroner Ray Brooks, Pike County Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Lana Schmett, EMA/E-911 Director Brandon Truitt, Chief Deputy Dallas Killian, Jail Matron Ashley Gideon, County Health Nurse Amy Gladish, County Sanitarian Kay Riley, Chief Deputy Auditor Audra Warner, Pike County EMS Assistant Director Doug Mounts, and Press-Dispatch Editor Sherri Sebella.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES May 14, 2024

President Craig asked if there were additions or corrections to the minutes. If not, he called for a motion to approve. Councilman Max Elliott seconded by Councilman Dennis Bishop motioned to approve the minutes. Motion passed 7 – 0.

OLD BUSINESS - None

NEW BUSINESS

TIF District-No Allocation to Overlapping Taxing Units – Mega Site, Pike Crossing at I-69, Petersburg Main Street Development, Petersburg Residential, Petersburg North Residential. Kristi Dischinger

It was explained that the TIF districts allocations of tax dollars were not sufficient to share with overlapping tax units.

Wage and Salary Ordinance – Jail Maintenance Position and Sheriff State Mandated Increase – Sheriff McKinney

Sheriff McKinney requested an increase to \$19.23/hr. in the wage for the Jail Maintenance Position to the amount requested during the 2024 budget workshops. He also requested the Council to approve the increase in his annual salary to \$91,756.60 effective on July 1, 2024 as per the direction of the Indiana Supreme Court.

Councilman Todd Meadors seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to approve both requests. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Central States Premium Increase – Kristi Dischinger

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger shared that Central States had raised the weekly rates for the County's Group Medical Insurance for 2025 as follows: Bargaining Employees to \$445.30 per week from \$422.10 and Non-Bargaining employees to \$444.70 per week from \$417.50 per week. Auditor Gumbel also shared that the County would have an Insurance Audit starting July 1st.

Mechanic's Truck Opportunity – Josh Byrd

It was explained that Highway has had no luck in locating a mechanic's truck. There are 1,000,300 miles on the 2001 that highway has. He stated that this truck is used daily. However, he has now located a 2007 model with just 78,000 miles on it for a price of \$36,000. In his search for a different truck, Mr. Byrd stated that he had not found anything else for less than \$70,000. He has \$16,000 left in this year's budget because he purchased two used work trucks rather than a new one. There is also \$2,800 available from scrap that has been sold. He would need an additional appropriation of \$18,200 to purchase this 2007 truck with 76,000 miles. He realizes that an additional appropriation will have to be advertised etc. This is a private party sale. The highway will plan to keep the existing truck on the road as long as it lasts.

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Greg Willis motioned to support the purchase of this truck after the additional appropriation has been properly requested. Motion passed 7 – 0.

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Discussion continued that the preference of the Council would be to request the additional appropriation from CEDIT, Fund 1112.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS & APPROPRIATION REDUCTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS.

Pike County Commissioners requests Additional in 1000-0506, Solid Waste.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$8,388	FROM	Fund 1000, General	\$4,526,084.60
\$7,705.56	TO	1000-20680-0506, Building/Structure Repair	\$0.00
\$682.44	TO	1000-30660-0506, Equipment Repair	\$ -585.11
The purpose is to establish money received from an insurance claim into the account that the repairs will be paid from.			

County Administrator explained that this was from storm damage at the Otwell Site.

Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Willis motioned to approve the request for an additional appropriation and resolution. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Pike County Council Requests Authorization To Reduce Appropriation in Fund 1000-0005, Sheriff's Department.

\$307,212	FROM	1000 –10134- 0005, Deputy	\$307,212.22
\$ 19,706	FROM	1000-10432-0005, Holiday Pay	\$26,973.21
\$326,918	TO	Fund 1000, General	\$4,526,084.60
This budget has been reappropriated to Fund 4950 and will be funded by Pike County Public Safety LIT Funds.			

President Craig stated that the budget for these items had been appropriated in Fund 4950, Sheriff's Public Safety Fund; this action will un-appropriate it from 1000-0005 General Fund-Sheriff's Dept.

Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Elliott motion to approve the reduction of appropriation and the resolution. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Pike County Council Requests Authorization to Reduce Appropriation in Fund 1112, CEDIT.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$ 57,221	FROM	1112-10720-0005, Pension	\$57,221
	TO	Fund 1112	\$5,308,814.84
This budget has been reappropriated to Fund 4950 and will be funded by Pike County Public Safety LIT Funds			

This is the same situation as before only this is restoring Fund 1112.

Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Harris motioned to approve the Reduction of Appropriation and Resolution in Fund 1112. Motion passed 7 – 0.

Pike County Council Requests Authorization to Reduce Appropriation in Fund 1191, Riverboat – Sheriff's Pension

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$18, 607	FROM	1191-10720-0000, Pension/PERF	\$56,521

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TO	Fund 1191, Riverboat-Sheriff's Pension	\$ 4,483.26
This budget has been reappropriated to Fund 4950 and will be funded by Pike County Public Safety LIT Funds		

This is the same scenario as the last two with Fund 1191, Riverboat 's appropriation being reduced by \$18,607. Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Bishop motioned to approve the Reduction of Appropriation and Resolutions. Motion passed 7 – 0.

TRANSFER REQUESTS

Health Department Requests Transfer is Fund 1161, Indiana Health First.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$10,100.00	FROM	1161-10680-0610, Community Nurse	\$49,450
\$ 8,000.00	TO	1161-30401-0610, Utility	\$0.00
\$1,600.00	TO	1161-30420-0610, Water & Sewage	\$0.00
\$ 500.00	TO	1161-20340-0610, Fuel, Oil & Lube	\$0.00
To cover utilities at county office located at 2206 S State Road 61 Winslow which will house the Health Department. Fuel requested for mosquito spraying and emergency preparedness purposes.			

County Health Nurse Amy Gladish explained that the Community Nurse position had not been filled due to a lack of space for her position. The County's purchase of a new facility which will house the Health Department will correct this. But money is now needed to pay utilities in the new facility.

Councilman Elliott asked when the department would be in the building. Ms. Gladish stated that they hoped to be in the building by fall of 2024.

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

Health Department Requests Transfer in Fund 1161, Indiana Health First.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$4,025.00	FROM	Community Nurse	\$49,450
	TO	1161-10129-0610, Food Sanitarian	\$ 9,138.80
Requesting increase in Food Sanitarian's hours from 16 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Changes are being made to the state food code, moving to risk-based inspections rather than twice a year, due to this and the food truck trend, more hours are necessary.			

Councilman Willis asked how often food trucks were inspected annually, and the answer was once. Councilman Harris asked how our permit rates compared to surrounding counties. He was told that our rates are lower than the other Counties. Ours is \$60 and most of the others are \$100. Councilman Harris asked if the Health Department would complete an evaluation of rates. He wondered how close the fees paid came to covering the costs. Councilman Elliott stated that we need to be competitive with other counties.

Councilman Meadors seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to allow the increase from 16 hours per week to 24 hours per week. Motion passed 4 – 3 with Councilmen Willis, Harris, and Elliott voting nay.

Health Department's Bioterrorism Coordinator Requests Transfer in Fund 8123, Bio-Terrorism Grant

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Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$1,099	FROM	8123-30130-0000, Travel Expenses	\$1,605.16
	TO	8123-30602-0000, Operating Supplies	\$ 0.00
This grant cycle ends June 30, 2024- Transfer of unused/unspent funds in Travel Expenses to purchase Water containers that can be used with the water Filtration System			

Coordinator Schmett explained that she is not going to use all of her budget; therefore, she would like to purchase 5-gallon water storage containers with some of the remaining funds. Her budget year runs July 1 to June 30th. She made a similar purchase in 2023.

Councilman Harris asked where she would store the vessels. They are currently being stored in the Health Office and there will be more room in the new building. It was also noted that the containers are collapsible.

President Craig called for a motion. Motion was made by Councilman Bishop and seconded by Councilman Willis to allow the transfer as requested. Motion passed 7 – 0.

New Transfer

An item was inadvertently left off of the agenda. The department is responsible for doing the spraying for mosquitoes during the mosquito season. The department did pay a licensed individual from the City of Petersburg's staff to do the spraying but that person does not want to continue the position; it requires special licensure. County Food Sanitarian, Kay Riley, decided that she would try to obtain the license and with a lot of studying did so. The next question was what should the position make. The spraying has to be done at night and would probably only require 2 to 5 hours a week to keep up the spraying. The department tossed around what it would be worth to go out at night, mess with the chemicals a couple of hours, comeback in and shower. The person who did the work at the City made \$34/hr. The department recommended a pay rate of \$31.50/hr.

President Craig said he supported the idea but wanted to know how two rates of pay etc would be managed. Auditor Gumbel stated that a timecard would have to be kept clearing showing when each job was performed and that the total number of hours worked for both jobs would have to be kept under 30 for Kay to remain classified as a part-time worker.

Councilman Elliott asked what was in the budget now. Ms. Gladish stated that in Health First \$2,000 was budgeted for spray and the watercide, and there is \$2,000 in the County budget to pay for the actual spraying.

Councilman Harris asked if there had been any quotes from independent operators. That answer was no. Kay would be able to have others work under her, but the thought was that would be a possible plan for next year. But this year, she felt that she should do it herself for a year so she would be able to properly teach someone else how to do it.

There is enough money in the budget to pay for this. Councilman Harris stated that a truck would also be needed, and Ms. Gladish said that they had already planned to purchase a truck because the County Environmental Health Specialist was putting too many miles on her own vehicle. The money for the truck is in place in another of the Health Departments funds, Local Health Maintenance. This year they would be borrowing a truck. Councilman Harris said that he thought the proposal should be tabled. Ms. Gladish said that if that occurred it would become too late to do the mosquito spraying.

President Craig stated that he had a motion on the floor. He called for a second to the motion. The motion died. President Craig asked if anyone else had a motion to offer or did they want to act on it at all since it was not on the agenda. President Craig stated that he wanted to be clear in what was being requested: A change in the wage and salary ordinance to add a position for Pesticide Applicator at \$31.50/ hr. for no more than 5 hours per week. Auditor Gumbel stated that the reason it was not on the agenda was her fault because Ms. Gladish had requested that it be on the agenda.

Ms. Gladish stated that Kay had completed a few trial runs just to make certain that everything was working. Councilman Willis asked if the position would also treat stagnant water pools. The answer was yes.

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Councilman Elliott asked how the rate compared to what other employees were being paid. President Craig stated that the highest hourly rate currently on the wage and salary ordinance was \$23 for an hourly employee. Health department argued that the position would handle chemicals, and Kay stated that she would incur some personal risk due to the chemicals. Ms. Gladish also said that the spraying was something that could not be scheduled due to weather related issues. President Craig asked if they knew what the industry standards were for the position. They did not know.

Councilman Elliott asked to what extent the entire County would be covered. Ms. Gladish stated that all public areas would be sprayed: ballparks, playgrounds, West Nile populations, fairs, and festivals. The season goes through September.

President Craig stated that he would like to see this happen, but he was not allowed to make a motion. He asked Council if there was any appetite to approve a lower rate, and then evaluate it, and if they needed to do something later they could approve a higher rate retroactively. He stated that he had googled and found that the average rate for a mosquito spraying tech in Indiana was \$22.69 per hour.

President Craig asked Council what their wishes were. Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Bishop made a motion to set the rate at \$22.50 an hour. President Craig asked if the Council was open to a presentation and further evaluation of the rate at a future meeting. Councilman Willis said yes. The vote was 7 – 0 with this understanding.

EMS Requests Transfer in Fund 1170, EMS Public Safety

Amount	FROM	Funds & Accounts	Balance Prior to Action
\$10,000	FROM	1170-10320-0000, Paramedic	\$587,697.04
	TO	1170-20300-0000, Vehicle Maintenance	\$ 8,270.59
Transfer is to cover invoices presently in hand.			

Assistant EMS Director Doug Mounts explained that one bill of \$8,200 was received plus multiple invoices had stacked up at the vendor, and they all arrived at the same time. Injectors were part of the problem.

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

Pike County Auditor Requests Transfer From Fund 8950 To Fund 9101

Amount	FROM	Funds & Accounts	Balance Prior to Action
\$70,448.68	FROM	8950-00530, ARPA Interest	\$ 70,448.68
	TO	9101-00530, Interest	\$ 0.00
Auditor has been advised to establish a Home-Ruled Fund for interest earned from ARPA Grant monies.			

President Craig asked if this fund could also be used for interest earned on other funds. Auditor Gumbel stated that this money was totally under the control of the County and could be comingled with other funds, but that she was recommending that it be placed in a fund wherein it could be clearly tracked.

President Craig called the Council's attention to the Resolution 2024-15 which creates Fund 9101. President Craig stated that the resolution would have to be approved as well as the transfer.

Councilman Bishop seconded by Councilman Willis motioned to approve Resolution 2024-15 and the transfer. Motion passed 7 – 0.

PRE-APPROVED TRANSFERS

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Sheriff Requests Transfer on General Fund 1000-0005

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$150.00	FROM	1000-20351-0005 Tire and Tubes	\$5,455.00
	TO	1000-20800-0005, Digital Media	\$15,000
To cover cost of the remaining balance on invoice to be paid 6-6-2024			

Pike County EMA and Treasurer Requests Correction of Error.

Amount	Funds & Accounts		Balance Prior to Action
\$22.35	FROM	1000-30120-0303, Postage	\$ 100.00
	TO	Fund 1222	\$107,386.73
Correction of Error resulting in Transfer of Funds from E-911 to Fund 1222 as a result of unallowed costs during an examination of records.			

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve both transfers. Motion passed 7 –0.

Auditor Report

An Alternative Compliance Audit on Fund 8950 – ARPA is currently occurring. SBOA has budgeted 6.5 days for this audit but the average has been 4.5 days. Hopefully that will be true for us because the federal audit fee per hour is high.

Auditor Gumbel report that the County was soon to undergo an Insurance Audit by our Group Medical Insurer. This is a first for the County and she is not sure what to expect

We expect that the regular SBOA audit of all funds will happen soon.

Tax Collections were down about \$200,000 from May 10th of 2003.

BUSINESS/INFORMATION BY COUNCIL

Clerk and Treasurer’s Monthly Financial Reports

These reports were in the meeting packets for the Council’s review.

BUSINESS BY PUBLIC - None

NEXT REGULAR MEETING - Tuesday, July 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 Council, President Craig called for a motion to adjourn.

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to adjourn. Motion passed 7 – 0.

NAYS

Jon Craig, President

Greg Willis, Vice President

AYES

Jon Craig, President
Greg Willis

Greg Willis, Vice President

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Dennis Bishop


Dennis Bishop

Max Elliott


Max Elliott


Randy Harris



Randy Harris

Todd Meadors


Todd Meadors

Travis Troutman


Travis Troutman

ATTEST:  _____
Judith Gumbel, Auditor

7-9-24
Date