

PIKE COUNTY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2025 @ 8:30 am

Jon Craig, President
Max Elliott
Jeff Harting
Travis Troutman

Greg Willis, Vice President
Randy Harris
Eric Smith

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

President Jon Craig called the meeting to order. All County Council members were present as well as County Auditor Judith Gumbel. Others in attendance included Chief Deputy Auditor Audra Warner, Highway Office Manager Melanie Britton, Patoka Township Fire District Financial Clerk Angela O'Neal, County Coroner Nick Henson, Assistant Director of E-911 Brittany Staake, EMA Director Kyler Henry, Jason Sturgeon, County Extension Director Brooke Goble, Park and Recreation Superintendent Brandon Schultheis, Jefferson Township Fire District Financial Clerk Robin Whaley, Pike County Sheriff Jason McKinney, Chief Deputy Dallas Killian, Pike County Jail Commander Brian Maxwell, Executive Director Pike County Chamber of Commerce Jill Hyneman, Deputy Treasurer Reid Craig, Health Dept Office Manager Natalie Byrd, County Administrator Kristi Dischinger, Deputy Clerk Kristi Dischinger, County Highway Superintendent Josh Byrd, Park and Recreation Board Members Rick Weisman and Kyle Adams, and Pike County Solid Waste District Cinda Abbott Knight.

2. APPROVAL OF REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 12, 2025; BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES AUGUST 12,13, 2025.

President Craig called for discussion of the minutes of both meetings. Councilman Randy Harris seconded by Councilman Max Elliott motioned to approve the August 12, 2025, Regular Meeting Minutes and the August 12/13, 2025, Budget Workshop Minutes. Motion carried 7 – 0.

3. OLD BUSINESS

a. PAWS, Approval Amended Agreement

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger explained that the agreement was now revised addressing the Council's concerns. She stated that the agreement states that the County will handle the transport of an animal that is to be euthanized. She shared that it was determined that the agreement would cover a calendar year. Therefore, there is only time left for one quarterly report. Since the County has already paid the originally budgeted \$12,000 there remains \$33,000 to pay to cover the entire \$45,000 for calendar year 2025. Therefore, the agreement needs to be signed again in December for the calendar year 2026. President Craig mentioned that the procedure is supposed to be for the County to receive the quarterly report and then pay the quarterly portion of the contract.

Councilman Travis Troutman seconded by Councilman Harris motioned to approve the

amended 2025 agreement. Motion carried 7 – 0.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **Hearing: Ordinance # 25-09 Amending “Ordinance # 23-03 Modifying Local Income Tax Modifying Local Income Tax Rates” AS PERTAINING TO THE 0.05% DISTRIBUTION RECEIVED BY THE COUNTY’S FIRE DEPARTMENTS/DISTRICTS PIKE COUNTY.**

Fire Departments/Districts receiving a distribution of 0.0500% of the rate for Public Safety will include the Petersburg Fire Protection Territory providing protection for Petersburg, Washington Township, and Madison Township; Union Fire Department providing fire protection for Clay Township; Patoka Township Fire District providing fire protection for Winslow, Patoka Township, Lockhart Township and Logan Township; Jefferson-Marion Fire Protection District providing fire protection for Jefferson Township and Marion Township; and Spurgeon-Monroe Township providing fire protection for Spurgeon and Monroe Township.

President Craig called for a motion to open the Hearing on Ordinance # 25-09. Motion to open was made by Councilman Greg Willis and seconded by Councilman Elliott. Motion passed 7 – 0.

President Craig asked for public comments regarding the proposed amendment to Ordinance # 23-03. He made the call three times. With no comments, President Craig called for a motion to close the Hearing. Motion to close was made by Councilman Eric Smith and seconded by Councilman Jeff Harting. Motion carried 7 – 0.

- b. **Ordinance # 25-09 Amending “Ordinance # 23-03 Modifying Local Income Tax Modifying Local Income Tax Rates as Pertaining to the 0.05% Distribution Received by the County’s Fire Departments/Districts Pike County.**

President Craig called for discussion by Council regarding the Ordinance 25—09. It was clarified that the fire departments, territories, and districts named in the ordinance are the same as were listed in the 2024 amendment. Auditor Gumbel stated that she had received a request from all taxing units involved as well as the respective fire protection units to participate as recipients of the fire safety monies for the year 2026. President Craig called for a motion regarding Ordinance 25-09 Amending Ordinance 23-03 Modifying Local Income Tax Modifying Local Income Tax Rates as Pertaining to the 0.05% Distribution Received by the County’s Fire Departments/Districts Pike County.

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Smith motioned to approve the Ordinance as presented. The vote was 6 – 0 in favor due to the abstention by Councilman Troutman due to his membership on a local fire department.

- c. **Encumbrances 2026**

President Craig pointed out that Pike County has a high number of encumbrances on an annual basis. He pointed out that the encumbrances create a lot of work for the Auditor’s Office. It was discussed by Department Heads that they need to know very soon – now- if the Council was not going to allow them because they would need to get the purchases made earlier. President Craig said that the purchases would just come out of the 2026 budget. He agreed that it would take a year to make the transition. The Auditor stated that long-lead purchases such as vehicles would probably need to be

encumbered. President Craig said that he would like to see the departments try to avoid the encumbrances. He said that perhaps a “soft” start to a policy could be done to see how it would work. It was decided to look at this issue again next month after the Council had opportunity to consider it.

d. Inn Keeper’s Tax – Jill Hyneman

Pike County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Jill Hyneman stated the tax would not cost Pike County Citizens anything. She said that the tax would be collected by the State of Indiana. She stated that existing facilities would generate revenue of about \$8,500. She shared that the Commissioners would need to create a Tourism Commission as well as the Council would need to adopt an ordinance creating an Inn Keeper’s tax. President Craig asked if the Commissioners were in favor of this. Auditor Gumbel informed Council that County Attorney Val Fleig stated the wording on the example Ordinance was okay. No decisions were made.

5. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

a. Pike Crossing TIF Requests Additional Appropriation in Fund 4501 Pike Crossing

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
\$25,000	From	Fund 4501, Pike Crossings	\$ 104,980.63
	To	4501-50000-0000, Miscellaneous	\$0.00
Funding support for entryway off SR 61, SHWS			

Kristi Dischinger Pike County RDC secretary stated that the RDC had agreed to help Dustin Schnarr, SHWS LLC with a portion of the expenses for the entryway into his new business establishment that is off of Highway 61. She added that there was room for additional businesses to locate in the area. The total cost for the entryway was in excess of \$60,000. Councilman Harris commented that it was a nice development for the County.

Councilman Harris seconded by Councilman Harting motioned to approve the additional request. Motion carried 7 – 0.

b. Sheriff Requests Additional Appropriation in Fund 4950, Public Safety - Sheriff

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
\$50,000	From	Fund 4950	\$406,986.83
	To	4950-10460-0005, Overtime	\$ - 965.97
The additional is needed to cover payroll to the end of the year.			

Sheriff McKinney stated that the original \$70,000 budgeted for the year was not sufficient. He stated that he believes that this will cover the overtime costs for the remainder of the year.

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

c. Resolution Approval for Approved Additional Appropriations.

President Craig called for a motion to approve the Resolution for the approval of the additional appropriations. Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Harting motioned to approve the resolution. Motion carried 7 – 0.

6. TRANSFERS - REGULAR

a. Commissioners Request Transfer in Fund 1000-0068, General Fund Commissioners.

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
\$1,200	From	1000-10730-0068, Group Health Insurance	\$4031.50
	To	1000-30840-0068, County Owned Land Expense	
Mowing & Upkeep of cemeteries			

County Administrator Kristi Dischinger stated that she felt \$1,200 would get her to the end of the year.

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Smith motioned to approve the transfer. Motion carried 7 – 0.

b. Commissioners Request Transfer in Fund 1000-0161, General Fund- Courthouse.

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
\$1,150.00	From	1000-30140-0161, Telephone	\$13,112.16
\$150.00	To	1000-30441-0161, Solid Waste Disposal	\$748.00
\$1,000.00	To	1000-30420-0161, Water, Sewage	\$2,049.48
This will cover accounts through end of year.			

Ms. Dischinger stated that these costs continue to rise. She said that she hoped to not have the need to encumber funds.

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

c. Park & Recreation Requests Transfer in Fund 1219, Park & Rec

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Prior to Action
\$1,077	From	1219-20461-0000, Chemicals for Lake	\$4,478.27
	To	1219-30300-0000, Insurance	\$0.00
The purpose of this transfer is to cover the expenses of insurance on new truck.			

The premium is higher due to a new truck.

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

d. EMS Requests Transfer in Fund 1170, Public Safety - EMS

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
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\$2,050.00	From	1170-10320-0000 Paramedic	\$344,788.33
	To	1170-31680-0000 Building Repair/Updates	\$1,467.09
This transfer is to purchase a new hot water heater for the Petersburg Station.			

EMS Director Chris Young stated that the water heater was overhead in the building and when the leak was discovered it was found that the set-up needed to be replumbed because there was no drainage if the pan overflowed.

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

e. EMS Requests Transfer in Fund 1170, Public Safety - EMS

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
\$2,000.00	From	1170-40630-0000, Furniture & Equipment	\$3,346.83
	To	1170-30102-0000, Lawn & Bldg Care	\$338.58
This is to finish the outside at the Arthur Station			
\$22,000.00	From	1170-10320-0000, Paramedic	\$262,044.05
	To	1170-20340-0000, Fuel	\$6,930 .33
Fuel request is to maintain balance until year end.			
\$13,600.00	From	1170-10320-0000, Paramedic	\$262,044.05
	To	1170-30320-0000, Official Bonds & Insurance	\$7,512.56
This is the amount EMS is short for the insurance premium at Arthur			
\$1,500.00	From	1170-40601-0000, Office Equipment	\$3,259.49
	To	1170-10402-0000, Uniform	\$159.61
Transfer to uniform is to maintain balance			

Director Young stated that he was using the Paramedic line to transfer from because it was a little heavy due to having had a worker on worker’s comp at the first of the year. He stated that the plan was to transfer funds and to make one additional appropriation closer to the end of the year if it was necessary. The money is needed in lawn and building care to complete the yardwork around the new Arthur EMS station. Fuel continues to be high. The insurance premium on the Arthur building had to be paid. The EMS uniform supply needed to be replenished.

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Troutman motioned to approve the transfers. Motion carried 7 – 0.

f. Veteran’s Officer Requests Transfer in Fund 1000-0012, General Fund, Veteran’s Office.

AMOUNT		Funds & Accounts	Balance Before Request
\$200.00	From	1000-30330-0012, Veteran Mileage & Expense	\$700.00
	To	1000-20080-0012, Computer upgrade/Supplies	\$142.53
Purchase new printer			

Councilman Willis seconded by Councilman Smith motioned to approve the transfer. Motion carried 7 – 0.

g. Sheriff Requests Transfer in Fund 1000-0005, General Fund - Sheriff

AMOUNT	Funds & Accounts		Balance Before Request
\$649	From	1000-30152-0005, Internet	\$4,800.00
	To	1000-30300-0005, Insurance	\$0.00
Transfer needed to cover Insurance Premium			

The Sheriff's vehicle premiums also increased. Councilman Troutman seconded by Councilman Elliott motioned to approve the transfer request. Motion carried 7 – 0.

h. Highway Requests Transfer in Fund 1169, Local Road and Street

AMOUNT	Funds & Accounts		Balance Before Request
\$13,000	From	1169-20340 -0533, Fuel	\$13,317.07
	To	1169-30660-0530, Repair	\$ 2,912.60
A needed additional was not advertised. Transfer is temporary fix until appropriation can be advertised and acted on in October.			

Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Smith motioned to approve the transfer request. Motion carried 7 – 0.

i. Highway Requests Transfer in Fund 1176, MVH.

AMOUNT	Funds & Accounts		Balance Before Request
\$1,500	From	1176-30601-0533, Equipment Repair/Rental	\$ 5,000
	To	1176-30571-0530, Utility Repair	\$ 0.00
They had to repair a water line.			

This transfer was inadvertently left off the agenda but was added by consensus. Councilman Elliott seconded by Councilman Harris motioned to approve the transfer. Motion passed 7 – 0.

7. TRANSFERS COMPLETED FOR INVENTORY CONTROL AND TRACKING PURPOSES FOR COMPUTER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT PURCHASES.

a. Assessor Requested Transfer in Fund 1138 Cum Capital Development for Inventory Control.

AMOUNT	Funds & Accounts		Balance Before Request
\$11,179.73	From	1138-40631-0000, Capital Expense	\$
\$1,436.25	To	1138-302320-0008, Professional Services	\$ 0.00
\$273.48	To	1138-30610-0008, Dues and Subscriptions	\$0.00
\$8,820.00	To	1138-40500-0008, Computer & Technology Purchase	
\$550.00	To	1138-40750-0008, Technology Infrastructure	
Inventory Control			

NAYS

Jon Craig, President

Greg Willis, Vice President

Max Elliott


Randy Harris

Jeff Harting

Eric Smith

Travis Troutman

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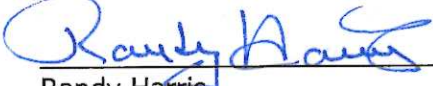
Jon Craig, President




Greg Willis, Vice President




Max Elliott




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Travis Troutman

ATTEST:



10-14-25