

APRIL 08, 2019

JOINT SESSION

**PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL
PULASKI COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Pulaski County Board of Commissioners and the Pulaski County Council met at 6:00 pm EDT on April 08, 2019 in a joint session in the Commissioners' Room at the Court House in Winamac, IN. Present for the meeting were Commissioners Kenny Becker, Jerry Locke and Michael McClure. Council members present were Michael T. Tiede, Scott Hinkle, Jerry (Jay) Sullivan, Kathleen Thompson, Brian Young, Ronald DeSabatine, Auditor Laura Wheeler and County Attorney Kevin Tankersley. Kenneth Boswell absent.

Also present were Holly VanDerAa, Michael Gallenberger, Alan McCloskey, Nathan Origer, Doris Smith, Linda Kroft, Kay Strasser, Melanie Berger, John C Keller, Jerome Keller, Matthew Stechly, Gary Kruger, Mary Welker, Sherry McKinney, Courtney Poor, Joe Moyer, Bill Smith, Colleen Denham, Dan Murphy, John Behny, Francis Czech, Jeff Richwine, and Jason Woodruff.

Commissioner Kenny Becker opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

IN RE: FINANCIAL ADVISOR

Jeff Peters of Municipalities, Inc. presented the financial plans for Pulaski County.

Building a fiscal plan and basics of historical background---where you are today and where you would be in 3 years if everything continues as is discussed.

Cash reserves are on hand that have accumulated over time when the County brought in more than was spent and money saved. The County is spending more than receiving now, which is upside down and not sustainable. Jail financing through a special income rate by the legislature, ends in 2020. This generally is not a problem if only paying on the infrastructure as usually the debt service fails off, but the County is using considerable amount of this money for the operation of the jail. There is no mechanism to replace this tax nor appeal to the State. Some options are income tax reconfiguration and budget cuts. The fiscal plan as presented has a base assumption of expenditures rising 3%. One change possible, which the County has not acted upon, is to discontinue the levy freeze going into 2020.

The County can survive until 2021 as is, so there is time to plan. Changes to income tax or the levy freeze has a deadline of October 31, 2019 to be effective in 2020.

Peters recommends investigating the supplemental homestead credit first. The County is hard on those who live here on the income tax (highest in the state at 3.38%) but they are benefiting on the property taxes.

Courthouse renovation financing discussed, bond or lease rental. Bond would be maxed at \$6,000,000.00. The amount still owed on the jail would not affect the \$6,000,000.00.

Kenneth Boswell is the designated contact with Jeff Peters. More discussion on finances expected at the Joint session on May 13, 2019.

Moving Circuit Court to the Justice Center discussed briefly.

IN RE: RQAW ARCHITECTURE

Eric Welflen from RQAW was not present but proposal for Pulaski County Courthouse Feasibility Study given to the board members. The consensus was 'why consider a proposal when Indiana Landmark is paying Rowland to do a study at no cost to the County'.

Mike McClure made a motion to approve the Joint Session minutes from February 11, 2019 for the Commissioners and Jerry Locke seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Michael T. Tiede made a motion to approve the Joint Session minutes from February 11, 2019 for the Council and Kenneth Boswell seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: HEALTH INSURANCE:

Bidding health insurance discussed briefly. Kathleen Thompson recommended hiring someone to work on the bid specifications, but Auditor Laura Wheeler accepted the task of putting together a Request for Proposal (RFP). Mike McClure motioned to secure bids on three different plan levels and Kenny Becker seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: VETERANS OFFICER

Veteran Officer Ed Fluery resigned due to health issues. Mike McClure motioned to advertise the position, Jerry Locke seconded and motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: POLICY HANDBOOK

Amendments to the Pulaski County Personnel Policy Handbook presented for approval. Amendment #1 changes the work hours for the Highway Department and Amendment #2 changes the tobacco use. Kevin Tankersley explained that the handbook includes the council because it may have a financial impact.

Amendment #1 to Pulaski County Personnel Policies Handbook dated September 11, 2017

WHEREAS, The Board of Commissioners and County Council desire to make an amendment to the Pulaski County Personnel Policies Handbook, and;

WHEREAS, under Section 3, Salary Administration, 3.2 Work Hours, the Highway Department language shall be changed as follows:

Highway: Employees will work 40 hours per week. Between the holidays of Memorial Day and Labor Day each calendar year the schedule will be as follows: Hours are Monday – Thursday 6:00 a. m. – 4:00 PM with a twenty (20) minute paid lunch period scheduled at the discretion of the elected official/department head. After Labor Day, each calendar year, the schedule will change as follows: Hours are Monday – Friday 7:00 a.m. – 3:00 pm with a twenty (20) minute paid lunch period scheduled at the discretion of the elected official/department head. The switch between the two schedules shall occur after Memorial Day and the day after Labor Day.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AMENDED by the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners and the Pulaski County Council that the above language shall be included and made a part of the Pulaski County Personnel Policy Handbook. This amendment shall be posted for at least ninety days throughout the offices of the County.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council this 8th day of April 2019.

Amendment #2 to Pulaski County Personnel Policies Handbook dated September 11, 2017

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners and County Council desire to make an amendment to the Pulaski County Personnel Policies Handbook, and;

Whereas, under Working Conditions, Section 5.8 Tobacco, the first paragraph shall read as follows:

In keeping with Pulaski County's intent to provide a safe and healthful work environment, and Indiana law the use of all forms of tobacco or nicotine use in all County buildings or within eight feet of the doorway to the buildings and vehicles is prohibited. The term "use of all forms of tobacco or nicotine" includes but is not limited to cigarettes, cigars, e-cigarettes, electronic smoking devices, vaping devices, or any other device that utilizes smoke or vapor to deliver a substance into the body. There are no exceptions to this policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT AMENDED by the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners and the Pulaski County Council that the above language shall be included and made a part of the Pulaski County Personnel Policy Handbook. This amendment shall be posted for at least ninety days throughout the offices of the County.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Pulaski County Commissioners and Pulaski County Council this 8th day of April 2019.

Mike McClure made a motion to approve Ordinance #1 and #2 as presented and Jerry Locke seconded the motion.
Motion carried unanimously.

Mike McClure made a motion to adjourn for the Commissioners at 7:45PM, Kenny Becker seconded and motion carried unanimously.

Ken Boswell made a motion to adjourn for the Council at 7:46pm, Kathleen Thompson seconded and motioned carried unanimously.

Approved June 10, 2019

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

Jerry G. Sullivan

Michael T. Tiede

Scott Hinkle

Kenneth Boswell

Ronald DeSabatine

Brian Young

Kathleen Thompson

Approved June 10, 2019

PULASKI COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kenny Becker

Jerry Locke

Mike McClure

ATTEST: _____
Laura M. Wheeler, Auditor, Pulaski County