

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court



Budget Workshop
Monday, June 1, 2015
9:00 A.M.

Hamilton County Commissioner's Court met in Budget Workshop on Monday, June 1, 2015 at 9:00 A.M. with the following members present: County Judge Mark Tynes, Commissioners Johnny Wagner, Keith Allen Curry, Lloyd Huggins and Dickie Clary.

Tynes called the meeting to order and a determination that a quorum was made.

The extension service addressed the court first regarding their budget request. Donald Kelm was present and opened stating just to remind the court that there were two new agents present and that neither one had been through a complete budget cycle.

Extension Agent Bruce Boyd addressed the travel expenses stating that it covers all the stock shows and workshops that they are required to go to. Explaining that when a student is signed out by them to go to a stock show they are required to be with them; therefore allowing the students to have excused absences.

Clary asked how the agents complied with this if there were no funds available.

Kelm responded that a previous agent had grandparents that went and that she stayed with them in their travel trailer or she would share a room with another agent. If neither of those options were available she drove back and forth.

The request for the extension's assistant to go from part-time to full time be adjusted and they were asking for five additional hours to allow for the office to be open mornings, Monday through Friday. This would allow for better communications between the public and the agency.

Extension also asked about voice mail on their phone system. Tynes addressed this stating that extension needs to make the inquiry about what would be involved in obtaining voice mail and deliver that information back to his office.

Completing that department the court then heard from Tax Assessor-Collector Terry Short. Short was asking for the court to consider changing her part-time help to full time. The processes and requirements in her office are much more detailed than they have been. The state is requiring more of the work to be performed by her office. The court asked if any fees were shared with the work load assessed; basically no more fees received by the county more unfunded mandates upon the office.

Tynes addressed Extraco/IT-Computer issues. Tynes issued a handout which outlined the upcoming cost of our computer issues.

Increase from 5 Mb to 10 Mb	\$1029.00 monthly not \$1030.00 Total \$12,348.00 Annually
One-time cable installation charge	\$ 4,758.99
Charge from Century Link	<u>\$ 38.00</u>
Sub-Total	\$17,144.99

Net Data Annual Fee for the E-Filing Program,

Support, etc	\$22,144.99
Upgrade to server	\$ 4,720.00
Total:	\$26,864.99

Tynes informed the court that he had reviewed some of the special funds to use to offset \$5000.00 annual fee and made a determination that you could not have courthouse security without telephone system. Therefore he would be taking a small percentage of the courthouse security funds which amounted to \$2100.00 per year to help defray a part of the costs.

The county would need to proceed and sign a contract with Century Link to provide the services required with the above listed computer issues. The county would also proceed to update the server and that the \$5000 was budgeted for 2015-2016 Net Data expense for e filing.

Huggins, Wagner and Clary stated that they had used their part time employees for additional hours and asked that the treasurer help them watch so that they would not go over the allotted average time.

Tynes then addressed the twenty-seventh pay period in the upcoming budget year and stated as he saw it would not be a problem and that the treasurer would make the necessary adjustments.

Moving on to the request to make the predator control a full time position which would increase that salary from \$16,200.00 to \$32,400.00. for a department total of \$48,985.

Clary stated that it looks like we will need to meet the must haves instead. A penny raises almost \$50,000.00.

Tynes continued with another item in the budget of the Emergency Management.

Bare bones budget as follows:

Located in the small conference room at the sheriff's office.

Electrical outlets

2 dedicated telephone lines

2 televisions one for local news and one for national news

Radios so that each member of the court and the sheriff and chief deputy could have one

The cars that were given to the city when the law enforcement contract ended, as they are going out of service the county will retrieve the radios in those cars and use for some of the members of the court. The new radios bought will be used by the sheriff and the chief deputy.

Currently the Hamilton Emergency Management is not in compliance with state mandates but Sheriff Bewley hopes he will have all the paperwork done at the end of June.

Clary stated that his Precinct Four budget would stay the same as last year.

The court took a five minute recess.

Tynes ask for direction from the court. Where do we go from here?

Clary replied we can pick up on the revenue page or do we want to discuss paying off our debt?

Tynes replied that paying off our debt we see no significant change as we still have to pay the interest whether the debt is paid off our not.

Tynes continued stating that Dyer has an investment plan. We have no investments. We will be staying with Mills County State Bank and they allow for the county to invest with another entity. Our assets will stay liquid and our return will not be as much but that is better than nothing.

Clary stated considers it a benefit to the taxpayers to pay off the courthouse debt. We reduce the 3.8 tax rate for debt service to zero.

Tynes then ask the question, what is a reasonable reserve for Hamilton County? He has no answer.

Wagner responds that they taught us to have operating funds from October until the time we start collecting taxes.

Huggins stated there is no buffer.

Tynes said we need to discuss and stand unified on what we think is a reasonable reserve.

Clary stated that it takes approximately \$250,000 per month to operate that would be \$750,000 plus funding for an emergency situation.

Huggins added that indigent health care needed to be considered.

Tynes stated that we need to run all the traps and come to a unified decision.

Tynes adjourned the meeting.

County Judge

Attest: _____

County Clerk