

## Finance, Fees, and Salaries Committee

### Budget Meeting

The Budget Committee met on September 23, 2021, in the County Board Room. Members present were Wayne Bollin, chairman, Janet Fleming, Harry Douglas, Tom Bergmeier and Gary Stansbery. Also Present were Dustin Harmon and Tony Grant from Bellwether LLC and Board Chair Delbert Kreps.

John Meixner, Regional Office of Education Superintendent, was first. He reported that the Hancock County share of the four-county area will be \$58634.03 for FY22. This represents 23.43 percent of the total share. He discussed several points of his office's duties and reported some unknown future expenses that may be passed on from the state.

Holly Wilde-Tillman presented her budget for the County Clerk's Office. She would like to have another person in her office to help with county board duties, clerk duties and possible election duties.

Mike Wright, animal control officer, was not at the meeting. We removed the expense line item for tags, \$200, as this was no longer needed.

Rachel Mast, State's Attorney, reported that her salary was raised by the state to \$142,068. Most of this salary is paid for by the state, and the total share for Hancock County would not change for next year. She would like to raise the salary for the Asst. State's Attorney to \$84,000, to be more in line with other attorneys in the region, and to reflect added work load in her office. The Appellate Prosecutor fee of \$8000 will not change next year.

Kendall Beals entered the meeting. His overall budget reflect a 4 percent reduction in expenses, however, that could change with added autopsy requests.

John Neally, Circuit Clerk entered the meeting. He stated that a new copier would be needed under line 001-140-5145. Mr. Bollin asked if the line item transfer of \$40,000 from Circuit Clerk Document Storage to General Fund could still be listed for budget purposes. John said that would be alright.

Travis Duffy, Sheriff, was next. He has 2 vehicle replacements in order; the vehicles have been ordered but not yet received. These will be paid for next year. The Warsaw Contract provides for a vehicle to be provided by them, about

\$40,000, and the upfit expenses provided by the county. Union negotiations are upcoming, salaries will be updated at that time.

Jack Curfman, ESDA Director, relayed his budget. His budget reflects an addition for internet, and hazard mitigation increase of \$7000.

Dale Bolton, Supervisor of Assessments, and Casey Livingston, Deputy Assessor, entered the meeting. He has added extra in the deputy salaries line to hire and train a new person in his office. Dale will be retiring on May 31, 2021.

The Health Department levy will be \$321,000 and the TB levy will be \$10,000.

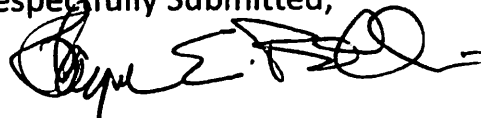
Jenny Meeks, EMS Director, entered the meeting. She budgeted extra for uniforms, ambulance equipment, education, building and parking lot expenses, tactical vests (misc. expense), utilities (security contract), and an 18% increase for EMT salaries. She was concerned that the ambulances are aging and causing extra repair expenses. She also was concerned that the county board did not fully appreciate their service, and should respond more with upgrades to the system.

The Veteran's Budget request was submitted.

The committee then asked Dustin several questions and talked about budgeting for ARPA Funds. Dustin said he would compile the data thus far and resubmit the budget for further discussion.

A motion by Harry Douglas to recess to September 28, 2021, was made and seconded by Gary Stansbery. This will be another Budget meeting. Motion Passed.

Respectfully Submitted,



Wayne E. Bollin, Finance Chairman