

Budget Meeting

The Hancock County Finance Committee held a budget meeting in the County Board room on September 15, 2022, at 7pm. Members present were Janet Fleming, Harry Douglas, Dennis Castlebury, Mark Menn, and Wayne Bollin. Others present were Kris Pilkington, Treasurer, and Holly Wilde-Tillman, County Clerk.

Kris discussed the audit and expenses for that line item. The base audit will be about \$32650 and approximately \$6300 for a single audit. Single audits are needed to cover the required audit when federal monies received total over \$750,000 in a fiscal year. The auditor told us that the increase on the normal county audit would be \$1000 this year. The new CIC software for accounting will renumber most of our current line items. Kris has provided a spreadsheet to denote old versus new numbers. The data processing line was also lowered to represent lower expense funding needed next year.

ARPA funds and current balances and items paid to date were discussed.

Holly presented a Full Speed claim for \$45. Motion was made by Harry and seconded by Janet Fleming to approve this. All voted aye.

Holly presented a tax resolution for property 11-30-967-000. Motion was made by Dennis and seconded by Harry to approve this. All voted aye.

Holly discussed the voting machines. They are approximately 15 years old, and we have a few spare machines. E S&S offers maintenance contracts for these, but as the machines age, Holly is afraid that the parts and maintenance will be more difficult to obtain. The state also alerted us to a few failures that were occurring with these models. She believes we can get through 2025 with our present machines, but we need to start putting funds aside to eventually make a switch to new machines. A bid a year ago on 35 units was about \$300,000. There are no election special funds or state assistance for voting machine upgrades.

Casey Livingston, Supervisor of Assessments, entered the meeting. She had revised salary figures for her deputy lines. The committee accepted her new figures.

Sheriff Travis Duffy and Michelle Gold entered the meeting. They discussed his budget line items with the committee. He expressed his concerns over the State's new Safe-T laws that reduce jail times and many fees that the county can collect. Inmate medical costs were discussed, as well as food expenses. His line items are very difficult to estimate, at this time, with all of the new unknowns.

The committee discussed the Warsaw contract with Sheriff Duffy. As expenses increase, the committee asked if we could renegotiate the contract. Travis expressed concerns but agreed that we should probably meet with Mayor Heisler first, to get a sense of what Warsaw felt on the topic. Michelle discussed budget items and how some of the expenses were paid.

Mr. Bollin reminded the committee of our commitment to the City of Hamilton next year upon completion of their sewer project in the Industrial Park. We will need to budget \$25,000 for that project.

Mr. Bollin also reported that we have a funding request from the Hancock County Economic Development director, Samantha Harnack. We will schedule her for the next meeting.

A motion was made by Harry and seconded by Janet to recess until Tuesday, September 20, after the full board meeting. All voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay E. Fall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "J".