

Wayne County Board of Supervisors

February 16, 2021

Meeting of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors was held on the 12th day of February 2021, in the Conference Room of the Wayne County Courthouse, Corydon, Iowa, pursuant to notice duly given in compliance with Iowa Code Section 21.4. The Board noted due notice of meeting subject to said Code Section.

Present were David Dotts, Don Seams, Tom Swearingin; members of the Board, Rhonda Bennett, Tim Runyon, Gary Bennett, Nicole Polsdofer, Dan May, Burton Prunty, Kim Swearingin, Keith Davis, Angie Horton, Randy Zerr, Joella Perry, Kenny Banks, Shelley Bickel, David Rhodes, Mendy Middlebrook, Halie Spidle, Jen Reed and Michelle Dooley.

The Corydon Times Republican is live streaming Board of Supervisors regular session meetings on their facebook page.

Unless otherwise noted, all motions were approved unanimously by all Board members present.

Dotts called meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

Pledge of Allegiance

Seams made motion to approve the February 16, 2021 agenda, seconded by TSwearingin.

FY22 Budget Request presented by the Department Heads and Elected Officials to Board of Supervisors. All budgets have salary, FICA, IPERS & health insurance increases.

Board of Supervisor presented their budget. There was an increase for Hazard Mitigation Plan update. The plan needs updated every 5 years to qualify for FEMA funding. The cost of the update is approximately \$25,000.

Auditor, Michelle Dooley presented her budget. Tiena Lewis, Deputy Auditor has returned to 40 hours a week effective 1/1/2021. The vacant position will be filled in the coming months but unsure if the position will be a Deputy or Clerk. Budget increased by \$20,000 mainly due to salaries and election software and equipment updates. Auditor spoke of Express Voter which is no longer offered by the Secretary of State and she is now required to purchase programming from a 3rd party and new equipment may be required for the programming. Dooley also spoke of the increase in the election budget because the Secretary of State strongly encourages us to tabulator equipment for all elections that comes from "Help Americans Vote Act".

Treasurer, Kim Swearingin presented her budget with an increase of \$40,000 to add an additional staff member. KSwearingin and her staff is currently working long days to try to meet the requirements of the office. She stated that she had visited with the two gals in her office and they were not sure they were interested in the Treasurers position. She would like to hire someone that would be interested in this position so they would be ready when she retired. KSwearingin believes that the increase in staffing would be beneficial to both the office and the residents of Wayne County. She wanted the public to know that this is the 3rd meeting with the Supervisors regarding her budget request. KSwearingin also requested for a public meeting regarding her budget request and did not think that the Supervisors handled her budget correctly. KSwearinin has contacted an ISAC Lawyer, The Iowa Public Information Board and The Executive Director of the Iowa Ethics Board regarding the situation. To determine if she has violated any laws regarding influencing future elections for the Treasurer's Seat. She has been the Wayne County Treasurer for over 25 years and takes her job very serious and takes pride in doing her very best. One other increase in the budget is postage expenditure. Seams asked which expenditure lines she budgeted the \$40,000 salary increase to. KSwearingin responded "\$20,000 Motor Vehicles salary and \$20,000 Treasurer's office salary". There was further discussion regarding additional cost of FICA, IPERS and Health Insurance regarding the new position and that the actual cost would be between \$50,000 to \$60,000. Don spoke of additional research he completed and that counties of similar size work with 2 employees plus the Treasurer. KSwearingin expressed her goal is to make the transition as smooth as possible if she chooses to retire in the next 2 years. She also stated that the Treasurer's Office has taken on additional duties regarding Drivers Licenses, Registrations and handles all property taxes collections in the county as well as balancing and distributing the funds back out to the other taxing authorities. If the new position is not approved, she will be looking into a Scheduling Program that will allow more time to cross train current staff.

County attorney's budget was presented.

Sheriff, Keith Davis presented his budget. The Budget portion that is funded by property taxes actually decreased from FY21. Davis also moved allowable expenses from General Basic, General Supplemental and Rural Basic Funds to the Local Option Sales and Service Tax (LOST) Fund but noted that in the future those expenses would return to General Basic & Supplemental and Rural Service Funds. \$665,000 is the estimated LOST revenue generated in FY22. Other revenue generated by the Sheriff's office comes from inmate holding fees charged to other counties, weapon permits and 28E agreements with Allerton, Corydon, Humeston, Lineville, and Promise City by providing law enforcement to the incorporated areas. The Sheriff's office is no longer allowed to charge inmates for room and board, resulting in the county covering those cost.

Environmental Program budget presented. This is the allocation to the Wayne-Ringgold-Decatur Landfill and allocations for recycling programs offered by the cities.

Recorder, Angie Horton presented her budget. Horton tries very hard to keep her budget to a minimal and sometimes runs close with her appropriation.

Watershed, County Farm, Civil Service (Code 341A) budgets were presented.

County Engineer, Randy Zerr and the Assistant Engineer, Dan Carpenter presented their budget. The major increase is due to the Medicine Creek project. This project is estimated to be \$1,000,000 with \$800,000 coming back from the Federal Highway Commission. Seams pointed out the letting date for Medicine Creek project is not until August 2021 and that the project may not get completed in FY22. TSwearingin also stated that only 20% of the secondary road budget is funded by property tax dollars and the remaining is funded by other sources with the Iowa DOT being the primary fund source.

Veteran Affairs Director, Joella Perry presented her budget. There was discussion regarding donations given for various projects throughout the year by individuals. Those donations are accounted for in separate funds and the off-setting expenditures need to be budgeted to allow Perry to spend them.

Conservation Director, Kenny Banks presented his budget. Increases were a little over \$20,000 mainly due to salaries, utilities, and cleaning supplies. TSwearingin also pointed out that revenues are up from camping fees. Dooley asked if there is any plans to add additional staffing for mowing in the future. Banks responded that it is hard to determine at this moment. There was also discussion that Hannah Wilthamuth, Naturalist shared with Appanoose County may be going to Appanoose County full time so that Wayne County may not have a naturalist in the coming year. There were no COVID-19 outbreaks last year during the camping season at any of the Wayne County camping sites. That speaks volumes for the staff working for conservation and their dedication to keeping everyone safe along with all the volunteers. Conservation does mow over 400 acres a week plus all the additional duties required to make conservation successful.

Public Health Director, Shelley Bickel presented their budget. There is increases in programs being offered to the residents of Wayne County as well as working through the COVID-19 pandemic. Currently, Public Health is getting more referrals from the Wayne County Hospital and they are partnering with the Sheriff's Office to provide services for inmates being held. Dotts wanted to make sure to mention that Bickel actively searches for grants that cover a lot of the program cost that are being offered to residents. Dotts also asked for an update regarding vaccinations. Currently, Wayne County is receiving 100 doses each week and the City of Corydon has donated the use of the Walden Park building. And Public Health is getting a lot of volunteers to help work the vaccination clinics.

Environmental Health Director, David Rhodes presented his budget. Very similar to last years except 3.5% salary increases. Mendy Middlebrook presented the General Relief and Chemical Substance budgets. They both stayed similar to last year's budget.

Middlebrook also presented the Mental Health budget. The budget increased approximately \$1,000 overall. Wayne County belongs to the CROSS Region and that region sets the tax levy rate for Wayne County.

Medical Examiner, District Court budgets were presented and stayed basically the same.

County Library budget increased with the increase of tax dollars levied based on an increase of taxable value for rural residents.

Development budget increased to accommodate filling a staff position for FY22. There has not been a staff member since Denise Becker retired. Every county that hopes to grow needs to support Development. TSwearingin asked if the Development Board is looking to fulfill the position in FY22. Dotts said there are factors that need to be considered before moving forward with hiring a staff member.

General Service is the Courthouse budget and is split between General Basic and General Supplemental funds. The furnace needs replaced in the future because parts are no longer available. This heating system is the original furnace when the courthouse was built back in the 60's. Karr Tuckpointing is scheduled to recaulk the windows and doors since many of them leak.

Data Processing Budget was presented. There was discussion regarding new financial program for the future because the current financial program is being phased out by the vendor. Scantron is our IT provider that is constantly looking at our equipment to make sure that servers and workstations are working properly and that we are protected against outside threats. This service is approximately \$48,000 annually. Equipment, software and technology is constantly evolving. New Venture Director, Halie Spidle presented the budget. Salaries, FICA, IPERS & Health Insurance is the major contributor to the budget increase. Spidle is looking at adding additional residents to the facility in the coming months.

Seams made a motion to set the Public Hearing for FY22 County Budget to Monday, March 8, 2021 at 9AM in the Basement Conference Room of the Wayne County Courthouse, seconded by TSwearingin.

TSwearingin made a motion to change the draft budget to the proposed budget so that the Public Notice could be published, seconded by Seams.

Public comments:

Tim Runyon asked if proposed budgets were available. Proposed FY22 Budget can be picked up in the Auditor's Office. Gary Bennett asked what residents can expect for tax liability going forward. There was discussion about the changes in the rollbacks which are set by the State and setting the taxable values and making sure that tax liabilities are spread evenly. There was also discussion about the value assigned by the CSR's. The main way to cut taxes is to cut services or to cut staffing. There was a lot of discussion about expenditures, revenues and carry over. TSwearingin explained the need to carry fund balances forward because of the time that lapse before taxes are collected in September. Rhonda Bennett stated that 2 supervisors cannot meet together because that is considered a meeting. Bennett also stated that her legal counsel would be more than happy to meet with the board to cover over this and she would cover the expense.

There being no further business, the next regular session meeting of the Wayne County Board of Supervisors will be held on the 22nd day of February 2021, at 9:00AM in the Wayne County Courthouse Conference Room.

Seams made motion to adjourn at 11:15 AM, seconded by TSwearingin.



David Dotts, Chairperson

Attested 

Michelle Dooley, Auditor