

BUDGET MINUTES

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT/PLANNING COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 22, 2021 11:00 a.m.

Present: Supervisors Spickerman, Johnson, Lasher and Leonard, County Administrator Rick House, Fiscal Assistants Ken Blake and Brian Sams, Economic Development/Planning Department Director Brian Pincelli, Wayne County Cooperative Extension Representatives Elizabeth Claypoole and TJ Chamberlain and Tourism Director Christine Worth. Supervisors Groat and Robusto were not present for the meeting.

Mr. Sams stated the overall preliminary 2022 County budget reflects an increase in both revenues and appropriations from this year, along with an increase in sales tax revenue and an increase in the property tax levy driven by an 8% increase in property assessments. The budget reflects managerial pay increases for both 2021 and 2022; as 2021 increase were not put in the original 2021 budget. The budget reflects a decrease in the tax rate from \$7.52 in 2021 to \$7.17. It is not anticipated any money from the General Fund will be needed toward this budget.

Budgets under the Economic Development/Planning Committee total \$2.2 million, up \$257,156 in County cost from the current year.

The following budgets were reviewed (Budgets were distributed to members electronically prior to today's meeting):

- Bus Operations: County cost remains the same at \$38,313.
- Fish and Game: County cost remains the same at \$1,877.
- Palmyra Union and Ag Society: County cost remains the same at \$5,500.
- County Extension Service: County cost remains the same at \$419,485. In 2021, at the request of the County, Extension had a 10% reduction in their appropriation request. The total Extension budget for 2022 is \$2 million, slightly less than the 2021 modified budget. Mr. Chamberlain stated the Office received a one-time grant from Cornell for COVID relief that is assisting with maintaining programs into 2022. Last year, Wayne County Extension considered cutting its Ag Teams. This program shares 16 specialized staff members with 15 counties. Programs Extension provides were reviewed, along with their benefit to the farming community. They worked with farm owners to ensure the safety of employees during COVID. Mr. Chamberlain said Wayne County Extension would not be able to come in with a flat budget for a third year in a row.
- Publicity: Revenue \$8,600, personal services up 7.5% to \$157,867, contractual expenses up 5.4% to \$71,246, fringe benefits up 15% to \$60,100, County cost up 8.8% to

\$280,613. The hours of the Outdoor Recreation Coordinator were reduced last year; the proposed budget has an increase in hours for this staff member from five to seven a week.

- Tourism Matching Funds: Revenue down 5% to \$70,100, contractual expenses \$140,686, County cost up 6% to \$70,586. The amount the County will receive is the same as the appropriation made pre-COVID. In 2020, the State decreased their appropriation by 50%. Mrs. Worth noted the revenue that could be generated if the County established an occupancy tax.
- Regional Planning Council: County cost up 10% to \$10,967. This is the first increased appropriation request in several years. The Counsel identifies, defines and informs its member counties of issues and opportunities critical to the physical, economic and social health of the region.
- Planning Board: Revenue up 12.5% to \$88,300, personal services up 5% to \$342,884, contractual expenses up 9.4% to \$262,684, fringe benefits up 7.5% to \$152,065, County cost up 6.3% to \$669,333. The budget reflects the split in funding of some employees' salaries with the Economic Development budget. The budget includes revenue and appropriations for the maintenance of snowmobile trails in the County. Mr. Blake stated the need to increase the snowmobile expense line to \$85,000 to match the revenue line; the change was approved. Mr. Pincelli stated the Planning and Economic Development Offices work as one Department. The Industrial Development Agency (IDA) has its own Board of Directors.
- Economic Development Administration: Personal services up 8.6% to \$224,059, contractual expenses up 330% to \$215,000, fringe benefits up 8% to \$88,494, County cost up 56% to \$527,553. Special Projects and Special Studies cut out of the 2021 budget are included in the 2022 budget for \$165,000. How individual programs work to attract new business to Wayne County and invest in public infrastructure were reviewed.

Budgets presented were approved with the minor change to the Planning budget.

The meeting adjourned at 11:51 a.m. The next meeting of the Economic Development/Planning Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, October 6th at 10:00 a.m.