

Paws and Claws – Jessica Lucas, Shelter Manager

The council asked why there was a 20% increase in the contract. They wanted to know what they are getting for their money and what is covered. Hillsboro and Covington are not covered. The contract is not for towns. There is a separate contract for Attica and Veedersburg. Newton, Mellott, Kingman are only covered if the law needs assistance. The shelter cannot afford to pay the staff more than \$10 per hour so they have a lot of turnover. Right now, they have 42 dogs and 53 cats. They have no room currently. She has talked to Brad Crain, but he said no to a contract. Dudley asked for a breakdown of how many animals that the county has paid for? Jessica said she will get this and send to the council. She said their income comes from Fountain County, Attica, and Veedersburg, donations and fundraising.

ARP

Jeff Fishero stated he would like to use \$5,000 to \$6,000 to correct the sidewalks. Rod Bannon stated that the raised sidewalk doesn't meet ADA guidelines. They have met with the state. The State said they would not pay for anything. Rod said he would have to charge each individual. He wants to help rebuild and has been looking for grants. Rod said that Hillsboro would like to replace the sidewalks, but they do not have the money. Dudley stated this could be paid from the ARP money, if approved, but we would need a bill and we are also in a time frame. The Commissioner's and Council would have to agree. Jeff said he will contact the State Senator and even the Governor to see if this can be done.

Budget Hearings

The Council went over the budget for 2025. Dudley said the Public Safety fund is low and will need an additional to finish out the year. They discussed Clerk, Auditor, Treasurer, Coroner, Assessor, Prosecutor, Vet Services, Circuit Court, Election Board, Council, Commissioners, Plan Commission, Emergency Management, Solid Waste and Ambulance.

Dudley Cruea called a recess to the budget hearing until Monday October 21, 2024 at 5:00 p.m.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A
October 21, 2024
AT 5:00 P.M.**

Coleen Chambers
ATTEST

Dudley Cruea
David D. Daxe
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Crowder
James D. Miller
Jeff Luster

MINUTES
FOUNTAIN COUNTY COUNCIL
October 21, 2024
5:00 p.m.

The following Fountain County Council members were present at the meeting: Dudley Crucea, Tom Booe, Dale White, Kelly Carlson, Denise Crowder, Jim McKee and Jeff Fishero.

Dudley Crucea reconvened the budget hearing at 5:00 p.m.

County Highway – Jason Lewis

Jason asked if he could make his secretary a highway employee. Kelly asked if they could do that as she thought it was a commissioner decision. Denise said she feels that she is a highway employee and no decision needs to be made. The Secretary will come in at 7:00 a.m. and work until 3:30 p.m. Jason said this way she can help them out by answering the phone among other things as many times they are out on the roads and there is no one there to answer the phone. The salaries of the employees were discussed.

Ambulance – Garth Kagels

Garth discussed the salaries and also the ALS 360 program. There is a 7-year plan and a 10-year plan. This provides maintenance with the possibility to own at the end of the program. He will get the contract to the Council once it is received.

Health Dept – Jenny Eads

Jenny discussed salaries. There was also discussion on combining line items and using some money from 1206 and 1168. We will have to do an additional after January 1, 2025 to get the rest of the budget in 1161 due to advertising and timing issue. There was only \$48,111 advertised for Fund 1161. Council would like to see the liability insurance taken out of fund 1168 or 1206 through the carryover process.

Circuit Court – Judge Campbell

Judge Campbell discussed salaries. She stated it is hard to find employees to fill vacant positions due to the wage.

Sheriff – Andrew Krout

Andrew discussed salaries and longevity for the Sheriff's department with the Council. Andrew would like to see the deputies paid \$2,000 every other year for longevity.

911 – Dana Stonebraker

Dana also discussed her salary and the salaries of her employees.

Budget Hearings

The Council discussed the salaries for each department. They went through the Budget workbooks page by page.

**THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE A
October 28, 2024
AT 9:00 A.M.**

Council Chambers
ATTEST

Dudley Cuen
John D. Boase
Dale A. White
Kelly L. Carlson
Denise Crowder
James D. Miller
Jeff Furlow