

Finance Committee
Minutes

October 15, 2019

The Finance Committee of the Piatt County Board met on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 9 a.m. in Room 104 of the Courthouse. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ray Spencer. Attending were members: Robert Murrell, Dale Lattz, Randy Shumard, Renee Fruendt. Committee member Shannon Carroll was not in attendance. Also in attendance: States Attorney Rhoades, Jennifer Harper, Linda Leach, Jennifer Bryant, Seth Floyd, Mike Holmes, Darlene Baker, Scott Porter, Kara Olsen, Jami Trybom, Henry Motsegood, David Hunt, Assistant States Attorney Elizabeth Dobson, Debbie Marshall, and Keri Nusbaum.

FY 20 Budget

Spencer reviewed the status of the budget. The cuts made through his meetings with the department heads were given to the board at an earlier meeting. He prepared a list of other possible cuts. The Chairman recommends an evening meeting be scheduled for Thursday to make the final decision on the budget. The budget needs to be cut approximately \$700,000 more to be balanced. Lattz said the board needs to make a decision if they will work toward a balanced budget or if they will pass a deficit budget and revenue needs to be looked at. He also is open to passing on the increase in health insurance costs to those not covered by union contracts. Shumard said other entities are looking at options for health insurance which may cut costs, and Fruendt agreed that should be looked at for next year. Revenues from the office building for rent, electric and internet should be reviewed. The committee was in general agreement they would work toward a balanced budget.

The committee, with the help of Linda Leach, reviewed the chairman's suggested budget cuts line by line. Some were not eligible to be cut. The current budget as presented today is with no salary increases and includes some of those cuts. The committee discussed that the 911 salary re-imbursment could be increased. Shumard suggested that office building tenants be charged individually for janitorial services or raise rent rates to cover that service. Spencer polled the board as to whether department heads should be asked to cut a percentage off their budgets. Shumard said he didn't think more can be cut, as the budget is at bare bones. Lattz said he will not vote for a deficit budget. He asked States Attorney Rhoades if the board is restricted as far as layoffs and furloughs. She will check but does not think they are limited. Spencer asked for clarification of IMRF. The levy needs to be increased along with Social Security. There will need to be a Truth in Taxation hearing as a result. There will be a truth in taxation hearing in November. Leach suggested the mileage reimbursement rate be cut to save an estimated \$10,000. No action was taken.

Murrell asked for a show of hands of those department heads who could ethically cut 10% from their budget. There was no response. Sheriff Hunt said any more cuts would be on paper, as it may not be possible to operate on less. Lattz said the county should live within its means, and look at going to voters next year.

The Finance committee will meet again October 17 at 9 a.m. and at 7 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

MOTION: Shumard made motion, seconded by Fruendt to adjourn. All in favor and the meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Keri Nusbaum
Piatt County Zoning Officer

