

WHEREAS, in the opinion of the County Auditor, the public interests required that the Lake County Council, should be called to meet in special session at this time, for the purpose of considering the budgets for the Year 2014, a written notice was sent to each member of the Council, and proper advertisement made, and all other acts performed in accordance with the laws governing such matters.

And now in obedience to such call, come Ted Bilski, President, Jerome A. Prince, David Hamm, Daniel Dernulc, Christine Cid, and Eldon Strong, County Councilpersons, together with Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorney. Councilwoman Elsie Franklin was absent.

OPEN: Public Comments, Council Discussions, Actions

Dante said that you are in a balanced state, at this point. He said Elections & Registration came in, and they did redistribute their money from the 400 series line item to their 100, 200, and 300 series, with no salary increases. He said that they did come up with a surplus. They wanted to reconfigure it into salary raises, and Dante said he didn't allow it because the Councilmen weren't going down that path.

Dante said that he placed the surplus for \$49,608.00 in line 43995, Other Services & Charges line item, so they are balanced, with no bottom-line changes.

Dante said that the capital is also locked away, the \$1.3 million dollars.

Dante said the other change was in the Line 2, additional Line 2, he is trying to "stuff" them in there before the Second Reading so they won't have to keep sending Resolutions down state after the meetings. Dante said here are approximately \$300,000 dollars worth of Line 2's that are listed on the sheet. This will put you into the surplus mode, by about \$225,000 dollars, the \$76,000 dollars that's in Fund 152, Misdemeanant Fund can't help your bottom line, but the total package is about \$300,000 dollars.

Prince made a motion, seconded by Dernulc to input the revisions into our 16-line statement, with no salary increases, or positions change, for Elections, Department 2100, general fund, 001. All voted "Yes, except Franklin, "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

Prince made a motion, seconded by Hamm to move the line 2 reductions received from Sheriff's Department, 001-0500-42210 @ \$43,301
001-0500-42220 @ \$6,300
001-0500-43240 @ \$2,075
001-3100-42110 @ \$1,213
001-3100-42240 @ \$2,673
001-3100-42250 @ \$3,182
001-3100-42260 @ \$633
001-3100-43120 @ \$91,933
001-3100-43188 @ \$750
001-3100-43190 @ \$1,309
001-3100-43232 @ \$451
001-3100-43610 @ \$162
001-3100-43620 @ \$505
001-3100-43630 @ \$54,215
001-3150-42240 @ \$764
001-3150-42290 @ \$3,235
001-3150-43620 @ \$852
152-3100-43630 @ \$76,455

Dernulc stated that this is actually a reduction going back into the general fund.

Dante added, and Misdemeanant Fund, 152 as well. There are two funds involved. He said it will be general fund, mostly, and Work Release, by about \$76,000, so about \$300,000 in total

All voted "Yes", except Franklin, "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

Dante said, you are in a balanced position, at this point.

Judge Webber wanted to address the Council regarding the current budget situation, and the fact that they are frozen at the existing rates, and he understands that. He wanted to speak on behalf of the employees in the Juvenile Center, who in 2010 took a reduction of salaries, back to 2009 salary level. He said they have maintained that 2009 salary level, taking a reduction in wages for that period of time, and are still at that 2009 salary level. He gave examples of certain positions that have taken reductions.

Judge Webber asked the Council to consider bringing the employees back to their 2009 salaries, which also means some raises. It would effect about \$170,000 additional to bring them back to the 2009 salary level.

Bilski said that he had a brief meeting with the Judge, in Committee, and shared a lot of their concerns, and the Judge had a very good idea, and Bilski said he doesn't know, as they move forward, with our Jail, and maybe possibly maybe being able to share some of the resources with the Sheriff's Department when it comes to Medical, and psychological evaluation.

Judge Pera spoke again, with regard to the Civil Division budget, and said that he E-mailed some information to Attorney Szarmach.

Attorney Szarmach said he has not looked at it, since he received it, due to time constraints.

Attorney Szarmach said, for the Council to give you money for raises, out of the Maintenance Fund, involves a lot of other issues, that Attorney Szarmach believes are best discussed at an Executive Session.

Attorney Szarmach said, for us, mechanically to have an Executive Session, we need to have something from you in writing, an E-mail would be fine, saying that you if this doesn't occur, that you would mandate us. The "wheels start rolling", procedurally for me to meet with them in Executive Session, and discuss with them, other issues that don't involve your office at all, if we use that fund for raises for your office.

Attorney Szarmach said, so that's what I would like for you to do.

Judge Pera asked, you want me to stand here and tell you that I'm going to mandate you to supplement this pay, if we don't get it?

Prince said, we want you to E-mail us.

Attorney Szarmach said, he said, what the rules say, 16.5, anyway, that's what it says, and I have to have something in writing.

Judge Pera said, I will do that. I will go down and compose it right now.

Attorney Szarmach said and you want this for the 2014 budget?

Judge Pera answered, yes.

Attorney Szarmach said, for us to appropriate money for that 2014 budget, does not have to be in this budget, which we are going to approve Monday, the Second Reading is Monday. We can always, throughout the year, do an additional appropriation for those purposes, out of that fund, if that's what you want to do.

Judge Pera said, there are other issues present here, aside from that one. We had a request in for Juror Meals, for Maintenance & Contracts, for our recording equipment, that cost the taxpayers thousands of dollars to purchase, and which we need to maintain. We had a request in for furniture and fixtures. Are you telling me to include all of that in the ...

Attorney Szarmach answered, you may as well. Everything that you want, let's get it out on the ..

Cid interjected, out of the Web Maintenance fund, he's speaking of. He is not talking about all of it out of the Web Maintenance Fund, he is talking about out of the general...

Judge Pera said, no, no, no. We are talking about the other general fund items.

Attorney Szarmach said, whatever you want out of the Web Maintenance, that's what I want to see in a short E-mail.

Judge Pera asked what about these other things, was there any action taken on that?

Dante said everything was reverted back to 2013. You are at 2013 level, essentially.

Bilski said we are balanced right now. We have no additional revenues. You put in for the request, we rolled it back to 2013 levels, the additions that you want out of Web Maintenance, also, I met with Judge Schneider prior to this Council meeting, we've prepared a good salary schedule change, and as for additional appropriations, Bilski said, I don't have the resources to reduce my general fund, as it is right now by \$10,000 dollars or any, to meet these additional requests. Bilski said as we transfer into next year, if there is an additional appropriation, we might know where we are by May of 2014, than we do right now. Right now we are balanced, and if you had to come in and ask for an appropriation, after the first of the year, you absolutely could do that, but as we progress in 2014, we will have a better understanding of where we're at budget wise, where we are going to be by May/2014 collection wise, so that's a huge difference, as of right now, Bilski said he isn't saying that what you've said doesn't warrant discussion, and

is honorable, but Bilski said, he doesn't have the means to provide for that, in what we have in our budget right now. Bilski said, that's my personal position, but there are 5 others of us, that are here today who may have a comment to share with you.

Judge Schneider was also in attendance of this meeting.

Dante said, for clarity and summary Judge, because you are dealing with multiple funds, the general fund reverted back to 2013, 256 Fund, "as requested", there were no salary increases in there, it was supplemental, so it was "as requested", and 283, mostly supplemental pays, zero. That's where we are with the 3 major areas.

Michelle, from Elections wanted to mention that they have taken off the 2 full-time positions that they had asked for, and she would like to appeal for those. She said they tried to work it into their budget for the positions, they are entry-level positions, and as you know, over the last 4 years we have lost 6 employees in the office. She said they are a little unique that everything in their office has to go 2 by 2, with the Democratic, and Republican, so we have been "hit" harder in our office than other offices. They were trying to increase by having 2 additional employees in there. She said the State has put some new requirements on them, that all new voter registrations are to be processed within 48 hours, so there is a need to have additional bodies in there.

Michelle said that she knows the circumstances that we are with full-time employees, but she wants to appeal to the Council one extra time.

Bilski asked Michelle if she has the means within her existing general fund budget to create those 2 new positions, full-time, and fund it?

Michelle answered, she does.

Bilski said, and that we would have to put 2 new people on the insurance plan.

Michelle said she did not appropriate for the insurance portion of it, she did appropriate for the entry level positions.

Bilski said we would have another \$40,000 just for the health care.

Michelle said, that's true.

Dante said you would be pushing \$100,000 dollars.

George Van Til, Surveyor wanted to remind the Council that he would, in all of his departments like to see his employees get an increase.

He said that the Council has taken action with the Drainage budget, and put it into the proposed appropriation, into the borrowing fund. He said he continues to hear that it the Commissioners want to take that money out of CEDIT. Mr. Van Til said that he has his thoughts on both, he hasn't been asked to give those. He said that his office has prepared documents for either way, that it's ultimately decided. He asked if there is a difference, at some point, to please let him have his input. We said he has documents prepared for either eventuality.

He said his concern is getting the funds to continue to operate in the fashion that you've allow us to for many years. He said it has been very productive for the people, but more than that, we, at some point need assurances that there will be a continuing funding source.

Bilski said that everyone on this Council is prepared to find a permanent funding source, whether that is by 2014 for 2015, finding room in our general fund, to replace that reduced levy back into the general fund, or the CEDIT. Bilski said there will be no borrowing committee in 2014, that money will be returned back to the bank, with the residual, so there are only 2 options here, one, it returns to the general fund, or it goes and is funded out of CEDIT. Bilski said, the Board of Commissioners have control, and through a collaboration, we will make a decision, and Bilski said he doesn't anticipate it happening prior to the budget being passed, as it is right now.

Bilski said the action that we've taken has been very clear, and both newspapers reported on it. The Council moved that back to the borrowing committee, that's where we're having it, coming forth into 2014. If, in fact the Commissioners decide to fund whole, or in part out of CEDIT, and they reduce other things that could happen, but that wouldn't happen well in the budget year of 2014, we're not making any changes as of right now. In 2014, we might have a permanent funding source in the general fund for it, and the Commissioners could simply say, "let's re-instate that in the general fund, and here's the levy for it". It could happen, so our action was real simple, the full amount you requested is being paid for, and as for the funding source, Bilski asked, "does it really matter, aren't you happy that you're getting the money, does it matter which way it's coming from"?

Mr. Van Til answered, yes, and no, because if it's handled by borrowing, or by CEDIT, there's different technicalities.

Bilski said the borrowing fund is using the money to move it directly into that line item for that full amount. You don't have to go site specific project by project to get that, so it's being funded 100%.

Attorney Szarmach said they are putting together the Resolutions for the 75%, that we're talking about.

Mr. Van Til said, that's why they are asking me to give them information, is that correct?

Attorney Szarmach answered, do that,

Mr. Van Til asked do that?

Attorney Szarmach answered, yes. They are, at some point in time, going to set a proposal here, these are the request that you have, and Attorney Szarmach said, he is sure it's going to a lot more than what is available, and he thinks the two Bodies will then decide, where it's going to go. They are putting together the package, they are going to bring it here, it's probably going to be more request, than money is available, as usual, and then you're correct, it's up to the County Council to decide how it's going to be appropriated.

A representative from the Coroner's Office was present to reiterate what was requested, and was told that action was taken on it, it's done.

Prince made a motion, seconded by Dernulc to cancel the budget workshop meeting scheduled for 9-26-13 @ 4:00 P.M. All voted "Yes", except Franklin, "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.

The next meeting of the Lake County Council will be held on Monday, September 30, 2013 at 4:00 P.M. It will be the Second Reading of the Budgets.

There being no further business to come before the Council, it was moved and seconded that the Council does now adjourn to meet again, as required by law.

President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

Peggy Holinga Katona,
Lake County Auditor

