

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 2015, 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, David Hamm, Jerome Prince, Daniel Dernulc, Christine Cid, and Eldon Strong, County Councilpersons, together with Ray Szarmach, County Council Attorney. Councilwoman Elsie Franklin was absent.

Bilski asked for a moment of silence for the travesties that happened on 9-11.

OPEN: County Council Recommendations, Discussions and Actions

Dante said that all funds are in, he dispensed with the first 17 pages of the 16-line statement, and you can see your balance on page 18, including the actions on 9-9-14.

Dernulc said the balance is now \$6,198,240 correct.

Dante said, correct, and he had to make an adjustment on Cum Cap, a levy adjustment on Cum Cap.

Cid made a motion, for a Line 2 reduction in Riverboat...

No motion needed on that matter, it was done in a previous budget workshop.

Prince said that since the balance is a little over \$6 million, and clearly there are some other demands that exist, so he suggested they start with those demands on the \$6 million.

Dernulc said that Strong, in his absence asked Dernulc to bring to the attention of the Council, this letter that relates to the Cum Bridge Fund.

Bilski said he believes that Dante is aware of it. It's the unadvertised.

Dernulc said he would like to move \$3 million into the Commissioner' budget. We could wait until Strong gets back.

Bilski asked, this is for Bridges and Drains, and you want to put it in the Commissioner' budget. He asked Blanchard where do you want to put it?

Blanchard said it could go in Construction & Reconstruction.

Bilski said the motion would be to increase the Commissioner' Capital by how much?

Dernulc said, \$300,000.

Dante said the replacement of Cum Bridge' levy is \$2 million dollars.

Bilski said, he didn't think we were replacing that levy.

Prince said I think what Strong was requesting in this letter is the replacement of the levy, the \$300,000 what we put in there last year. The \$2 million would be a direct impact on the \$6 million immediately.

Dante said, correct.

Bilski said that there is a minimum amount that has to be budgeted.

Dante said, it's already in there.

Dernulc said understanding that this is out there, when Councilman Strong comes back next week, we could address this issue.

Dernulc said, a couple of years we took money out of these funds to balance, and Strong wants those to be re-established, and I agree with him.

Dante said I've already mentioned to replace these in the general fund, it kind of "gums" it up, because they tend not to get used in the same year. They cascade between years, and they cascade between years without an attachment, like an encumbrance, and what it does is that appropriation "sticks" in the following year, and it's a cumulative liability.

Bilski asked, so instead of re-instating the levy, why can't, if there are issues in Drainage, put forth a request through the Commissioners to address that issue?

Dante said, this package between Bridges and Drains is \$3.3 million dollars. This is a big chunk of money.

Bilski said we put in the minimum amount of \$300,000.

Bilski suggested that we wait until Councilman Strong returns. We will find out where it goes in the Commissioner' budget.

Hamm spoke about Judge Cantrell, and Judge Moss wanting to establish a Veteran's Court.

Bilski said that he isn't opposed to putting these things in there, let's just start putting these in there, and see where we are at, to see the impact on Line 1, and when we have our next meeting and if we are over budget, we will have to revisit that issue.

He said the appropriation that they are asking for is out of general fund.
Hamm said this was put together by Dante, and he would like to get it in.

Hamm made a motion to approve the 2015 Budget Revision for Lake County Court, Div. II, and Div III Courts be approved, "as presented". Prince seconded the motion.

Dernulc asked is the amount \$145,116?

Hamm said it's \$87,450 for Judge Moss, and \$87,450 for Judge Cantrell.

Dante said it's \$87,450 for the new position, and all of the line items that they are requesting. He said add them all up, and you put benefits of \$19,000.

Bilski said if this breaks the bank, then it's something that we will have to re-visit, and maybe change, or cut.

Dernulc asked, can we also say that about the Cum Bridge, and Cum Drain funds too?

Bilski said, yes, if you want to put in that \$2 million dollars request, that's fine too.

Bilski said there is a motion to put in for the Veteran's Court, "as presented"...

Cid wanted an explanation of what they mean by treatment to veterans, and line items such as furniture & fixtures, and transportation, and lodging? Cid said, she doesn't understand.

Hamm explained that he asked Dante to work this, furniture & fixtures, travel/transportation, travel/lodging, was at Dante' suggestion, we can reduce them later, I don't have a problem with reducing those. He said both Judges have spoken with Doctors, and contractually, \$44/hr, the Doctors will be available to provide services at that rate, that's what Other Professional Services are for.

Bilski said there are an expansion of services, and when Judge Cantrell comes back, we can ask her to come back with more details.

Bilski said it's definitely a service provided to the veterans.

He said this is an appropriation, we are talking about \$180,000, but he suggested we start putting these in now.

The majority voted "Yes". Franklin, and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

Prince made a motion, to approve to increase the Ross Township Assessor's budget by 1 full-time position, a Sales Disclosure Deputy/19402, and approve part-time, "as requested".

The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

Bilski wanted to open up discussions about the Sheriff' Department, and the unfunded positions we currently have.

Cid said I think that's part of the negotiations.

Bilski said no, I want Dante to show where we are at right now, I think financially we have 7 positions that are currently in user based fees, that need to come out because it can not be sustained.
He said we have them in the Sheriff' Foreclosure, and the Sheriff' Towing, that needs to be reduced.
Bilski said he would like to move 7 officers out of there.

Dante said in the 289 Fund, which is the Sheriff' Sale fund, you have a total of 10 Officers in there, and in Fund 290, which is the Towing, there are 7 in there.

Bilski said that's 17 positions.

Bilski said in the Fund 290, you are in deficit, and in the Fund 289, the Sheriff' Sale program you are in running a deficit on an annual basis of \$200,000 a year.

Bilski said reduce Fund 289 by 3 officers, Dante said 3 officers will give you \$200,000 something. He is running a big deficit this year, with loans he should be able to get out and right that fund in about 2 or 3 years, with the 3 officers off.

Bilski asked could we push that number to 4?

Dante said 4 will push him way in the surplus in 2 or 3 years. Dante said you could start with a minimum of 3.

Bilski asked, and in 290 Towing?

Dante said he has a huge deficit there in that fund, \$300,000 dollars, on an annual basis. That would be 4, minimum.

Bilski made a motion to take 4 positions out of Fund 290/Towing, and take 3 positions out of Fund 289/Sheriff Sale, and transfer those 7 officers back over to the General Fund in Dept 0500. Prince seconded the motion.

Bilski said the 290 fund was established to cover some Police Officers, during the time of budget cuts, when there was no room to replace or cut Officers, or pay for them out of the general fund. They've fallen short by an annual amount of approximately \$300,000 in 290, and in Fund 289 about \$200,000 annually. He said we can no longer allow those positions to exist in the user based fee funds, therefore, we have to move them back to the general fund, and then the decision to keep them, and fund them in the general fund have to be addressed.

Cid said it seems like we are taking something from negotiations ..

Bilski said I disagree, this has nothing to do with negotiations, this is budgetary. This has to be done at budget time, because in 2013, we made the move with these user based fees. It no longer was an assumption, on our part. We have to decide how we are going to fund these, and we can't sustain these, and we can't fund them. I'm not saying we are eliminating them, but we have to removed out of these user based fees fund.

Dante said these are just to align him on an annual basis. He has such a cash deficit here. To pay back his loans, he may need loans next year. We may not see a balancing act, because of these 7, for another year or two. That's how big the deficit is in these funds.

Bilski asked, but it has to take place now?

Dante said it has to take place at budget time.

Cid said there is actually 2 alternatives. When these positions were moved into these funds, it was at the suggestion, when we were making budget cuts, and that's when the current Sheriff said, "no, I will fund them out of here, instead of eliminating some positions. She said it was an agreement that as long as those funds could carry those positions, those positions would be there. I understand what you are doing, you are moving them into the general fund, they are not being eliminated, but that's not part of the agreement that was made. That's why this is part of negotiations. Now you are going to fully fund them... Cid said I think they were being a bit premature because we have 2 alternatives, either we fund them fully, in the general fund, or there will have to be concessions made, to fund them in the general fund, by removing them from these fee funds.

Bilski said, and that can't be done mid-year, it has to be done at budget time.

Cid said I don't know if negotiations are over yet.

Dernulc said I thought if those funds couldn't sustain those folks, those positions would have been eliminated.

Bilski said you will have the opportunity to vote to eliminate those positions, out of the general fund, if the case may be, but in the meantime, you get it in there, so you will know your bottom-line on the general fund.

Cid made a motion that this matter be deferred.

She said she thinks we need to look at this further.

Motion to defer dies for a lack of a second.

The majority voted "Yes" to approve. Cid voted "No". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 4-yes, 2-no, 1-absent.

Dernulc wanted to re-visit a matter that they discussed earlier.

Dernulc made a motion to add 2 line items in the Commissioner' budget, Department 2900, general fund, a line item for Drain Fund @ \$1 million dollars, and a line item for the Bridge Fund @ \$2 million dollars. Prince seconded the motion.

Dernulc said Councilman Strong asked for this, and I agree with him. This money was taken out a couple of years ago, to balance the budget. We can't do it this year because we missed the time for the advertisement.

The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

Cid made a motion for Coroner, Department 0700, to increase line item 43190....

Dante said, we did that already, her 300 series.

Hamm made a motion, seconded by Prince to approve a 3% Salary increase, across the board for all full-time employees, except Correctional Officers, Police, and Merit Officers, and Probation Officers.

Dernulc said he is totally in favor of this, and if he votes no, it's because he isn't in favor of it for elected officials.

Cid said the Courts just received supplemental pay, almost a 10% increase in pay, for this year, from the Web Maintenance Fund, and that was a negotiated item, so was there a negotiated increase for this year, I thought it was \$1.5, or \$2? Also she would like to see the Public Defenders, who are at, not the Criminal Public Defenders, but the other Public Defenders who we still have questions about, their Perf, and that was also negotiated salaries, so Cid said, she doesn't think that should automatically be put in. She said the Public Defenders, the negotiated, they are part-time employees, so they should be excluded from that, all bargaining should be excluded from that. Cid asked about the Courts. She asked, through their Web Maintenance, they almost received a 10% increase, and that was negotiated, and then they are receiving it again this year, through the actions of this Council, and I recall a pay increase negotiated for this year with that either \$1.5, or 2.

Attorney Szarmach said, anything negotiated with the Courts, is an agreement that we approved. The Courts did not file a mandate, anything for 2014, that's it. That's the end of the agreement. 2015, 2016, 2017, anything in the future was not discussed, except they agreed that they would proceed with their budget, as they do every year.

Cid amended the motion that at this time we exclude the Civil units Public Defenders, any bargaining agreement, and the Courts that we have been negotiating with.

Bilski said they will re-visit the Public Defenders at the next Council meeting.

Dante said you really need to look at the Probation Officers, because with this motion, they are receiving a raise.

Hamm said his motion stands.

Bilski said he would ask for an amendment to remove the Probation Officers.

Prince said that a week ago, we said that any matters that deal with the Courts, we would wait until the Judges get back. The 22nd would be a more appropriate date to deal with any permanent actions related to the Courts.

Bilski said we can add a 3%, and exclude Correction, Police, Probation, and Courts, and the Public Defenders. Well just include full-time.

Hamm said, as a suggestion, we are going to remove Corrections, Merit, and Probation Officers.

Szarmach said Probation Officers are set by State Statutes.

Hamm withdrew his motion, Prince withdrew his second.

Hamm made a motion to approve a 3% salary increase to all full-time employees, excluding Police, Merit, Corrections, and Probation Officers. Prince seconded the motion.

Cid asked, for clarification, you are not doing anything with the Courts. I am talking about the Courts, the Judges asked that you take no action with their budgets, at all, but you are taking actions today.

Bilski said, I don't think anyone would object to a 3% pay increase.

Szarmach said, the thing with the Probation Officers, is you are not, and you never have, in the last 15 years treated them like Court employees, they are pretty much State employees, they get State Mandated salaries, but they have to work in the Court system.

Judges are out, they are mandated salaries, Public Defenders, and Magistrates are out. Dante said, I know which ones' are automatically out.

The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

Hamm made a motion to fund 3 new Public Defender positions requested by Juvenile Court, and fund the Chief Deputy position for entire year. Prince seconded the motion.

Cid said I'm going to vote "No", because I thought we were going to wait to take care of the Court matters, when the Judges were here, and give them that respect, and until I see those Agreements in writing.

The majority voted "Yes". Cid voted "No". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 4-yes, 1-no, 2-absent.

Cid asked what did you do for Weights & Measures?

Dante answered everything is all done. She sent a corrected budget, he sent it back with some revisions. Everything should be taken care of, not a dollar increase on the general fund. She had some Supplementals adjusted in the Weights & Measures that we talked about, so she is balanced.

Cid made a motion to re-visit the motion that was taken on transferring the Merit positions from the use fee funds, to the general fund.

Attorney Szarmach said you can have the motion to reconsider the vote. It was adopted, so you can have the motion to reconsider.

Cid asked, I have the right to re-consider?

Attorney Szarmach explained that there are 2 set of Rules, Roberts Rules, says that it has to be that the person making the motion to reconsider must be someone who was in favor of the motion; however there is another set of Rules that you can follow that anybody that voted "No" on the motion can made the motion to reconsider. If they vote "No", and the motion is passed, they can still make the motion to reconsider. He said, the motion to reconsider takes 4 votes.

Bilski said, I think Cid would like to show herself, as a "Yes" vote.

Bilski said, I will make the motion, since I voted in favor of it.

Bilski made the motion to re-consider. Dernulc seconded the motion.

The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion to reconsider carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

Bilski made a motion, seconded by Dernulc to approve transferring 4 positions out of Fund 290, and transferring 3 positions out of Fund 289, and transfer 7 officers back into the general fund. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

Cid made a motion, seconded by Prince to cancel the Budget Workshop scheduled for 9-12-14, @ 4:00 PM. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Strong were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.

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

