

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 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.

President Bilski said that Councilwoman Elsie Franklin is ill, and asked that everyone remember Councilwoman Elsie Franklin in your thoughts and prayers, for a speedy recovery.

OPEN: County Council Recommendations, Discussions, and Actions

Dante said that the bottom line dropped a little bit, you are right around \$800,000 dollars.

Prince said that Data Processing has requested increases. One in the general fund, and one in Gaming.

Mark Pearman said he asked for an increase of \$109,689, in Other Professional Services. He said you can either general fund, or gambling, fund 196.

He explained that it's for their yearly increase in software support, which is about 10% a year. This would take care of that 10% increase.

He said the other request is in general fund – lease equipment. He said they are removing all copper, and putting all fiber communications throughout the County.

He explained that he has worked out a 5-year lease with a company.

Dernulc said he thinks this is a good idea, because if we don't keep up with technology, it will pass us by.

Mark said he is asking for \$109,689 for the increase in software support, and \$147,298 for the equipment.

Dante said to Mark, the \$147,000 is not an increase, that's what you're asking for. He said one is in the amount of \$82,000.

Bilski said we will take that under advisement, so we can decide where we are going to get that from..

Dernulc said the total amount is \$256,987.00.

Prince said that his intention was to get this on the floor, and make everyone aware of this.

**Hamm made a motion for a 3% raise, across the board for Merit Officers, out of the general fund. Prince seconded. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Cid were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.**

**Hamm made a motion, seconded by Prince to approve a 3%, across the board raise for Correctional Officers for year 2014. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Cid were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.**

**Prince made a motion to move \$2,000 from the general fund, Commissioner's budget, Part-Time line item/001-2900-41190 to 001-2700-41190, Part-time in Veteran's budget. Dernulc seconded the motion. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin and Cid were "absent". Motion carried 5-yes, 2-absent.**

Hamm asked Dante if they were okay regarding the advertising for Drains and Bridges?

Dante said your motions are okay. The funds aren't okay. You placed it in the general fund, and that's a suitable place. He doesn't care for it being in the general fund because it places long-term multi-year life-span projects in the general fund, who looks for expenditures and encumbrances, but it's in your general fund right now. Your Bridge is at zero, and your Drains are at \$300,000, so they are okay too.

Strong asked how is it fine, if it's at zero?

Dante said you are technically fine. You made them an administrative fund. Financially, they are in the Commissioner' budget. You have the reduction in the 2 funds.

Strong said it's not okay, because the money is not there.

Strong said he received a letter from the DLGF, where they were denied. Strong asked what does that mean?

Dante said they were denied, and you took corrective action. You are okay on your corrective action.

Strong said, however, the money that was collected f those 2 funds still hadn't been reduced on the other end, where that money went to.

Dante said, absolutely not, that's why it causes a deficit. That was part of the process of you "chewing" away the \$3 million bucks, and the \$3 million bucks went someplace, and it's tucked in the Sheriff and Jail.

Strong said, and that hasn't been reduced.

Dante said, right, and unfortunately that's not squandering money, that's just reality, so that's where your \$3 million went, it went in the Sheriff and Jail. That's where your \$3 million went, and it caused a \$3 million dollar hole, or reduction. He said, since last Tuesday, that's correct.

Strong said, the ol saying, "we rob Peter to pay Paul, now Peter is short".

Dante said you are not short yet. It took your surplus down speedily, so yes, you are crossing years here, but that is the reality of the connect between criminal justice, and the \$3 million bucks, and why it's sitting in the general fund today, and why it's causing a \$3 million dollars reduction since last...

Strong said that money has been collected for those 2 funds, and taken elsewhere.

Dante said we have had a Committee meeting with the Jail. We've been very blunt about it with the Sheriff, and the Committee.

Strong said his whole thing has been, with these 2 funds, these funds need to remain intact every year. We need to keep these roads and bridges up. It's just something we have to do, and by robbing those funds, and sending it elsewhere is absurd. The money is collected for those 2 funds, and that's his whole objection.

Dante said you have now replenished it.

Strong said replenished it by putting it in the Commissioner's budget, when you still have a shortage, that hasn't been addressed on the other end, so we are still "digging a hole, and throwing the dirt straight up in the air" to me. The hole is getting deeper when we cover it up, we are just making our situation worse.

Bilski said I think we do that every time we bond for a construction project.

Strong said, you are absolutely right.

Bilski said, it's going to be needing to be replaced before the bond is paid for, so, and I don't think anyone here is going to find a permanent funding source for that.

Dante said we did put it in the general fund, and that is a permanent funding source, you did solve it. It's a very costly solution, but you did solve it, let's square that away, that you did solve it.

Dante said, if you didn't do this, you would have to bond. It's in the general fund, so you have a permanent funding source. It dropped your surplus, and it that's a point that you wanted to make, because of something 2 years ago, but besides that, it's resolved.

Bilski said we can reduce that by that amount of \$256,987.

Dante said, you could, and that's why I suggest that you keep it in the general fund for now because that's an easy place to exchange. It's an easy exchange, still before the Second Reading.

Bilski suggested that they go ahead and put the Data Processing request in there.

Dante said you will be close to balance, with Data Processing in there.

**Dernulc made a motion, seconded by Prince to approve in general fund for Data Processing, "as requested".**

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

Prince said that this is the day that they had tentatively set aside for the Judges, however, Prince said that he believes that there should be a meeting, so that we can decide what we are going to do, for the sake of their time, as well as ours.

Prince asked if they could meet tomorrow to deal with the 2015 budget for the Judges.

Attorney Szarmach said, with the 3 Court systems, Superior/Civil, Criminal and Juvenile, all 3 Courts agreed to waive any type of Mandate for 2014, based on what we agreed to do for 2014, which we did.

For Civil, it was the Fund 283, and Fund 256 money, for Criminal, it was the additional 5 Probation Officers, and for Juvenile, it was the issue of funding the position of Chief Deputy. He said we agreed to then, negotiate and by concessions coming up to 2015, and that's what we're doing now.

He said the Civil Division, as it relates to 2015, the request that they had requested for 2014, the Criminal I believe their request was completed, and the Juvenile one was, but I don't think we have mutual agreement with Civil.

Judge Schneider asked, are you talking about 2014, or 2015

The answer was 2015.

Attorney Szarmach said, 2014 is finished.

Bilski said we did exactly what we said, we made the appropriation, we made the changes in the August meeting, we made the increases, out of those funds for your employees. That takes us to 2015, and we put in for a 3% across the board, including the Courts for 2015, and I don't know if there was anything additional, that you requested in your budget, Bilski said, he can't recall.

Attorney Szarmach said, Juvenile and Criminal Courts are finished for 2015, I don't think we have any solid agreement with Superior Court/Civil, for 2015, but we have adopted 3%, across the board pay raises, there may be other things that you want, but we have not discussed those yet, we have First Reading of the Budget on Wednesday, September 24, 2014, and in October, we have Second Reading, so you have time to work that out.

Bilski said he thought everything else was satisfied for 2014, we had given the raises out of the user based fees.

Attorney Szarmach said so far, out of 2015 for Civil, what we have done is approve a 3% across the board raise. Attorney Szarmach asked Judge Schneider, you have more?

Judge Schneider read what the Judges voted on, regarding 2014.

She read: "To propose to the County Council, we will agree to the following terms, regarding 2014/15 Budget:

"To immediately implement Supplemental Pay for Civil Division employees, the amount of \$3,500 per employee, retroactive to 1-1-14, to be paid over the remaining pay periods for 2014."

"To enter into a binding Resolution, at this time wherein the Lake County Council will agree to fund all request within the Civil Division budget for this year, for the calendar year 2014, including but not limited to a revised salary grid, to accommodate for employees who attain the next grid level, as well as adjustments for increases annually, given to all Lake County employees for 2015."

Judge Schneider said we are proposing in 2015, the identical thing we proposed in 2014, with the exception, as we put all of our employees in the spots on that grid. Some of them will get more, some will get less.

Then she said she can't speak for her colleagues, but she can speak for herself, she said you were to approve, what we submitted, especially the salaries on that grid, to take effect in 2015.

Bilski asked, minus the 3%, that there would be no 3%. We would take the 3% away to go with your grid. That's an increase of about \$200,000 dollars.

Judge Schneider said, maybe a little bit less, and then we wouldn't have to do this year, after year. She said she believes it's a good place to start. We are a separate branch, this is what we want to do.

Bilski said, with all due respect, he doesn't think they are prepared to change, he understands your salary schedule, he said until they have the ability, Countywide, to track that to an HR department, and implement a Civil Service exam, and to have those job descriptions, that's really "pulling the cart in front of the horse", and Bilski said he would hope that we aren't at an impasse.

Judge Schneider said, we studied Marion County, Allen County, and other Counties that have a Schedule. We made job descriptions for our employees, they are skilled workers. You've heard this before.

Judge Schneider said, If you want to meet later in the week, I am available.

Bilski said there was a little misunderstanding. We thought that with the increase, that everything was settled for 2014. I didn't believe that the salary-grid was a "deal breaker". I thought that as long as those increases were made on those user-based fees, which we did, and took care of that, so those mid-year pay raises granted to all of those employees, then in 2015, all of those employees on top of that, receive an additional 3%.

Judge Schneider said, that one-time payment, doesn't change their base salary. What we are looking to do, is to have a good base salary for the future, so our employees won't have to come, asking for raises, year, after year, because it's built into that schedule.

Dante said we are done for 2014, and 2015, it was "as requested".

Bilski said, that doesn't take us out of 2014, unless we make the salary grid change.

Dante said, the salary grid change is general fund.

Judge Schneider said she thinks that 2014, although we don't feel it's settled, is going to depend a lot on what we do (inaudible). She said, she thinks they are all tied in together.

Bilski said if we take the action of the 3%, across the board for 2015, and that is not where you want to be, you want this salary schedule in there, so that's where it is, and in order for 2015 to be satisfied, your salary schedule has to be implemented?

Judge Schneider said, yes.

Bilski said it's just under a \$200,000 increase, if we implement the salary schedule as Civil requested, we would have an increase to the bottom line of just under \$200,000 dollars. Bilski said he would have to ask our Financial Advisor how that would affect us, as we progress down the line.

Bilski said there needs to be a brief Committee meeting, to discuss this, with Attorney Szarmach and the 3 Committee members, Hamm, Dernulc, and Prince.

The next Budget Workshop will be held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 @ 1:00 PM.

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.

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President, Lake County Council

ATTEST:

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Peggy Holinga Katona,  
Lake County Auditor