

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.

OPEN: County Council Recommendations, Discussions, and Actions

Dante said there is the re-cap of the actions done on 10-2-14. Moving the percentages across the 706 fund to the general fund, and the bottom line, as a result of CASA is at -\$52,882.

**Cid made a motion, seconded by Hamm to approve for the Public Defender, position #16670-002/Secretary @ \$25,242, and position# 15540-008/Paralegal @ \$26,522. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin was "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.**

Bilski said that's 40% reimbursable, comes to a total cost to the County at \$63,000.

Judge Pera was present, and just wanted to see if further meetings are needed. Bilski said there has been discussion on this, and everyone has had time to digest the salary schedule, and actions that this Council is prepared to take. He said there was a proposal of approximately \$10,000 of reimbursable bills, there was a request for to your user based fees, and supplemental pays, and there was a request for 4 floaters personnel. He said the Council has already approved the 3% across the board pay raise, and that's where we had left it at. Bilski said at this point in time, we don't possess the ability of implementing a salary schedule. He said what they would like to do today is the \$10,000 in bills, the creation of the 4 secretary positions. He said he is aware that that is not 100% of what you're looking for, but Bilski said, I can assure you that 2015, our goal throughout the year, is to establish job descriptions, across the board, and working in conjunction with the Commissioners to fully develop a full-time HR Department.

Cid said she has always said that we should have some type of guide, certain departments being able to increase wages, and she said she thinks they need to do it overall, even like looking at all of the Courts, and seeing what that position does, are they familiar with, should the salaries increase the same, over the years, is the employee now who is making \$25,000 who has been here for 10 years, is that employee going to jump to \$45,000 automatically? That's a big jump, Cid said she thinks they need to review it more.

Bilski said they will start the new year off with new committees, and with the help of the Auditor's Office, and our finance people, form a workshop committee, and if the Judges would like to be a part of that. Bilski said we are going to start immediately on that.

Hamm said he can support the (4) floaters.

Judge Pera said this salary schedule allows for certainty, of pay adjustments. It allows employees, who are coming in to know that longevity is going to be rewarded, good performance is going to be rewarded. It's just good government. The Federal Government has been doing it for years and years, and there are Counties in Indiana, that are doing it. They are doing it in Allen County, and Marion County.

Hamm said he is willing to support floaters, he is willing to support 3%, the 256, and if there is anything left in the 283, to go ahead and distribute those dollars.

Prince said to the Judge, that from the comments made today, he can probably tell that there is not enough support for today. Prince said that at this point, he doesn't think that what his position is, is relevant, at this point. He said, because of your persistence, and representing your employees, and your insistence on the salary schedule, you've opened up a conversation that's important to government, as we know it in Lake County. Prince said he thinks this is going to be the impetus, or at least a template for starting at across the board. He said even though it appears that the salary schedule may not be this year, Prince said he thinks that next year he believes that this Body will work diligently towards implementing this. He said even though there isn't a surplus of revenues, he doesn't think the issue is the revenue, he thinks it's just implementing a program that's going to work like it's supposed to, and then be used to further such a program, across the board.

Dernulc said he is moving in that direction. It's something that we will try to work towards. He said we don't know what the future brings next year. He said he looks forward to working with the Committee next year.

Strong said that he, and his colleagues are not prepared to move forward on this right now, we just need to look at it some more, and we need to work on it some more.

**Prince made a motion, seconded by Hamm to support for Civil Courts, the \$10,500 towards the Juror Meals, and the (4) new floater positions @ \$26,772 each, plus benefits. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin was "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.**

Bilski asked Dante is we are going to have to look for a reduction somewhere?

Dante said he will have the amount momentarily.

Surveyor Bill Emerson was present, and he said that he is aware that in the past, the Council used the Drainage funds to balance out the budget. (He wasn't at the microphone therefore it was inaudible)

Strong said that he is a little uncomfortable with giving raises across the board. He said later on he will e-mail some information to each councilmember for consideration.

Dante said as for the figures, started out with \$50,000, another \$60,000 for the Public Defenders, a couple of hundred thousand from the Civil Courts, we are looking at \$333,965, as your bottom line mark, negative, right now.

Bilski said he will safely say \$334,000, is what we're looking at. We also need to move some things out of CEDIT, into the general fund.

Dante said we will swap that at the last, whatever is balanced, and whatever you have, that shouldn't be in the general fund, that should be over to CEDIT, we will swap out.

Dante said, you can do that when you are done.

Bilski said he was going to make the suggestion of using the equal amount maybe out of just the Insurance, unless Dante has a better suggestion.

Dante said it has to be in the Drains, Bridges, or TAW set aside. It has to be in those 3. He said Insurance, no don't touch insurance. He said it's going to be in the TAW, set aside, Drains, or Bridges, one of the three.

Blanchard said, we do have a need for TAW, so whatever you do, the rest in (inaudible).

Dante said it has to be TAW, Drains, or Bridges.

**Dernulc made a motion, seconded by Prince to reduce the TAW in general fund, by \$334,000 in Department 2900, 001-2900-44500 Construction/Reconstruction. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin was "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.**

**Dernulc made a motion, seconded by Cid to cancel the Budget Workshop scheduled for October 8, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m. The majority voted "Yes". Franklin was "absent". Motion carried 6-yes, 1-absent.**

The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for October 9, 2014 @ 1:00 p.m.

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

