

## DELAWARE COUNTY COMMISSIONER'S MEETING

July 9, 2019

The Board of County Commissioners of Delaware County met in Special Session in the County Commissioner's meeting room in the Delaware County Courthouse at 8:30 a.m. on July 9, 2019. The Agenda was posted July 5, 2019 at 8:42 a.m. and placed in the kiosk located on the courthouse lawn.

Members of the Board present were Commissioner David Poindexter-Chairman, Commissioner Martin Kirk-Member and County Clerk Barbara Barnes-Secretary. Commissioner Russell Martin arrived late. The Board of Delaware County Commissioners is hereby authorized to act on the following items:

**AGENDA #1-A** motion was made by Commissioner Martin and seconded by Commissioner Kirk to approve the minutes of the Regular Scheduled Meeting dated July 9, 2019. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes, Commissioner Kirk-yes. Motion carried.

**AGENDA #2-A** motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Poindexter to approve discussion of estimate of needs submitted by all elected officials, election board, district attorney, emergency management, health department OSU Extension and county fair board. Roll call: Commissioner Poindexter-yes, Commissioner Kirk-yes. Motion carried.

Assessor Larena Ellis Cook said, "funds are up, but not as much as last year."

CPA Bill Turner said, "on the revenue side, this is the best carry over we've had in a long time. We had \$322,000 carry over last year and \$795,000 this year. I estimate public service fees will be up \$200,000 and clerk fees will be up from last year."

Excise Chairman Don Youngblood asked if these figures are based on 10 percent carry over. Turner said the budget is based on 90 percent of expected funds generated with all offices intending to set 10 percent aside for carry over.

Turner said the total county budget he figured is about \$6,180,000, up approximately \$800,000 from last year. "I think that really helped us, that 10 percent carry over," Youngblood said.

"The sheriff is asking for about \$300,000 more. Other sheriffs turn in the total of what they intend to spend. Harlan only turns in general. He needs to be here to talk about what he wants to increase."

"He told me he wants to give each of his employees a \$200 increase," Martin said. "The new healthcare provider costs about \$60,000."

Barnes said the new contract is \$5,500 a month, \$66,000 for the year with Dr. Doug Cox.

"Where Harlan is concerned I just don't know what he wants," Turner said.

Members discussed a commissioner's secretary is now on the payroll, paid eight months from the commissioners' budget and four months from the county clerk's.

Extension Agent Gus Holland said the state has cut his budget 25 percent. "The county has picked up a little but my staff is down by half. We haven't had any staffing because we've been on a hiring freeze for a full year. I'm trying to be financially smart. A full staff would cost the county \$100,000, and I know that's not feasible. We can't do a lot for county citizens because we're short staffed. OSU used to fund 1 and a half educators and one secretary - we have dropped that by half."

District Attorney Kenny Wright said his job includes Ottawa and Delaware Counties. "I get \$40,000 from Ottawa County and \$5,000 for books." He is asking for the same from Delaware County.

He said the statute books are used every day. He said books are very expensive. For instance, Wright said he needs to buy a current Search and Seizure manual, which costs \$1,000. He said the edition the office has is 2008 and "probably iffy."

"The cost of the books is unbelievable," Wright said. "The \$5,000 is needed to keep current statute books. Wright said the last two years, legislators didn't cut his funds the first year, then last year he got a two percent increase.

"The state provides about 43 percent of my budget, and it's up to me to generate the rest." He said raises for his position and employees have been funded, but he has not been fully staffed with attorneys in three years. He has an intern working for him that is in her last year of law school, and he hopes to hire her when she graduates. That will give him three assistant district attorneys in each county. If that happens, Wright said he will alternate days in each county.

"We will have an attorney at most of your meetings that way," Wright said. He said the only problem with that might be both counties meeting each Monday morning. One county might need to change its meeting. "Can we use books on software?" Youngblood asked.

"Sometimes that costs more," Wright said. "I tried using statute books online and my attorneys went crazy. You don't get the annotations on line. The books lead to computer research – which is free."

Kirk said some counties have commissioner meetings every two weeks. "I know that's what they do in Cherokee County."

"That might be a shocking change," Wright said.

"That would be problematic," Barnes said. "Vendors want to be paid. Some questions were asked about Barnes payroll budget.

"I'll just read it to you," Barnes said.

"I have been three people short a long time. Now I am one short, and I will add that hire at \$1,336 (per pay period). I hired one new employee last week at \$1,336. I have a long-time employee, Vici, in recording who has been here since 1995. I want to give her \$100 raise. Rachel Duffield started at \$1,250 with the understanding she would be brought up to \$1,336 after 90 days. Tayla, my payroll clerk who works like a dog and has a lot on her plate was making \$1,495.88 before and I gave her a raise to \$1,600. My salary, like all those elected is set. Michael Baker makes \$1,650.13.

Since Shirley was poached by the State Auditor, I don't have a first deputy right now.

Teresa Gross makes \$1,495.88. The fire departments will be paying half her salary.

Kathy Parker makes \$1,495.88 with the commissioners' help. They will pay eight months of her salary.

Turner said the state gave a bump in travel which will begin in November.

"My office has two departments, appraisal and assessment," Ellis Cook said. "Visual inspection has become the bigger department. The ones who are paid out of general must work every property transfer, not just deeds. But I always end up having to move people out of general when it runs out of money. Our travel was cut this year, and maintenance and operations is about enough to pay for the phone. Capital outlay is small. Visual inspection comes mostly from schools and that's backwards. Visual inspection of the property should bring more money to schools from property valuation, but it's morphed into where all the money comes from the fun my office. The statutes say general can't be reduced, but it has been.

"I had a great employee that was doing two jobs, but I bragged on him and then he quit."

Turner said all counties do it this way, with visual inspection paying the larger share of the assessor budget.

"If it's there why not use it?" Youngblood said.

"It's just not right," Ellis Cook said. "VI was set up to increase property values so schools will get more – but they are offset by a decrease in state aid. The county should fund the assessment side of my office. I'm doing what I try to do every year, which is to get more in general."

"All the counties do this," Turner said.

"All yours may, but that doesn't mean every county in the state does," Ellis Cook said.

"The eight counties that I have in Oklahoma do this," Turner said.

The sheriff arrived at the meeting.

"I don't understand why I'm being singled out," Sheriff Harlan Moore said.

Turner said he broke down the sheriff's expenses from last year, to itemize the way other offices do on their estimates of needs. "You need to say what the total budget is," Turner said. "You're not doing that because you have those cash accounts. What do you need the additional money for?"

"Those cash accounts are restricted," Moore said. "I can't spend them for salaries. I don't know that my carry over will be what you say."

"What else do you need funded?" Turner said.

"The increase in general is salaries," Moore said.

The discussion turned to the medical contract at the jail. Moore said he paid for it last year, each month. "We paid \$56,000. We get the bill, we pay it."

Turner said there was no request in the budget for the medical contract.

Barnes said Undersheriff Tracy Shaw brought the contract in late after the estimate of needs was turned in to her.

Moore said the contract does not include medicine, which he pays out of a cash account.

Ellis Cook asked what happens to the use tax account.

Turner said there is no way to tell what amount will be collected in use tax.

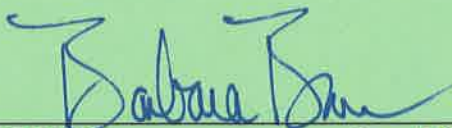
"It's plan B for disasters," Martin said.

Ellis Cook wanted to know how much is in the use tax account.

Treasurer Susan Duncan said the use tax account is over \$1 million. Barnes said the county borrows from that account as a stop gap until ad valorem taxes start to arrive. "You've got to keep that there for a cushion," Young said. "It's a back-up plan," Martin said. "We spent \$100,000 out of there last year. On what?" Ellis Cook said. "There's always maintenance," Barnes said. "I called B&B about the air conditioning four times last week." Barnes said she will prepare a use tax report. "That \$385,000 is for raises only," Moore said. "No cars, no nothing. My office costs a lot of money to run. I don't know what to tell you. I've built my cash account up. I asked for more cars and they said no, so I'm preparing for a rainy day. I may have to buy them myself." Barnes said the workers' compensation amount must be adjusted because there was a mistake made when ACCO sent the first quote. "We won't know the health insurance cost until August," Barnes said. Emergency Manager Robert Real was absent. "Emergency Management wants a truck," Poindexter said. Moore asked why a janitor makes more than his lieutenants. Barnes looked up the payroll and found the janitor makes \$2,600 per month and his lieutenant Murray Gross makes \$2,700 per month. "He still makes more than my sergeant does," Moore said. Turner said the amount in the County Audit account must remain until the county's audits are current. Turner said other counties have rainy day funds, but Delaware County is relying on the use tax account. He said the new chart of accounts will make every county in the state have the same numbers on the same type accounts. "I asked for a one-time raise to be put in my budget," Duncan said, "I didn't know we were putting in for raises. I am still short one employee. I hope I will have one starting by the first of August." "This is just preliminary," Turner said. "The ad valorem numbers are not in. We have to get the final numbers. We'll have to have more meetings." Duncan asked Barnes about her first deputy position. "I don't have a first deputy yet," Barnes said. "I've got to get that done. I have a designee. I may make it the purchasing agent."

AGENDA #3-A motion was made by Commissioner Kirk and seconded by Commissioner Martin to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 a.m.

ATTEST:

  
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BARBARA BARNES, Delaware County Clerk



  
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DAVID POINDEXTER-Chairman of the Board

  
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RUSSELL MARTIN-Member

  
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MARTIN KIRK-Member