

## August 19, 2021

The Ellettsville, Indiana, Town Council met for a Budget Work Session on Thursday, August 19, 2021 by Zoom. Scott Oldham called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:** Members participating were Scott Oldham, President; Pamela Samples, Vice President; William Ellis, Trevor Sager and Dan Swafford. Sandra Hash, Clerk-Treasurer and Mike Farmer, Town Manager and also participated.

**Supervisors participating:** Mike Cornman, Jimmie Durnil, Kip Headdy, Kevin Tolloty and Jeff Farmer.

Mike Farmer stated basically the only increases to the budget is a raise for the employees of 50 cents per hour or \$1040 annually.

Sandra Hash started with the General Fund, which includes the Clerk Treasurer/Town's administration, Planning, Fire and Police budgets. The budget includes the raises described by Mike Farmer. There is also a 3% wage increase for the Town Council.

The increases by department are:

Clerk Treasurer/Town Administration	\$ 2,668
Planning	\$ 5,541
Fire	\$ 89,885
Police	\$ 11,186
 Total increase to the General Fund	 \$109,280

The departmental budgets were reviewed with the Council and the Supervisors answered their questions.

Topics discussed: Town Manager's salary  
Community Access Television cost  
Reduction in the cost for animal control  
Fire equipment maintenance and replacement  
Reduction in Police part-time to increase fuel and vehicle maintenance

Motor Vehicle Highway	\$ 10,788
Motor Vehicle Highway Restricted	\$ 20,253

Topics discussed: Road resurfacing  
Road mileage in town is about 34 miles

Parks	\$ 2,000 reduction
Local Roads and Streets	\$ 55,000
(Salt, sand and Equipment)	
Cumulative Capital Improvements	no change
Cumulative Fire, Building and Equipment	no change
(Fire vehicle replacement)	
Law Enforcement	\$ 3,400 reduction
Cumulative Capital Development	\$34,500
(Police vehicles and Fire software)	
Police and Fire Debt	no change
Water	\$ 1,597 reduction
(Reduction of debt)	
Wastewater	\$31,000
(Purchased Power, contractual services, transportation, insurance and sludge removal)	

Topics discussed: Rates study to determine the need for a rate increase and at what interval should this be reviewed.

Stormwater \$ 29,903  
(Road sand disposal cost and outstanding balance for Christopher Burke Flood Engineering agreement)

Topics discussed: The feasibility of changing from salt and sand to a liquid ice melting for roads which would require a substantial equipment upgrades to carry liquid rather than a solid.

Sandra Hash, shared with the Council what a struggle it has been in past years to provide the best information on a balanced budget or a funded budget. At the meeting with the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF) representative, Heather Wittsman, to review the budget for 2022 Sandra explained she always wanted to present a balanced budget. Each year when doing the budgets they do not appear to be balanced, but at the end of the year the cash balance is increasing pretty consistently especially since the Public Safety Local Income Tax was established. Heather said the June 30<sup>th</sup> cash balance is the only true figure the DLGF receives from the town. All the other information are estimates. When they provide the revenue information for the upcoming year they are very conservative. So when we prepare the budget we are figuring less than we will actually get. The DLGF want to guarantee the tax rate will be published high enough to capture the full levy. Sandra revered a chart in the back of the budget booklet showing the projected operating balance at budget time, the actual operating balance along with the June 30<sup>th</sup> balance. The June 30<sup>th</sup> balances have gone up and down over the years, but since the Public Safety Local Income Tax was adopted in 2017 the balance has consistently went up. Heather explained the DLGF approves a funded budget. A funded budget allows the use of the operating balance to cover the budget if needed. We have to be careful not to let the operating balance slip to low. The Town Manager, Supervisors and Clerk Treasurer wanted the 2022 budget to be very conservative. Due to the generous wage increases last year we wanted to stay on track and this budget does an excellent job insuring that. A good operating balance will allow the town to budget for one time big ticket items. This can be accomplished through additional appropriations.

Mike Farmer will be scheduling a meeting with Baker Tilley to formulate a plan for the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

Scott Oldham discussed the change back to virtual meetings. The August 23<sup>rd</sup> Town Council meeting will be virtual.

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

DocuSigned by:  
*Scott Oldham*

0875787A14BB4A9...  
Scott Oldham, President

DocuSigned by:  
*William Ellis*

DEF85DCCF8624B7...  
William Ellis

DocuSigned by:  
*Dan Swafford*

2CCF0A4E251D425...  
Dan Swafford

DocuSigned by:  
*Pamela Samples*

0031067F9F6D40F...  
Pamela Samples, Vice President

DocuSigned by:  
*Trevor Sager*

DECFAD30590463...  
Trevor Sager

*Sandra C Hash*

Sandra C. Hash, Clerk-Treasurer, IAMC, MMC