

COUNTY COUNCIL/COUNTY COMMISSIONERS JOINT MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 26, 2020 4:30 PM

SUPERIOR COURT ROOM, FIRST FLOOR

SULLIVAN COUNTY COURTHOUSE

Tim Abrams asked David Cox to say a prayer prior to the meeting starting.

Meeting called to order by Tim Abrams, everyone stood for Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

Council Member present: Tim Abrams, Logan Pearson, Larry Kinnett, Duane Wampler, Jerry Payne, Nick Cullison and Curt Bedwell.

Also present: Edward Linneweber Council Attorney, Shelly Parris, Auditor and Jessi Harris, First Deputy Auditor.

MINUTES

Tim asked if everyone had received a copy of the minutes and read them. Minutes for February and April to be approved.

Curt Bedwell made a motion to accept both sets of minutes, seconded by Jerry Payne.

Council all in favor, motion carried.

Tim asked if Jay Southwood, Shelburn Town Clerk-Treasurer was still here, that he has Shelburn's TIF paperwork and their long range plans if anyone wants to see it.

Tim presented additional appropriations that Shelly had given him. The first one was for the E911 Office, for \$49,333.00 to complete Radio Dispatch and upgrades for a total of \$79,574.55. Statewide 911 to New Equipment 1222-41000-000-1222. Motion by Nick Cullison and seconded by Larry Kinnett, Council all in favor, motion carried.

Next, additional appropriation for janitor supplies for \$2,000.00, from General Fund to Janitor Supplies 1000-23400-000-0131. Budgeted amount \$200.00 which has been exceeded as of today in the amount \$765.06, will come out of general.

Motion made by Logan Pearson and seconded by Nick Cullison. Tim called for a vote, council all in favor, motion carried.

Next, additional appropriation for county highway for insurance liability for \$79,975.00, increase was due to workers compensation and the loss ratio on the commercial package / auto.

Shelly stated that is was actually for the county and would be coming from \$100,000.00 grant match to 1176-33100-000-0202. Commissioner Ray McCammon said it is unappropriated LIT money put in the grant match. Tim asked for a motion, Logan made a motion to pay from the unappropriated grant match, seconded by Curt Bedwell. Tim called for a vote, council all in favor, motion carried.

Shelly said, the only other item that she had was the bill for bakertilly for the Comprehensive Financial Analysis for \$25,000.00, was this to be split and be paid by commissioners and

Council? Tim asked if there were any recommendations, Jerry Payne said both commissioners and council as both groups wanted it done. Logan Pearson said 50/50 between commissioners and council. Curt Bedwell made a motion to split 50/50 between the commissioners and council seconded by Jerry Payne, Tim called for a vote, all in favor, motion carried.

Duane Wampler asked where would Tim take their half out of? He asked again, what are you going to take your half out of? Tim said take it out of our tax, right? Guess we will take it out of the general since we agreed to pay half. Tim asked Duane, you wanted to do this too, Duane said, I was hoping everyone would listen to their figures. Logan said we can decide next meeting, what fund. Tim said would decide the fund next time.

Tim asked Shelly if she had anything else, and she stated that we did receive the annual report for Cypress May 18, 2020. It was asked if that was Sullivan Solar, Curt said we need to make sure that Ed gets that. Tim said that Terry Modesitt was wanting to talk to them and Ed has talked to Terry. Shelly will get cop

OLD BUSINESS

Tim said that Del Unger had previously requested time to speak.

Del Unger said he was not telling the council nothing that they did not already know. There is not very much in Sullivan County that is not very rosy right now. Our ag economy that we depend on greatly is not doing very well. And your studies that you will hopefully look at, he was a little shocked, as what our assessed valuation is going to do.

We're going to lose 19% of our assessed valuation in the next four to five years.

Del's urgency for the council tonight, is for you to do your fiduciary responsibility and evaluate every financial decision that you make. He is not in favor of PERF and in 2025 the county will have a 2.3 million dollar deficient. Times like this, is why you build in a cushion. Programs will need to be cut and employees laid off.

Tax money that we were figuring on has been cut down and we have been shut down for eight to 10 weeks. Our tax revenue money will not be there.

He said again that his urgency is for the council to evaluate all of their financial decisions. You were elected by the taxpayers of Sullivan County to be diligent with our funds and ask you to do this going forward. Thank you.

Tim said that Jason Semler would answer questions. He would go on to Curt, to do his thing.

Ray McCammon asked if he could have a moment.

Ray said that he saw the emails in regards to us having a joint meeting and the Commissioners needed to be here for any decisions that might be made and a joint published meeting is required. And having Jason Semler here was better than having over the phone.

Further discussion was had on the issue of the joint meeting and the study committee the commissioner put together to look into retirement options.

Ray went on to say that its very important for both boards to be responsible with the county's funds.

Nick Cullison, you changed the meeting last month without letting the council president know.

Ray, the reason it was advertised was because when the commissioners are here and decisions are to be made, it has to be advertised.

Discussion was had on the group that was put together to look into retirement options for Sullivan County.

Curt Bedwell talked about the financial analysis reports that bakertily had put together.

In 2023 the general fund will show a negative balance of \$233,000.

With PERF, the general fund will show a negative balance of \$640,000.

Jason Semler spoke more concerning the Comprehensive Financial Analysis about possibly moving funds from other funds to the general fund in order to help the general fund.

Duane said that a lot of those funds cannot be moved. Jason agreed they would need to be qualified expenses, and you can't do that for very long.

More discussion was had on the retirement funds.

Tim stated when he was commissioner, he put PERF in the budget, but there were excuses as to why it could not be done. Tim said when Ray came on as commissioner, it was taken out of the budget by someone. So even though you say you're for a retirement fund, you're not.

Ray said when you were a commissioner and a motion was made for PERF, you refused to second it. Tim said, because we did not have the numbers. But we found out it's not the commissioners place to do it. Ray said, yes, it is.

Duane said we do have a retirement plan it's a pension retirement plan and the commissioners are working on a stiffer plan so they can't easily withdraw.

Discussion was had concerning PERF and the guarantee of PERF.

Curt said he was ready to make his presentation and it would take less than five minutes.

Shelly wouldn't let me present it to the Auditor's Office and Bob's department. And a few others hit miss that did not hear it.

The Hybrid is a pension plan, it includes 3% paid by the employee, service credit, eligible credit vested after 10 years be in for six months before retiring.

The MyChoice plan, of all of the employees I talked to out of 120ish employees, only 2 did not want it.

My Choice - the employees 3% paid by the county and the other 3%, which is the vested portion, would be paid by the county as well. Credit for years of service.

Per IC 5-10.3-1-4 council's place to do PERF

Duane asked Jason if any of the county's he works with are looking to lay off employees due to COVID, Jason said yes some are.

Several residents asked to speak, some against PERF and some in favor of PERF.

Curt talked about Hybrid and MyChoice, Hybrid for people to be in is 11.2% and MyChoice is 6%

For example, if an elected official would choose MyChoice 6% would come out of their pay would go to PERF in the Mychoice Program, they would be vested and Hybrid 11.2% of their pay would go into the Hybrid Plan and 3% would have to go in into retirement savings portion. A little bit comes from the employee and the pension portion comes from the county.

Curt made a motion to implement PERF,

Start at ground zero

Giving employee the choice between Hybrid and MyChoice

For each full-time employee and elected official

The Hybrid – county's portion 11.2% employee paying mandatory 3% of their pay

Credit for existing service

MyChoice - 6 % paid the county with employee not paying anything

Credit for their existing service

Seconded by Nick, Tim called for a vote,

Any further discussion, Jerry Payne, is that exactly the same motion that you made last month,

He said yes.

Commissioner Bob Davis, asked a question, asked of him, if an elected official vote on something that benefits a family member, do they have to recuse themselves. Curt said he checked on if he has to and the State of Indiana says there is not a conflict, he is exempted from that as a councilman. Tim said, we need to vote on it first and deal with it later

Logan asked when will it become effective. Curt said July 1st.

Duane asked for a roll call vote.

AYE

NAY

Curt Bedwell

Duane Wampler

Logan Pearson

Larry Kinnett

Nick Cullison

Jerry Payne

Tim Abrams

Motion carried.

Duane made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Curt. All in favor motion carried meeting adjourned.

Sullivan County Council

Tim Abrams

Logan Pearson

Nick Cullison

Duane Wampler

Larry Kinnett

Curt Bedwell

Jerry Payne

Attest:

Shelly Hiatt Parris

Shelly Hiatt Parris, Auditor