

**SULLIVAN COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**MONDAY - JULY 27, 2020,**  
**SULLIVAN COUNTY COURT HOUSE**  
**SULLIVAN COUNTY SUPERIOR COURT ROOM**

Tim Abrams called the meeting to order and asked everyone to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call**

All County Council Members were present: Tim Abrams, Logan Pearson Larry Kinnett, Duane Wampler, Jerry Payne, Nick Cullison and Curt Bedwell. Also, in attendance, Edward Linneweber, Council's attorney and Shelly Hiatt Parris, Auditor and Jessi Harris 1<sup>st</sup> Deputy Auditor.

Tim asked Clark Cottom, Sheriff to say a few words.

Sheriff Cottom asked the audience to keep the meeting orderly and maintain decorum.

**Minutes**

Tim asked if everyone had received their minutes and if there were any additions or corrections. There being none, he asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Jerry Payne make a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by Logan Pearson, all in favor, motion carried.

**Congressional Township Fund and Common School Fund**

Tim asked Shelly about the Annual Report of the Board of Commissioners to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Jessi Harris explained that the only thing that is done with these funds, is interest is paid out to the Southwest and Northwest School Districts twice a year. We have talked to the State Board of Accounts and would like to send these funds to the Superintendent of Public

Instruction for them to take care of sending the interest out to the different school districts. Logan Pearson made a motion to set up a resolution to dissolve three extra accounts and surrender them to the State, (they are the Congressional School Interest \$7,482.62; the Congressional School Principal \$15,868.93 and the Common School \$3,007.50); motion seconded by Nick Cullison, all in favor, motion carried.

#### Transfers

Transfer			
Dept. name	From	To	Amount
Auditor	1000/21205 books & statutes	1000/32107 profess. Fees	\$ 1,037.50

Logan Pearson made motion to accept transfer from Books and Statutes to Professional Fees in the amount of \$1,037.50, seconded by Duane Wampler, all in favor, motion carried.

Transfer			
Dept. name	From	To	Amount
Park & Lake	2016/33600 utilities	2016/11214 seasonal housekeep	\$15,000.00

Logan Pearson made motion to accept transfer from utilities to seasonal housekeeping for a total of

\$15,000.00, seconded by Curt Bedwell, all in favor, motion carried.

Additional appropriation and was actually a transfer.

Transfer			
Dept. name	From	To	Amount
Clerk	Clerk Perpetuation	Budget – Clerk Perpetuation	\$4,204.00

Logan Pearson made motion to accept transfer for record storage from the Clerk Perpetuation to Budget Clerk Perpetuation \$4,204.00, seconded by Nick Cullison, all in favor, motion carried.

Transfer			
Dept. name	From	To	Amount
Clerk	Clerk Perpetuation	Extra Hire -- 1000/11900	\$3,784.00

Logan Pearson made motion to accept the transfer from Clerk's Perpetuation to Extra Hire of \$3,784.00, seconded by Jerry Payne, all in favor, motion carried.

#### Additional Appropriation

Depart. name	From	To	Amount
Co. Commissioners	County General	Professional fees	\$12,500.00

Logan Pearison made motion to accept the additional appropriation for Commissioners into Professional Fees and Charges for \$12,500.00, seconded by Jerry Payne, all in favor, motion carried.

#### Budget

Tim, need to set the date for the budget hearings, any preferences?

Logan Pearison, August 24 and 25, Monday and Tuesday are the best dates for him, if they could begin then and go from there. Discussion was had concerning the date and time for budget hearings. August 24 is also the date for regular meeting. I was discussed to begin at 8:15 am, with Bakertilly coming to discuss the budget. It was asked if the information could be to the council members prior to the budget hearings. Yes, they would have the information prior to the budget hearings. It was decided to begin budget hearings on August 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:15 am, Tim asked for a motion.

Logan Pearison made the motion to hold budget hearings the week of August 24<sup>th</sup>,  
Seconded by Nick Cullison, all in favor, motion carried.

Shelly presented the Proposed Financial Advisory and Account Services – Annual Budget Assistance and Analysis to be approved to have Bakertilly assist with the budget and also would need their assistance in getting the assessed valued reinstated for 2021. Discussion was had on the Proposal.

Motion made by Curt Bedwell to pass the proposal, seconded by Logan Pearison, all in favor, motion carried.

Old Business

#### PERF

Tim said they would move on to the PERF Resolution.

Duane Wampler, Mr. President, said he has a question on this before you start. The bottom of this says effective 2/1/2020

Logan Pearison, we have an updated version, a new one.

Duane Wampler, who made the decision that this was going to be paid by the county?

Why was there not an executive meeting to discuss all of this?

Logan, it was the motion. We didn't want to take out of any out of our employee's pockets and only an additional 3% for the plan.

Duane, it has to come out of someone's pockets, whether it's the people or it's out of the employees. This was put together without meeting, outside of this, it was never discussed.

Discussion from the audience concerning PERF.

Tim, said as president, he was not going to entertain anybody to speak. He has that right, and he's going to exercise that right tonight. He went on to say, we have this resolution in place and if it's going to be passed, there can be a motion made tonight.

Duane, asked Tim if he wanted to read an article that he brought from the newspaper, or did he want him to read it. Tim said, you have the right to read it.

Duane read the article that he brought from the newspaper.

A synopsis of the article follows:

"Per a top state official, "plunging tax collections due to the coronavirus have delivered a \$850 million hit to Indiana's state budget reserves. June 30, Indiana closed the 2020 fiscal year with around \$1.4 billion in reserves a drop of 37% from a year ago of nearly \$2.3 billion.

In four months', there has been a \$1.5 billion or 23% drop in tax revenue stemming from widespread business closures and other restrictions prompted by the coronavirus outbreak. As of yet, state officials have not ordered any layoffs of state employees but have implemented a widespread hiring freeze and has asked most state agencies to cut spending by 15% and the universities have been told to expect a 7% reduction in state funding in 2021. There will not be a quick turnaround and will most likely need greater spending cuts in order to manage the uncertainties ahead."

Duane said, the state sees the hand writing on the wall, we need to think before we add debt to ourselves.

Discussion from an audience member, stating they appreciated trying to get the employees something, he just thinks there is a better plan out there, that would not break the county.

He went on to say that all of the other counties that have it (PERF) are in the red.

Shelly gave information she learned from PERF. Curt said the lady from PERF was wrong.

More discussion from audience members. It was discussed that the employees wanted someone from PERF to actually come and talk to them.

Ray McCammon, County Commissioner said a lot of the facts that Curt gave were incorrect, that he had the emails from a lady at PERF. Curt said there are mistakes in them and she'll tell you that.

Ray said, if you pass it tonight, the employees have sixty (60) days to decided which plan to go with, you guys have six (6) months to make up your mind as to what your going to do, that's not fair to these employees, they won't know which plan to join.

Discussion continued.

Curt made a motion to go ahead and accept this resolution with the new date that was already passed before, so this is a new date. It is a resolution that's before us, it says 11.2% or 11.2 resolution, this is the resolution that come from the Indiana Public Retirement System, basically ....

Duane asked, where the county pays the 3% for the employees, that's your resolution.

Tim asked Duane, you want to see the resolution? Duane, yes, he wanted to see it.

There was more discussion between

Logan, said he would try to get someone from PERF here before budget time to speak to the county employees and with Bakertilly's help figure out where the money is coming from.

He would try to hold social distancing meeting(s) at the fairgrounds.

Tim went back to Curt's motion. Motion did not pass, died for lack of second.

Logan made a motion to table the resolution that was presented until our next meeting. Seconded by Nick, all in favor, motion carried.

Logan said he will call PERF Wednesday and see what the options are for having a meeting for the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the August, (week of the 17<sup>th</sup>) and as soon as he has an answer, he will send out a mass email to department heads.

#### **New Business**

**Tourism, new business, Donna Adams.**

#### **Transfer**

<b>Depart. name</b>	<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Tourism	Misc Supplies 1127/21200	Clerical 1127/12301	\$2,500.00

Motion made by Curt to accept the transfer from Misc. Supplies to Clerical for \$2,500.00

Seconded by Duane, all in favor, motion carried.

Donna, continued with Tourism business, concerning tourism dollars that come from businesses in the county. There are a few businesses not complying with paying in their money to tourism. The Treasurer has mailed out letters to these businesses, they have not yet complied. She is asking the Council if their attorney, Ed Linneweber, could mail out a letter to the businesses that are not complying. The Council does not have a problem with Ed sending out letters.

#### **Jordan Orwig – Sullivan County Public Library**

Jordan presented a Declaration that the council president needs to sign as the state library needs the declaration on file showing the fiscal body that would oversee their budget, if they should ever fall under binding review. At this time the library is non-binding.

Curt made a motion to accept the declaration to acknowledge that the council is the fiscal body, seconded by Logan, all in favor, motion carried.

No other business before the Council Curt made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Logan, all in favor, motion carried.

#### **Sullivan County Council**

Tim Abrams



Nick Cullison



Logan Pearson



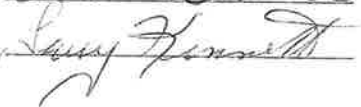
Curt Bedwell



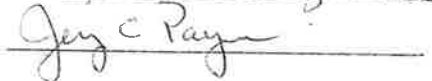
Duane Wampler



Larry Kinnett



Jerry Payne



Attest: Shelly Hiatt Parris, Auditor



7-27-2020