

HARTSVILLE/TROUSDALE COUNTY METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT

FINANCE COMMITTEE

MAY 3, 2023 | 6:00PM | TC COMMUNITY CENTER

BUDGET HEARINGS – NIGHT 2

MINUTES

Members Present: 5/5

Landon Gulley, Chair

Bubba Gregory, Vice Chair

Beverly Atwood

Will Dennis

Jerry Ford

Others Present: Amy Thomas – *Secretary*, Mayor Jack McCall, Comm. Lesley Overman, Comm. Chris Gregory, Rebecca Troutt, Soil Conservation Staff, Rosalie Myhan, Jason Evitts, Tommy McFarland, Steve Paxton, VSO Ben Fiock

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Gulley. A quorum was determined with all 5 members present. Order of departments was determined by department heads present at the meeting.

FUND 101 – COUNTY GENERAL

- **Soil Conservation (57500) pg35**

Mr. Copas presented their proposal. They are asking for a FT position to be created by the County for a Soil Technician. Other counties employ the USDA soil conservation staff. This position secures grant funding, assists community farmers, soil erosion, and other responsibilities of the office. This position is offset by \$21,000 funding from NRCS/TDA. This amount will need to be included in the revenues. This position would be solely dedicated to Trousdale. Technician is not intending on taking the County's insurance; \$7,056 was removed from the total making the function \$49,280. With the contribution, the total increase requested is estimated \$5,000.

Motion by TB Gregory to recommend this function to the Commission; seconded by Atwood.

MOTION CARRIED

1 abstention - J Ford

- **Ag Extension (57100) pg 35**

Jason Evitts was present to present the requests for the UT Ag Extension Office. The biggest change is in the salaries. The County's MOU sets a 22% contribution towards salaries and benefits. This is truly an estimated budget as the salary number is slightly inflated due to the unknown rate the new employees will be hired as that depends on their credentials.

Motion by Atwood to recommend this function to the Commission; seconded by Ford.

MOTION CARRIED

w/o opposition

- **Animal Shelter (55120) pg 30**

Rebecca Troutt was present to present the department's requests. She is asking for a second part time employee. Veterinary Services are also increasing per the veterinarian offices. Building improvements include upgrading the roof and play yard drainage. Electricity costs are up due to holes in the roof and poor insulation. Would be able to use \$8,000 of her reserves to offset the costs. Mayor asked for an update on the creation of a nonprofit. She has completed the application and has set up a board. Waiting for the federal government to complete the process. The idea is to separate the Shelter from the County within the next year or two. Other counties run with the nonprofit and a contract with an Animal Control officer through the County. Ms. Troutt is the only FT employee in the department and does not plan on taking the County's insurance. Current intake hold is 2-3 weeks; with 12 animals in the shelter. There is a waiting list to have animals come into the shelter. Every intake is altered and vaccinated. Food costs can be offset by donations, but that is not a definite service. She is also requesting 2 computers and a new printer. Committee is asking if she could get by with one computer at this time and the printer.

Motion by TB Gregory to recommend the \$105,020 to the Commission; seconded by Dennis.

MOTION CARRIED

w/o opposition

- **Planning (51720) pg 11**

Rosalie Myhan presented the requests for the Planning office. A handout included the revenues brought in over the previous two years. This handout also included the new fee schedule that was approved by the Commission. Currently, the County is using state inspectors for the county sites. It is still being discussed on how the office will move forward.

106 – A request for the salary of Ms. Myhan to increase by 20% due to the added responsibility of the office. Ms. Myhan stated that the inspections are a small percentage of the office and the main responsibilities include codes enforcement, planning, and office administration. Ms. Myhan is in the process of obtaining certifications for codes and inspection and will be testing in the next few months. At this time the Committee feels that the 20% increase may ruffle feathers amongst other departments. Commissioner Overman suggested that when she earns her certifications her rate could be reevaluated. Commissioner C Gregory stated that the work she is doing is above and beyond the assigned duties. Mayor added that even with the previous director, Ms. Myhan did the majority of the responsibilities of the office. Dennis would like to see how the office will be structured going forward and reevaluate at that time. Mayor advised that an 2.5% increase in current salary with a bonus or supplement during the interim. This discussion will be taken up at a later night.

399 – The increase listed in this line serves as a place holder as the cost for services provided by outside sources. The services provided by the state inspectors run about \$115 per inspection based on a recent invoice. An annual amount may get up to \$36,00. We have also been using Macon County staff for inspections but have not received an invoice.

471 – Requesting a software platform to make the office more accessible and efficient. iWorx runs roughly \$15,000. Software will allow for smoother communication between all parties. The platform will also allow for online payments.

No action taken at this time.

- **Election Commission (51500) pg 9**

Adm of Elections Steven Paxton presented the requests of the Election Commission. Expenses include the move to the Courthouse and the state mandated change to our voting machines. There is a grant for the voting machines (\$129,170). Machines will now print out a confirmation of vote to the voter.

There will be two elections in this budget March 2024 (state will reimburse for the expenses) and one in August 2024. Poll worker rates are also increasing. Mr. Paxton has researched surrounding areas to be comparable with how they pay.

192 – Election Commission rates are also increasing due to duties and the work of two elections. Will be meeting more due to the two elections.

106 – Deputies are year round office workers.

193 – Temporary poll workers during election periods.

TB Gregory to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Atwood

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Veteran Services (58300) pg 36**

TB Gregory to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Atwood

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **County Commission (51100) pg 7**

TB Gregory to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Ford

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Beer Board (51220) pg 7**

Dennis to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Ford

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **County Attorney (51400) pg 8**

Atwood to recommend to full Commission; seconded by TB Gregory

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Register of Deeds (51600) pg 10**

Atwood to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Archives (51910) pg 13**

TB Gregory to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Ford

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Property Assessor (52300) pg 14**

Dennis to recommend to full Commission; seconded by TB Gregory

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **County Trustee (52400) pg 15**

TB Gregory to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Atwood

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **County Clerk (52500) pg 16**

Atwood questioned needed equipment for the office transition. Any equipment would come from the Clerk's reserves and be as a budget amendment at a later time.

Atwood to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Data Processing (52600) pg 16**

Increases include an upgrade to the Gmail platform to include auditing services and purchase of new phones.

Ford motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Atwood

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Circuit Court (53100) pg 17**

- **General Sessions (53300) pg 18**

- **Chancery Court (53400) pg 18**

- **Judicial Commissioners (53700) pg 19**

All court and judicial functions were reviewed together.

TB Gregory motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Atwood

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Juvenile Services (54240) pg 25**

Atwood motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Health Dept (55110) pg 29**

Ford motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Litter Program (55720) pg 31**

This is an annual TDOT Grant Funded program

Atwood motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Senior Center (56100 / 56300) pg 32**

Ford motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by TB Gregory

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Libraries (56500) pg 33**

TB Gregory motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- **Other Charges (58400) pg 37**

735 – Health Equipment. AED program \$1,680 per unit per year. County received 7 units in 2017 from a local group to be disbursed to County Buildings. After a recent inspection, these units are outdated and need to be replaced.

- **Employee Benefits (58600) pg 37**

This function holds funds for unemployment claims against the County

- **Nonprofit Contributions (58900) pg 37**

TB Gregory motioned to recommend to full Commission; seconded by Dennis

MOTION CARRIED
w/o opposition

- County Mayor (51300) pg 8

No discussion or action taken to be moved to another night.

Ford asked about the salary increase as compared to last year. The compensation piece was based on whether the county could financially carry the burden. Ms. Thomas will provide the numbers with no step increases to the Committee.

Motion to adjourn by Ford; Atwood.
Meeting adjourned at 8:27pm