

PULASKI COUNTY COUNCIL

The Pulaski County Council met at the Pulaski County Highway department training room for budget sessions starting Monday August 12th 2025 9:00AM. Councilmembers present were Michael Tiede, Sheila Hazemi, Jeffrey Richwine, Tim Overmyer, Bradley Bonnell and Allbert Gutwein with County Auditor Teresa Bryant. Councilman Kenneth Boswell was absent.

IN RE: SHERIFF, CHRIS SCHRAMM & CARRIE AARON

Most of budget has no change except 5% wage increase. Animal control lowered her budget by \$1,000. Chris was able to get 4 vehicles this year and hopes to do same in 2026. Dodge has eliminated their discount so PUs are much more expensive. Misdemeanor fund is going away. Jail Inspector informed Chris he should address the condition of the showers as they are rusting out. Jail Commander is getting estimates. Nathan Origer of CDC explained that County has Jail Special LIT with \$19,600. and Cum Jail Fund with \$255,000. that can be used for this expense. These funds have not been used for several years. Michael said Chris needs to discuss this with Commissioners first. Firearms Training money is probably going away. Sheriff pays all of the WTH expense for County.

IN RE: TREASURER, LAURA WHEELER

5% wage increase. Part-time wages should go down next year as will not be using the Highway location for payments. Increased most lines slightly.

IN RE: SAMANTHA WILLIAM AND JOSHUA WINROTTE, PURDUE EXTENSION

Budget is same except 5% wage increase. State statute requires that County find a place for them. Samantha is concerned about part-time employees making only \$2.00/hour less than full-time office administrator does. Kenneth said that part-time wages were adjusted in 2024. Sheila said they would be revisiting part-time wages.

Session was recessed at 10:04AM

Session resumed at 10:15AM

IN RE: LEEANN WRIGHT, COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Community Foundation declined to make request for funds. She understands the cuts SB1 will be making to the County and need to do more with less. September 10th they are having a Nap-Time Economics Seminar regarding childcare at Francesville, September 11th is Annual Celebration at Medaryville FD, October 23rd is Non-profit Convening and December 2nd is the Day of Giving.

IN RE: MARSHA TETZLOFF, RECORDER

Wages increased 5%, lowered part-time as not used, eliminated WTH line.

IN RE: MICHELLE FOX, SOIL AND WATER

Included wage and postage increase. Wants job description to be District Support Coordinator rather than secretary.

IN RE: LARRY WEAVER, MAINTENANCE

Larry thinks appointed department heads should get longevity pay in order to keep good employees. Jeffrey suggested that this be considered and Bradley suggests they discuss this with the Commissioners. Budget includes the 5% wage increase plus increase in copier supplies. Discussion following on some offices buying their own copiers and not using Cardinal, which County has a contract with.

N RE: JOLYNN BEHNY AND REBECA MCLEROY, CLERK/ELECTION BOARD

Includes 5% wage increase, increased travel, envelopes and dues. Clerks are required to attend 8 conferences each year. Michael asked about the \$2500. stipend. Indiana allows the stipend to reimburse Clerk for all the extra work required during a general election year. Election Board budget for 2025 was very little as no election and 2026 budget increased for the election.

IN RE: ROY MULLIS, VETERANS' SERVICE OFFICER

Reduced postage as mostly electronic but increased for VA training and printing.

County has left IT line in the budget but has not had an IT officer for several years. Discussion followed but this would be Commissioners responsibility to hire someone. County is still under contract with Roeing.

SESSION RECESSED 12:00 AM FOR LUNCH

SESSION RESUMED 1:00 PM

IN RE: DONALD STREET, COMMISSIONERS

Attorney fees were increased 10% to \$79,000. as the need is increasing. Group insurance increased 12%. Talked about zeroing out line for 4C as they have said they will not be making any request for 4 years. Examination of Records increased from \$50,000. to \$73,000. County is required to pay for all audits but then get the money back when Auditor makes Fall settlement payment. State is conducting more audits to catch up after COVID. The rest of the budget stays the same except LIT-PS that pays out to the County's fire departments has been increased from \$5,000. to \$10,000. SBOA said a contract is required to make payments out of Economic Development to Fair Board, Crises Center and Human Services as has been done in the past. Donald spoke in favor of combining Building with CDC. After Courthouse project is complete, will look into an employee for IT. East Annex has issues with the lift/elevator and will only have 2 offices that need to be relocated, West Annex and EMS building needs repairs. Remainder of ARPA funds need to be paid out by the end of 2026. Sheila asked about a fund for upkeep and repairs of Courthouse.

IN RE: HOLLY VAN DER AA AND THERESA CALLOWAY, ASSESSOR

5% wage increase, several other lines increased slightly. Did increase part-time and computer software more. Wants to purchase Pictometry, which will help in assessing solar and new construction. It is more accurate than what it used now.

IN RE: NATASHA DAUGHERTY, EMS

10% wage increase which will be reduced to 5%. Natasha added some new budget lines. Wants to increase classes which will increase wages. Natasha wants an ALS chase vehicle as by law she cannot use her own vehicle. Her budget is over \$900,000. higher and was asked to revise and come back.

IN RE: RICHEL FOX, EMA

Wage and some small increases. Half of Richel's wages are paid by Federal government.

IN RE: JAQUELINE FRAIN, PULASKI COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

They are getting less money to provide the same services. Has 2 sites to provide meals. County has been giving them \$30,000. for several years and asks for \$40,000. next year. Pulaski County Public Library wants to sell the Medaryville location that has been a senior center so looking for new location.

IN RE: NATHAN ORIGER, CDC

Nathan cut his operation budget but personnel was increased \$67,000. with total increase of \$26,490. He added a 3rd position—Project Coordinator. Decreased some line items, especially professional (attorney fees) since courthouse project is complete. Discussion on the benefit of combining CDC and Building Department. Nathan concern is if adequately staffed. Would clerical position be needed? Courthouse project has taken up 1-½ year so CDC is behind.

IN RE: RECYCLING

John Kegarise was unable to attend due to an injury. Auditor Bryant said his budget is actually a little lower. Solid Waste will give County \$35,000. but John needs to claim it. \$25,000. can go into County General and \$10,000. has to be used at recycling.

Session recessed 2:54 PM

Session resumed

IN RE: GARY KRUGER, HIGHWAY

Increased wages, Cum Bridge and equipment.

IN RE: KARLA REDWEIK, BUILDING/PLAN COMMISSION

Increased wages and Professional Services for new Attorney.

IN RE: TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR

Increased wages, preservation of records. Added \$2500. Stipend.

IN RE: DARYN WILDER, AVIATION

Deleted snow removal as now has plow on site, increased wages.

IN RE: JENNIFER KELLER, SURVEYOR

Wage increase.

IN RE: JENNIFER JOHNSON, CORONER

5% wage increase but increased her Chief Deputy 13-14%. He is now paid per case and has only been paid \$2150. so far this year. Jennifer would like for deputy and alternate to be paid for on-call. Also wants radios and uniforms .

Session was recessed for the day at 3:58PM
Session resumed 8/13/2025 at 9 AM

IN RE: JUDGE MARY WELKER, CIRCUIT COURT

Handles Level 4 and above, level 5 felonies involving kids. Works with 4 different grants. CASA is required by statute. About \$23,000. over last year. Change pauper counsel from hourly to mileage, less expensive. Increased wages 10% which will be reduced to 5%. Other increases are in law books and postage, other items reduced.

IN RE: SANDY LUCAS, PROBATION

Judge Kocher introduced Sany Lucas, who will be the new Chief Probation Officer as Cris Allen is retiring 9/16/2025. Probation is the only office without a full-time office administrator. To replace Cris with another full-time probation officer would cost over \$61,000. While making full-time administrator is only less than \$54,000. Cris was handling 157 cases, which will need to be absorbed by the remaining officers.

IN RE: JUDGE CRYSTAL KOCHER, SUPERIOR COURT

Most increases in budget have to do with jury trials. 2025 had 13 jury trials with 6 pending. 23 trials set for 2026. Asked County to fund Navigator position full time in 2026. Will be receiving a Misdemeanor grant where County will receive 40% reimbursement on misdemeanors—estimate around \$40,000./year, which will help with Navigator’s wages.

Session was recessed
Session was resumed

IN RE: KELLY GAUMER, PROSECUTOR

5% wage increase, raised postage, dues, subscriptions, reduced tires. Remove 39700 Adult Protective Services as State is using a 3rd party vendor now. 2501—Pretrial: Interns paid out of this fund. Funded by court fees , \$110,607. current balance. 4D: 5% wage increase, raised postage. Reimbursed 66% by Federal government. This fund is for child support enforcement. VOCA: Ends 9/30/2026. Deputy Prosecutor AJ Ennis spoke on the number of trials.

IN RE: DR. DAY & EDWINA GUFFEY, HEALTH

Fund 1159 is for only the required employees. Major cuts by State on Fund 1161 (\$297,000. To \$93,000.). Marie Roth will now take on more roles. Did not include wages for nurse, which will be added at \$63,000.

IN RE: NATASHA DAUGHERTY, EMS

Reduced wage increase to 5%. Doing more ALS calls and increased supplies. Professional fees include attorney fees, billing services, Malcon. Talked to Sheriff about buying one of his old vehicles. Auditor asked about leads on AED as there is none in Courthouse and she thinks there should be at least 2. Health Department may have information on grants.

DISCUSSIONS

CDC: Reduce 33500 (Advertising/Marketing) from \$60,000. to \$40,000. Nathan wants a new position, Project Coordinator.

PAY RATE: Albert made a motion to advertise 5% pay raise, Bradley seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

SURVEYOR: Michael did not like Ed Frain tile line item as he does not think this should be paid out of property tax. Albert made a motion to advertise Surveyor's budget as presented, Tim seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

CORONER: Discussed on-call pay. Reduced autopsy fees from \$39,000. to \$25,000. Albert made a motion to advertise Coroner's budget as presented with autopsy fees at \$25,000. Jeffrey seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

CLERK: Sheila made a motion to advertise Clerk's budget as presented, including \$2500. stipend for JoLynn every even year, Bradley seconded.

CDC/BUILDING: Sheila figures County could save \$12-15,000. in wages if departments combined. Does not include new position of Project Coordinator. Sheila made a motion to combine Economic Development budget with Building and for Nathan to come back with a consolidated budget, Michael seconded. Includes \$20,000. reduction in marketing and no new position. Kenneth did not think there was a plan for implementation of the department merger. Motion carried 5-2 with Jeffrey, Sheila, Tim, Michael, Kenneth in favor and Albert, Bradley opposed.

Session was recessed at 11:01

Session resumed 08/18/2025 9:00AM

Kenneth Boswell was absent

CDC AND BUILDING/ZONING: Nathan presented different scenarios for combining the CDC and Building/Zoning departments as far as wages and staff. Bradley asked why Nathan needs a Project Coordinator. Nathan said nothing new but with the Justice Department Center project and then Courthouse, CDC is behind. His full-time employee has been helping with the Courthouse project and tourism. Karla asked why is just now hearing about this. Michael thinks her department needs revamped due to issues with the APC and BZA. Both Bradley and Albert concerned about combining and Bradley also concerned about the legality. He think Council's attorney needs to be involved. Sheila suggested taking Karla out of County General but Nathan said don't tap 1112 LIT.

SHERIFF: Jeffrey was concerned about cutting Freedom Therapy. Bradley made a motion to approve Sheriff's budget for advertising, Michael seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

TREASURER: Tim made a motion to approve Treasurer's budget for advertising, Bradley seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

EXTENSION: Sheila made a motion to approve Extension's budget for advertising, Bradley seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

RECORDER: Bradley made a motion to approve Recorder's budget for advertising, Jeffrey seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

SOIL AND WATER: Wants secretary change to district coordinator. Tim made a motion to approve Soil and Water's budget for advertising, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

MAINTENANCE: Sheila made a motion to approve Maintenance's budget for advertising, Jeffrey seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

COUNTY ELECTION BOARD: Bradley made a motion to approve Election Board's budget for advertising, Tim seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

VETERANS SERVICE: Sheila made a motion to approve Veterans' Service budget for advertising, Bradley seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

IT: Sheila made a motion to approve IT's budget to be advertised, Bradley seconded. Director's position added at \$110,000., working 35 hours per week in event Commissioners hire someone. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

AUDITOR: Sheila made a motion to approve Auditor's budget for advertising, including the \$2,500. stipend, and Tim seconded, With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

COMMISSIONERS: Teresa explained the State Board of Accounts line. Michael reduced Consulting line to \$1,000. and Professional Services from \$25,000. to \$10,000. Lines 1148 (Drug Free) and 1136 (Cum Building) were left alone. Line 1170 included \$10,000. increase to each Pulaski County Fire Department. Several more line items were reduced to -0- as not used in 2025. Sheila made a motion to approve Commissioners' budget with changes made, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

ASSESSOR: Discussion on Pictography that Assessor wants. Jeffrey made a motion to approve Assessor's budget for advertising (including Pictography), Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

EMS: Sheila suggested taking out the chase vehicle and Michael suggested several reductions. Albert made a motion to approve EMS' budget for advertising with changes, Bradley seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

EMA: Sheila made a motion to approve EMA's budget for advertising, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

RECYCLING/TRANSFER: Bradley made a motion to approve Recycling/Transfer's budget for advertising, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

HIGHWAY: Tim made a motion to approve Highway's budget to be advertised, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

AVIATION: Albert made a motion to approve Aviation's budget to be advertised, Jeffrey second. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

HEALTH: \$63,000. needs to be added for nurse. Bradley made a motion to approve Health's budget to be advertised with line for nurse, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

PROSECUTOR: Bradley made a motion to approve Prosecutor's budget to be advertised, Sheila seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

PROBATION: Unable to hear recording.

Discussion followed on ARPA funds.

Meeting was recessed until August 25, 2025 1PM but was later cancelled.

Budget Public Hearing held September 8, 2025 during regular Council meeting

Hearing started with Auditor reading the proposed 2026 budget:

Casino/Riverboat	\$96,000.
County General	10,166,676.
Reassessment	148,000.
Police Pension	15,000.
Courthouse Lease Rental	1,017,000.
Highway	4,735,971.
Local Road and Street	280,000.
Cumulative Bridge	505,000.
Health	202,900.
Jail Lease Rental	336,944.
Aviation	201,416.
Cumulative Cap Development	407,000.
Economic Development	1,822,745.
Local Health Dept Trust	2,500.
Supplemental Juvenile Probation	15,000.
Supplemental Adult Probation	74,300.
Plat Book Fees	8,000.
Local Health Maintenance	20,000.
Drug Free Community	30,000.
Pretrial	18,300.
Pretrial Grant	74,465.
Veteran's Court Grant	134,500.
Court Interpreter Grant	3,500.
County Elected Officer Training	5,000.
DRMO	5,000.
Community X's Grant	1,500,000.
Statewide 911	317,651.
Accident Report	6,000.
SIM Opioid Grant	60,000.
Firearms Training	13,000.
Clerks Perpetuation	5,000.
Jury Fees	10,000.
Aviation Grant	570,000.
Airport Improvements	15,000.
Misdemeanant	85,000.
LIT-PSAP	757,625.
VOCA Grant	81,370.
Family Recovery Grant	75,000.
Drug Court Grant	132,000.
Identification Security Protection	1,700.
Local Emergency Planning Comm	10,000.

Health-SB4	156,029.
LIT-Public Safety	1,853,612.
CASA Program	66,303.
CARES LHC	65,000.
American Rescue Plan	633,000.
	\$26,738,507.

Grants make up approximately \$5,000,000. Of the budget.

Kenneth said that Council should use 2025 budget as 2026 budget and anything lower in 2026 budget should say lower. Also suggested a 3% COLA. Bradley made a motion to approve Kenneth’s proposal, Albert seconded. Sheila said this would create the loss of one position as the Navigator was only budgeted for last 6 months of 2025. Sheila said Assessor said she would give up one person in her office to get Pictometry. This also means Commissioners put in for part-time engineer that would be eliminated as not in 2025 budget. Michael thinks intern pay should be lowered from almost \$20.00/hour as part-time pay down to \$15.00/hour. EMS’ part-time pay was explained. Judge Mary Welker concerned about the adjusting. She tried to make cuts on certain lines in her 2026 budget when she had to make increases elsewhere. Kenneth suggestion will basically make cuts twice. ARPA funds end next year so Council will need to find \$400,000. for Sheriff’s wage increase. With no further discussion, motion died 1-6 with Bradley in favor and Michael, Sheila, Jeffrey, Kenneth, Tim Albert opposed. Kenneth asked Auditor to provide figures comparing 2025 and 2026 budgets but Sheila said they already did this at budget hearings. Sheila is concerned about comparison as they already have cut items out of the 2026 budgets. A special budget hearing is scheduled for October 7, 2025 7PM.

Sheila made a motion to change Prosecutor’s part-time intern pay to \$15.00/hour as of 2026, Michael seconded. Nathan explained how part-time pay is figured on the Matrix. Sheila revised her motion to include all interns immediately, Bradley seconded. After more discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Sheila made a motion to hold special budget hearing October 7, 2025 7PM, Kenneth seconded. Discussion held on whether motion is needed since budget hearing are continued. Motion carried unanimously.

IN RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Judge Crystal Kocher: Navigator has services 827 individuals, recidivism is down 5%, currently only 59 prisoners (not including Federal prisoners) in jail and used to run in the 70s. She has applied for a misdemeanor grant to help pay for Navigator position.

Public Hearing was closed at 6:59PM.
Budget Hearing Session resumed October 7, 2025 at 7:00 PM

All Councilmembers were present. Michael asked if there were any questions regarding budgets.

Albert suggests we accept department budgets as submitted except 0% wage increase. Ken stated that raises are more important than increases in budget. County gave raises a few years back to catch up and don’t want to be behind again. Will lower morale and lose employees. Ken had originally suggested going back to the 2025 budgets and reducing lines that were lowered but changed his mind after hearing Judge Welker explanation on how this would hit departments on both sides. Ken recommended a 3% raise and taking numbers back to 2025 budget. This did not pass in September. A 3% raise will cost the County \$75,000.

Brad requested that Superior Court’s Navigator position continue to be funded in 2026. Going back to the 2025 budget would eliminate the position as only funded for last 6 months of year.

Auditor Bryant said there is very little difference between 2025 and 2026 budgets. The major difference is insurance. CDC Director Nathan Origer suggest a 1.5% raise and once they see how much they close out with next year, they can determine next year’s raise.

Sheila said every year the County is short when budgeting but then have roll-over from prior year. Estimated that there will be \$700,000. to roll-back but need to remember \$400,000. in ARPA funds are no longer are available. They cut budgets as much as they can so next step is cutting positions. Sheila made a motion to give COLA at 2.8%, Kenneth seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.

Superior Court, Circuit Court and CDC’s budgets were discussed.

Albert made a motion to approve CDC’s budget for advertising with no new position, Tim seconded. With no further discussion, motion passed 6-1 with Michael, Sheila, Tim, Jeffrey, Albert, Bradley in favor and Kenneth opposed.

Judge Kocher was able to get pilot program for misdemeanor.

Nathan stated that he will get together with Auditor and Jenny Shank-Maxwell and cut his salary 2.5% if he is not getting the support he needs to do his job. He will no longer do anything that is not CDC related, such as streaming, website update, construction projects, research. He cut his operational budget to fit in the position.

Bradley made a motion to approve the Courts budgets for advertising, Albert seconded. With no further discussion, motion carried 6-1 with Michael, Sheila, Jeffrey, Albert, Bradley, Tim in favor and Kenneth opposed.

Kenneth is concerned about staffing.

Sheila made a motion to retract her approval of the motion to approve CDC's budget without new position and add new position. Jeffrey seconded. Nathan said his office is completely funded out of fund 1112 and not County General. Kenneth said the only person who can rescind the motion is the one who originally made the motion. The need for an HR department was discussed as well as proper procedure for rescinding a motion. Sheila made a motion to approve Nathan's budget, adding in new position using LIT money, Jeffrey seconded. Nathan said Council never rescinded the first motion. Vote was taken to approve Nathan's new position and did not pass 3-4 with Michael, Sheila Jeffrey in favor and Albert, Bradley, Kenneth, Tim opposed.

N RE: PUBLIC COMMENT

Scott Fritz: The person who makes the original motion has to be the one to make the motion to rescind the motion, Robert's Rules of Order. Never enough money—what is going to happen?

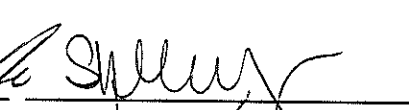
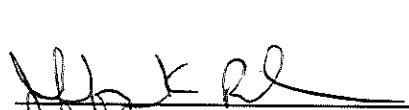
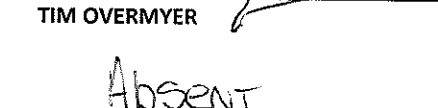
Brandi Larkin: EDA payments cannot be used to offset county general budget. They cannot go for department wages. There are restrictions where those discretionary voluntary funds can be used.

Jennifer Knebel: Council has an opportunity to capitalize on solar as 72 counties are shutting the door on solar. They are limited on where they will go. Council is leaving money on the table if they give a tax abatement. County has leverage now.

Judge Crystal Kocher: Thank Council for their conversations on the Navigator position. Too much politicking.

Budget hearings were closed at 8:01 PM.

Approved and signed this 9th day of March 2026 by the Pulaski County Council.

 MICHAEL TIEDE	 SHEILA HAZEMI	 JEFFREY RICHWINE
 TIM OVERMYER	 ALBERT GUTWEIN	 BRADLEY BONNELL
 Absent KENNETH BOSWELL		

ATTEST: 
TERESA BRYANT, AUDITOR, PULASKI COUNTY, IN