

UNION COUNTY COUNCIL MINUTES
October 15, 2015

PRESENT: Russel Rude, Tim Williams, James Hensley, Dannie Witter, Burke Thomas, Richard Blank, Pam Tharp, Matt Snyder, Dale Dishmond, Holly Taylor, Zach Rozelle, Shaun Tudor, and Gene Sanford.

President Russel Rude opened the meeting by leading the group with the pledge to the flag. Thomas moved to approve the minutes of the September 17 meeting. Blank seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

BROOKVILLE WASTE DISTRICT: A letter was read stating that Council has an appointment to the Brookville Lake Regional Waste Board to be effective January 1, 2016. Duane Marker is the current appointment and stated that he is willing to continue serving on the Board. After some discussion, Thomas moved to appoint Duane Marker to a four year term on the Brookville Lake Regional Waste District Board effective January 1, 2016. Hensley seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

2016 BUDGET: Two budget meetings preceded this meeting. The first was a workshop held on the morning of October 8 with Russel Rude, James Hensley, Dannie Witter, Burke Thomas, Richard Blank, Jim Crouch, Matt Snyder, Pam Tharp and Gene Sanford present. Council reviewed each Fund request for 2016 with a sixth deputy and 3 jail officers being the largest cuts made. Discussion followed on the Public Safety LOIT. It was projected that the county would not have a working balance without passage of a LOIT, and members were reminded of the public meeting scheduled for that evening to consider the LOITs. Salary and the 27th pay were also discussed with no resolution.

A public meeting to discuss the LOITs was held at 7:00 pm on October 8th with Russel Rude, Tim Williams, James Hensley, Dannie Witter, Brad Snyder, Burke Thomas, Richard Blank, Deana Hill, Cheryl Begley, Alan Alcorn, Wendell Bias, Marilyn Revalee, Judy Starr, Dale Dishmond, Beth Ricardson, James Williams, and Gene Sanford present. Jason Semler of Umbaugh and Associates presented an overview of LOITs and detailed the Public Safety LOIT of .25% which would generate about \$319,000 for Union County with \$238,000 going to the county, \$71,500 to Liberty Corporation and \$9,500 to West College Corner. Semler also discussed the Property Tax Relief LOIT which would transfer funding from property taxes to income taxes and help reduce the loses to government units from circuit breaker credits on property taxes. County Attorney James Williams discussed the implications of both LOITs for Union County and stated it might be easier to pass them together rather than separately. Lengthy questions and discussion followed on both LOITs with Hensley moving to establish the .25% Public Safety LOIT. Tim Williams seconded the motion and it carried 5-2 with Witter and Thomas opposed. However, this meant that the LOIT was not approved as it had to be passed unanimously on the first vote. Council stated they would consider the matter again at their next meeting and did not consider the Property Tax Relief LOIT at this time.

At the October 15th meeting, discussion continued on the Public Safety LOIT and Property Tax Relief LOIT with Holly Taylor and Zach Rozelle speaking in favor of both. After lengthy discussion, Blank moved to adopt the .25% Public Safety LOIT. Thomas seconded the motion and it carried 5-1 with Witter opposed. Williams then moved to adopt the Property Tax Relief LOIT at the 1% level. Hensley seconded the motion and it was defeated 2-4 with Rude, Witter, Thomas and Blank opposed.

In further budget matters, Thomas moved to keep employee pay the same as 2015. Hensley seconded the motion and it carried 4-1 with Williams opposed. After further discussion, Thomas moved to recommend that the Commissioners consider moving the county to a bi-monthly pay schedule. Blank seconded the motion and it carried 5-0.

Due to the Public Safety LOIT passage, final budget figures needed to be re-calculated so the final budget adoption was continued to Monday October 26 at 9:00 AM.

ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS: None

TRANSFERS: In County General for the Circuit Court, Thomas moved to decrease Part time Clerical \$282 and increase Dues/Subscriptions \$282. His motion also included decreasing Petit Jurors \$100, Return of Fugitives \$100 and increase Supplies \$200. Witter seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

In County General for the Jail, Blank moved to decrease Overtime \$2,100 and increase Part time \$2,100. Thomas seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.

MISC: None

There being no further business, Blank moved to adjourn. Thomas seconded the motion and it carried 6-0.