

MIAMI COUNTY COUNCIL  
25 N BROADWAY  
PERU, IN 46970

OCTOBER 27, 2011

Council President Ralph Duckwall opened the meeting:

The purpose of this meeting is for correction of Clerk of Courts budgets. The first budget to discuss is for **Clerk of Circuit Court**. Tawna Leffel, Court Clerk, said she reviewed these and they are acceptable. Council President Duckwall read off the budget by section. Section 1: Personal Services – \$195,896; section 2: Supplies - \$0; Section 3: Other Services & Charges - \$8,060; Section 4: Capital Outlays - \$0. Total for this budget is \$203,956. Councilman Wiles made a motion to approve this budget; Councilwoman Mull seconded the motion. Council President Duckwall asked if anyone had any discussion on this. Councilman Kendall asked Tawna Leffel, Court Clerk, to answer yes or no if she was losing any staff; she said yes. He asked her if she agreed; she said she did not but she understood. Councilman Kendall said he does not agree either. He said “to lose even one person from this office detracts from the people of this county. They deserve the best. He added that he couldn’t say any more because you can’t shoot arrows that you can’t take back”. He said he works with a great group of people and they agree to disagree. He said when there is a reduction in manpower; it reduces the services provided to the taxpayers. He said our “county doesn’t pay into the unemployment fund; so the county will have to pay for the individual’s unemployment benefits for them to sit at home, instead of working for the county.” He said this puts a strain on other employees. Pat Woods stood up from the audience to give comments and Council President reminded the audience that this council meeting was not open for comments.

Councilman Wiles asked if this was the budget they talked about earlier. He said there was never 3 (positions to cut) mentioned. He said he thought they had a good rapport. Tawna Leffel, Court Clerk, said the budget issue refused to get resolved so she had to hire an attorney and that was upsetting. Councilman Kendall said that he feels this is the worst budget hearing he has been to and it is a mess. He said we should get rid of the 2012 budget and go back to the 2011 budget. Council President Duckwall asked for a vote on this budget. The budget passed 6-1; with Councilman Kendall casting the only vote against the budget.

The last budget to discuss is the **Clerk of Superior Court Budget**. Council President Duckwall asked Tawna Leffel, Court Clerk, to confirm that this budget

contains the position to be cut. She said she is not sure since she was not given a copy of the budget. Council President Duckwall read the budget by section. Section 1: Personal Services - \$121,570; Section 2: Supplies – \$0; Section 3: Other Services and Charges – \$0; Section 4: Capital Outlays - \$0: Total for this budget is \$121,570. Councilwoman Mull made a motion to approve this budget; Councilman Donaldson seconded the motion. Council President Duckwall asked if there was any discussion on this budget. Councilman Kendall asked Tawna Leffel, Court Clerk, to answer yes or no if she agreed with this budget and she said no. Councilman Kendall said he does not understand why we have to cut a budget before it gets to the state. Councilman Hunt asked Tawna Leffel, Court Clerk, if the submitted budgets for Superior Court 1 & 2 were reconsolidated into 1 budget and she said yes. The budget was passed 4-3; with Councilman Hunt, Councilman McAuliffe and Councilman Kendall voting against the budget.

Council President Duckwall adjourned the meeting.  
Respectfully Submitted,

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Judy Inglehearn  
2<sup>nd</sup> Deputy Auditor's Office