

July 22, 2019

1. The Ottawa County Excise Board met in Special Session at 1:15 PM on July 22, 2019 with the following members present: Chairman Larry Gatewood, Leon Weece, and Joe Clapp. CPA Bill Turner, and District Attorney Kenny Wright, were also in attendance.
2. Motion by Gatewood, second by Weece, to approve the Ottawa County Assessor's report. Becky Smith added that the Public Service was up from last year. It comes from the State and that's what we were waiting on. By vote: Gatewood, aye; Weece, aye; Clapp, aye.
3. Action concerning the Ottawa County Budget and Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2019-2020, with Bill Turner, Certified Public Account. Estimate budget numbers were discussed with most of the preliminary approval numbers being lower than last year. There was a lot of discussion concerning the Sheriff's budget for additional employees and replacing the roof. Their budget will be set the same as last year but, there were questions about where the money was spent last year. Russel Earls: Sheriff, your \$251,000 expenditures in the General fund from last year, what was that for? Sheriff: Everyday maintenance and operations, we used a lot of our cash account to help offset that total number. Our cash account is not going to be near what it was because of DOC. Earls: Last year it shrank significantly. Is it stabilized? Sheriff: It's not going to go back up. Earls: I understand that, but it's not going to plummet like it did last year, is it? Sheriff: It all depends on what DOC wants to fund us. What we invoice them and what we actually get are two different things, so it's hard to estimate what we will attain from them. Wright: My biggest concern is how many law enforcements officers you can have out in the County. Earls: The only place you can cut and increase is your service fees. Gatewood: Sheriff, did you talk to Turn Key about resubmitting their contract into a month to month payment? Sheriff: They are supposed to making a new contract for us. They've never done that on a permanent level. Gatewood: The roof will need to be re-bid. The Sheriff would like to use the jail inmates to help repair the roof to help with expenses. Gatewood then asked how much additional screens and tv's requested by the judges would cost through Tele-Coin. Sheriff: It could be around \$5,000 to \$7,000. Earls: It will help a lot getting the 25% commission from Tele-Coin instead of the 5% they received through Tiger. The Excise Board discussed the number of employees needed for the protection of citizens. Wright: There are several factors involved in the rise of crime in our County. The Mexican Cartel is bringing meth across the border and there are more people using drugs. This product is 99% pure methamphetamine and it creates more violence and aggressiveness with the users. Turner: Numbers show the budget will allow 25.5 employees within the Sheriff's department. A motion was made by Weece to give employees a 2% raise and to add to the staff of the Sheriff's Department. Second by Clapp. By vote: Gatewood, aye; Weece, aye; Clapp, aye. Gatewood: We came back several times last year with restrictions. We need to put 1/12 restrictions on unencumbered funds, and adhere to it. Motion by Clapp, second by Weece. By vote: Gatewood, aye; Weece, aye; Clapp, aye.
4. Motion by Weece, second by Clapp, to adjourn. By vote: Gatewood, aye; Weece, aye; Clapp, aye.

Chairman

Robyn Mitchell
Ottawa County Clerk