

**Special Council Meeting**  
**Monday, August 14, 2023**  
**7:45 P.M.**

Edinburgh Town Council met in a special session on Monday, August 14, 2023, at 7:45 P.M. at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburgh, Indiana.

Councilman Simpson called the meeting to order.

**Members answering roll call:** Councilwoman Debbie Buck, Councilwoman Miriam Rooks, Councilman Jeff Simpson. Also present were Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley, Town Attorney Dustin Huddleston, and multiple department heads to present 2024 proposed budgets. President Ryan Piercefield and Vice President Dawn Graham were absent.

**Budget Workshop** – Clerk-Treasurer Scott Finley said this meeting is for department heads to explain their proposed 2024 budgets. The council received copies of all the budgets that will be presented tonight in their council packet. The budget forms show the budgets for 2021, 2022, and 2023 as well as the year-to-date amounts for 2023. He also gave the council a worksheet showing the financial status of each fund.

Mr. Finley said the budgets are as submitted by the department heads. The only things adjusted were insurance costs, any errors found, and telephone and internet. The telephone and internet were adjusted due to the potential change to Comcast, which is faster and more reliable but more costly. The wage increases may look significantly higher than normal because the council approved a 9% pay increase at the end of last year that was not budgeted for. This budget takes that amount into account as well as any new increases.

**Fire and EMS**

Interim Fire Chief Chuck Ridpath presented the Fire and EMS budget. The budget was created with the idea of fully staffing the full-time positions currently open. The department is having a hard time staffing every shift. Because of that we are under budget for wages.

Discussion was held regarding staffing and wages.

Chief Ridpath explained each line-item change.

Discussion was held regarding grant funding for the SCBA gear.

The proposed 2024 budget for Fire and EMS was \$1,361,255.

Mr. Finley said the issue we are running into with the budget is it was estimated to be about \$775,000 when we moved from volunteer to paid stand-by. Now the proposed budget is over \$1.3 million. He said he was weary that \$775,000 was not going to be sustainable, \$1.3 million is definitely not sustainable without major changes to the rest of the budget. The only thing keeping the budget down at this point is lack of staffing.

Mr. Finley explained the process for using the NRO Fire and EMS funds.

**Golf Course**

Timbergate General Manager Wayne Gibbs said this budget is being used to buy new equipment to replace aging equipment at the course. The budget has been around \$225,000 for the last few years. He said he dropped that to about \$150,000 this year as the equipment is getting replaced and the NRO is bringing in more revenues. The plan is to replace the two rough mowers this year.

The proposed 2024 budget for the Golf Course was \$150,000.

Mr. Finley said the plan for this budget was to replace equipment now that the course is paid off and phase this budget out over a few years.

**Street**

Street Superintendent Clark McCollum presented the Street budget. He explained each line-item within his budget. The biggest line item of this budget is street repairs. That proposed amount is \$575,000.

The proposed 2024 Street budget was \$1,272,200.

The proposed 2024 budget for Sanitation was \$424,000.

The remaining budgets were all revenue based. The proposed budgets for those were as follows:

- LRS - \$200,000
- Riverboat - \$150,000
- Public Safety - \$150,000
- Shelby County EDIT - \$65,000
- Bartholomew County EDIT - \$66,500
- Johnson County EDIT - \$500,000

Mr. Finley said that as the budget was presented tonight, the General fund is at a \$716,348 deficit leaving a 60% operating balance at the end of the year. The budget is fundable but not sustainable. If the deficit is for one-time capital costs, it is not a huge deal. That is not the case.

Mr. Finley said that this is the first year we are budgeting for the Johnson County EDIT fund. The council needs to decide what these funds will be used for.

Councilwoman Buck challenged the department heads to cut 10% from each of their budgets.

Discussion was held regarding the Fire and EMS budget.

Copies of the preliminary budgets can be accessed at the Town Hall, 107 South Holland Street, Edinburg, IN.

Being no further business or comments, Councilwoman Buck made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilwoman Rooks seconded. Motion carried.

EDINBURGH TOWN COUNCIL

ABSTAIN  
Ryan Piercefield, President

ABSTAIN  
Dawn Graham, Vice President

Debbie Buck

Miriam Rooks

Jeff Simpson

ATTEST:

Scott Finley, Clerk-Treasurer