

ADAIR COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES
MONDAY, JANUARY 23, 2017

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Mr. Wilson asked why she gave the employees a raise. She responded that the Commission approved the pay raise. When asked why the Elected Officials participated in the raise, she reminded Mr. Wilson that the raise was voted on in the Salary Commission meeting of 2015 in which he attended.

He stated it was not right to pay his expenses from the Law Enforcement Services Fund because that was the Sheriff's money. Mrs. Collop explained that the ballot verbiage used to pass the sales tax was called "Law Enforcement Services." The Commission, at that time, specifically worded the ballot language so the funds could be used for several purposes. That "Law Enforcement Services" term encompassed many expenses associated with law enforcement and the funds were not to be utilized solely for expenses of the Sheriff's Department. She stated that autopsies had been paid out of that fund for the past two years in an attempt to begin utilizing those funds.

Commissioner King said that the public wanted the funds to only go to the Sheriff and felt it had been presented to the public that way. Mr. Wilson said he didn't want to be pitted against the Sheriff for the use of the money in that account. He was afraid it would eventually deplete the money in the Law Enforcement Services Fund.

Commissioner Thompson spoke of the County Commissioners Association of Missouri (CCAM) legislative meeting he had recently attended which addressed unfunded mandates. He discussed that the Prosecuting Attorney's salary was an unfunded expense to the County. The State determines the Prosecuting Attorney's salary, which is the same as that of a Judge. So when a Judge is given a raise by the State, the County is required to match the same money for the Prosecuting Attorney.

He stated the Commission felt it was necessary to continue wages for employees so the County is competitive with the community. It costs a lot of money to train a new employee and felt it was beneficial in order to help to retain the workforce.

Mr. Wilson stated that Jason Lamb, Executive Director of the Missouri Association of Prosecuting Attorneys, was in favor of having the Prosecuting Attorneys funded by the State. There was also a push to create a District Attorney's position. Smaller counties were not in favor of this, however, because a Prosecutor may not be available to them when needed.

Mr. Wilson stated he could get by without hiring an additional attorney, but cases would not be taken care of on a timely basis. There has been an 88% increase of call to service situations over the last ten years. He stated that new construction in the area brings different kinds of people who don't have ties to the community. He stated that in 2016, his office received 1,587 law enforcement referrals. There were 270 probation violations and over 1200 crime cases filed for the year. All of that took a lot of time. Two hundred forty seven e-mails were received in 4 days last week. The Prosecuting Attorney's Office does all the data entry and everything takes time.

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ATTEST:


County Clerk


Presiding Commissioner