

## Ripley County Council 2026 Budget Reviews

### August 12, 2025

The 2026 Budget Review Meeting was called to order by Council President, Peg Ehlers, with the pledge of allegiance. Six Council Members were present (Ron Decker, Stan Wiedeman, David Tebbing, Stephanie Back, Peg Ehlers, & Diane Macek) Andrew Decker was absent. Also present were Auditor Amy Copeland and First Deputy Danielle McGee.

Councilman Stan Wiedeman made the motion that all full-time employees will receive a 3% raise and that part-time employees will receive a \$0.75 increase, Seconded by Councilman David Tebbing. Motion passed 5 yes & 1 no.

Councilman Diane Macek made the motion that all full-time employees will receive longevity after working for the county for 5 years. The amount is \$150.00 a year and you will receive the years to date at year 5 and the cap is 25 years. This will be a lump sum payment on the anniversary date, Seconded by Councilman Stephanie Back. Motion passed 5 yes & 1 no.

County Departments/Offices interviewed were: Sheriff (Rob Bradley) and Health Department (Tara Briggs). Each Department/Office explained the changes they were requesting to their 2026 budget.

The non-profit organizations that were appearing requesting funds were RC Community Foundation (Amy Streator), Safe Passage (Cari Kettman), Children's Advocacy Center (Sarah Brichto), Genesis Pathways to Success (Clarice Patterson). Each presented their organization's purpose and requested funding for 2026. Each organization was told they would be contacted on what the council was able to give for the 2026 year.

### August 13, 2025

Six Council Members were present, Andrew Decker was absent, also present were Auditor Amy Copeland and First Deputy Danielle McGee.

Councilman Stan Wiedeman made the motion to rescind that all full-time employees will receive a 3% raise and that part-time employees will receive a \$0.75 increase, Seconded by Councilman David Tebbing. Motion passed 5 yes & 1 no.

Councilman David Tebbing made the motion that all employees will receive a 3% raise, Seconded by Councilman Stan Wiedeman. Motion passed 6 yes.

Councilman Diane Macek made the motion to rescind that all full-time employees will receive longevity after working for the county for 5 years. The amount is \$150.00 a year and you will receive the years to date at year 5 and the cap is 25 years, this will be a lump sum on the anniversary date, Seconded by Councilman Stephanie Back. Motion passed 6 yes.

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Councilman Stan Wiedeman made the motion that all full-time employees will receive longevity after working for the county for 5 years. The amount is \$150.00 a year and you will receive the year to date at year 5 and the cap is 25 years (this includes all benefit eligible employees, has to come out of one fund, no lapse in full time service, the prosecutor, judges, chief prosecutor and sheriff department are the exception) Seconded by Councilman David Tebbing. Motion passed 6 yes.

County Departments/Offices interviewed were: Area & Planning (Tad Brinson), EMS (Alex Poole), Circuit Court (Judge Ryan King) & 911 (Will Sunderman).

Each Department/Office explained the changes they were requesting to their 2026 budget.

The non-profit organization that was appearing requesting funds was the Ripley Care, Inc (Geneen Ostendorf) & Economic Development (Gary Norman).

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August 15, 2025

Six Council Members were present, Andrew Decker was absent, also present were Auditor Amy Copeland and First Deputy Danielle McGee.

County Departments/Offices interviewed were: Commissioners (Mark Horstman, President, Jeff Volz & Roger Gullion), Highway (Jason Edwards) and Probation (Shannon Schmaltz). Each Department/Office explained the changes they were requesting to their 2026 budget.

The County Council continued to finish up the discussion of the requests and reviews of the proposed budgets.

Enclosed with these minutes are copies of each budget with the votes and changes that may have been made.

With no further business to attend, Council Member, Stan Wiedeman, made the motion to adjourn, Council Member, Ron Decker, 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion. Motion passed 6 yes.

“AYE”  
Peggy Ehlers

Peg Ehlers, Council President

“NAY”

Peg Ehlers, Council President

Stan Wiedeman  
Stan Wiedeman

Stan Wiedeman

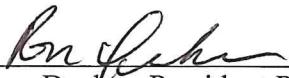
Stephanie Back  
Stephanie Back

Stephanie Back

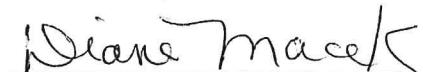
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Andrew Decker



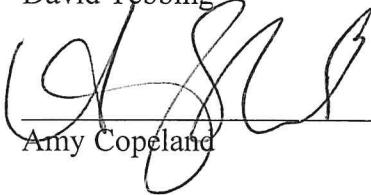
Ron Decker, President Pro Tem



Diane Macek



David Tebbing



Amy Copeland

Auditor, Ripley County

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Andrew Decker

Ron Decker, President Pro Tem

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Diane Macek

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David Tebbing

ATTEST:

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Amy Copeland