

LAW OFFICES
BACHMANN, HESS, BACHMANN & GARDEN, P.L.L.C.

GILBERT S. BACHMANN
LESTER C. HESS, JR.
JEFFREY R. MILLER

1226 CHAPLINE STREET
P.O. BOX 351
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA 26003-0046

CARL G. BACHMANN (1890-1980)
LESTER C. HESS (1903-1971)
JOHN B. GARDEN (1925-1994)

(304) 233-3511

TELEFAX (304) 233-3199

January 9, 2014

Robert Herron, City Manager
City of Wheeling
Office of the City Manager
City County Building
1500 Chapline Street
Wheeling, WV 26003

RE: 2014-2015 Municipal Court Budget

Dear Mr. Herron:

Pursuant to your Memorandum of December 18, 2013, this will constitute my transmittal letter regarding the proposed 2014-2015 budget for the Municipal Court Department. Enclosed is the Departmental Budget Request Form which I have completed. I did **not** complete either the Program Justification Form or the Capital Equipment Outlay Schedule as I did not feel either was applicable to my proposed budget for the coming year. If you do require any additional information with regard to the proposed Municipal Court budget, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Otherwise, I do not anticipate any additional unusual expenditures for the coming year. Our goals will again be to fairly administer and enforce the Ordinances of the City of Wheeling. I do, however, want to continue the discussion that Don Nickerson and I initiated with you last year regarding the prospect of Don and I being added to the City of Wheeling's health insurance program. Don and I are both still very much interested in being added to the City's health insurance program consistent with other City employees if at all possible.

As we discussed last year, both of our workloads have increased significantly these past few years. It is not uncommon for either of us to have dockets on a single day that total 40-50 cases. Furthermore, we are having to schedule and conduct more and more individual trials than in the past. All of this would seem to support a request on our part for an increase in our base salary.

However, Don and I have discussed this issue at length, and we are both in agreement that we are willing to forgo any salary increases for the foreseeable future if, in the alternative, the City is willing to add us to its health insurance program.

Robert Herron, City Manager
January 9, 2014
Page 2

We believe the Municipal Court Department is self-sufficient enough to bear this additional expense without necessitating a significant increase in our budget. You will note from the enclosed Departmental Budget Request Form that I have decreased the proposed budget for line item number 4416.20.2233 (Traffic Fines-Trans). This is based on current year numbers. I have also reviewed recent summaries of the amount of money that is being collected by the Municipal Court Department for traffic tickets and other offenses. Because of our increased caseload, the collection of fines is at an all time high, and would thus further seem to support the proposition that there are sufficient monies in the budget to cover adding Don and I to the City's health insurance program.

When we discussed this issue last year and you ultimately advised us that you did not believe there were sufficient monies in the City's overall budget to cover the cost of adding Don and I to the health insurance program, you assured us that you would make every effort to "make that happen" this year. Therefore, Don and I would formally request that we both be added to the City's health insurance program consistent with other City employees at the next available opportunity.

If you ultimately determine that Don and I cannot be added to the City's health insurance program, then, in the alternative, Don and I would ask that our base salaries be increased. In that regard, you will note that I have included a proposed \$10,000.00 increase in line item number 4416.10.1514 (Police Judge) regarding our current salaries. Please note that if the City does add Don and I to its health insurance program, then this proposed increase would become moot, and the proposed budget request for this line item could be reduced back to \$30,060.00.

If you have any questions of Don or me regarding our request to be added to the City's health insurance program, please feel free to contact me directly. We are both willing to sit down with you and discuss this matter further if you think that would be helpful.

Otherwise, I look forward to another successful year for the Municipal Court Department. Thank you once again for the privilege of allowing me to continue to serve the City of Wheeling as its Municipal Court Judge.

Very truly yours,



Jeffrey R. Miller
Author's Internet E-mail:
Jmiller@bhbglaw.com

JRM/ajf
Enclosure

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