

**BUDGET WORK SESSION
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2010
10:30 A.M.**

OR IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE BOARD OF EQUALIZATION MEETING

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair
Ray Stevens, Vice Chair
Larry Hudkins
Bob Workman
Deb Schorr

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk
Ann Taylor, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM

1 APPROVAL OF THE STAFF MEETING MINUTES, THURSDAY, JUNE 17, 2010; MINUTES OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS ON TUESDAY, MAY 11, 2010

It was noted the minutes of the Departmental Budget Hearings on May 11, 2010 are not included.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded approval of the minutes of the June 17, 2010 Staff Meeting. Schorr, Stevens, Workman, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

2 ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were no additions to the agenda.

3 BUDGET UPDATE - Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer

Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer, said several department heads were asked to come in and discuss their budgets. He said Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, is not available this morning and will be scheduled another time to discuss their Joint Budget Committee (JBC) budget.

4 SHERIFF'S BUDGET - Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff; Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff

Heier asked Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, and Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, whether they have any suggestions on ways to reduce the budget.

Wagner said he presented a budget necessary to perform his statutory duties and asked whether the Board believes there is anything arbitrary or capricious in his budget request.

Heier asked how much is in the Sheriff's Sinking Fund (Capital Improvement Budget).

Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff, said the fund was established years ago to set aside funds to replace their communication system (portable and vehicle radios). He said the fund will reach maturity in 2015.

Hudkins asked when the new statewide radio network will be operational.

Jarrett said the State Patrol is in the process of moving to that system and said the County needs to be ready to go on the system by 2015. He said his office will need the radios to be able to fully function within the new system.

Terry Wagner, Lancaster County Sheriff, said the federal government paid for the infrastructure but the users must pay for their equipment. He said the cost to replace all of their radios to adapt to the system is approximately \$550,000.

Schorr said she would like to see a \$200,000 reduction in the Sheriff's budget and suggested it could be achieved by delaying allocations to the Sinking Fund for the radio replacement plan (\$50,000) and the mobile data terminals (\$33,600) for one year; delaying the purchase of a prisoner transport van for the new jail (\$32,500) and a van insert (\$15,000); and eliminating two new patrol vehicles (\$53,000).

Jarrett said the mobile data terminals are crucial for operations and said the Sheriff's Office is already down two patrol vehicles this year.

Wagner said, in terms of delaying purchase of a prisoner transport van for the new jail, the Board needs to decide whether the Sheriff's Office or Corrections will be responsible for prisoner transport. He said they could place the order at the end of 2011 with payment out of the Fiscal Year 2011-2012 budget.

Jarrett added placement of the order will also depend on when the bids come out.

Stevens asked whether they have any new vehicles waiting to be equipped.

Wagner said there are three.

Jarrett said he believes they could reduce the time it takes to get patrol vehicles equipped and on the road if the work were outsourced.

Stevens inquired about the request for eight new full-time equivalent's (FTE's).

Meyer said the request is outside the proposed budget.

Jarrett said the Sheriff's Office will have some personnel savings this year and said he believes they could reduce the budget by \$100,000 to \$150,000 if given an opportunity to sit down and work through the budget with Meyer.

Schorr said she does not believe that is enough.

Jarrett said further reductions may impact services.

5 CORRECTIONS BUDGET - Mike Thurber, Corrections Director; Kent Griffith, Facility Administrator, Lancaster Correctional Facility (LCF)

Mike Thurber, Corrections Director, gave an overview of the following documents (Exhibit A):

- Fiscal Year 2010-2011 Proposed Budget Adjustments

Thurber said reductions total \$199,992 (includes restoration of \$42,000 in out-of-county funds).

- Additional Staffing Projections

Thurber noted he had been asked to prioritize his request for additional personnel and said he has eliminated one Records Technician, one Classification Lieutenant and four Classification staff.

Stevens questioned whether a Human Resources Supervisor is needed or if the Personnel Department could provide those services.

Thurber said he needs someone to prepare job descriptions and assist with recruitment, hiring, training, background checks and evaluations.

Stevens said he believes the Personnel Department should be able to assist Corrections with those functions.

Schorr suggested Thurber contact the University of Nebraska and explore having graduate students assist with classification.

Stevens expressed concern regarding the length of time the remaining eight positions that were requested would be on the job before the new jail opens and the impact those positions will have on the budget next year.

- Revenues Reconciled to Monthly Report

Thurber said his department will exceed its revenue budget this year and will not spend all of the current budget because of a reduction in out-of-county housing. As a result, \$200,000 will be returned to the General Fund.

It was noted the State was billed \$1,594,740 for state prisoners but the County has only collected \$743,467, to date.

Hudkins suggested the Board send a letter to Lancaster County Senators regarding the jail reimbursement issue.

Meyer noted the State will be moving to a new funding formula.

6 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH CENTER (CMHC) BUDGET - Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Director; Travis Parker, CMHC Deputy Director; Judi Tannahill, Administrative Services Officer

Travis Parker, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC) Deputy Director, said they have identified \$104,000 that can be reduced from the CMHC budget by not filling two vacancies (a jail diversion case manager and a community support worker). He said any further reductions will mean elimination of a program.

Hudkins asked whether staffing of the Midtown Center (Day Rehabilitation Program) can be reduced.

Parker said it is a cost neutral program. He added that the intensity and acuity level of individuals who are coming to the program from the Regional Center is much higher than in the past, so staff supervision is crucial.

Schorr questioned the request for 20 computers.

Parker said part of the request is related to the move to the Southeast Nebraska Behavioral Health Information Network (SNBHIN).

Judi Tannahill, Administrative Services Officer, added that many of their computers are in poor condition.

Workman noted that the County is contributing \$300,000 more than the required match for Region V and asked whether elimination of that funding would impact CMHC's operation.

Parker said he believes the loss of service dollars would probably be greater than the \$300,000 (see May 27, 2010 Staff Meeting minutes). He said other agencies in the community, such as CenterPointe, Touchstone and St. Monica's, are also reaping the benefits of those service dollars.

Settle said C. J. Johnson, Region V Systems Administrator, is using the County's dollars to pay administration costs which allows him to use program dollars strictly for programs.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, questioned whether the County has legal authority to pay more than its share of Region V's overhead.

Settle said it is not clear how the funds are being tracked or used and suggested it would be appropriate to ask Johnson for a written report.

Workman asked Settle whether he can trim \$200,000 from his budget.

Dean Settle, CMHC Director, asked to have an opportunity to discuss agency priorities with his Management Team and the CMHC Advisory Committee and said he will have an answer by the June 24th Staff Meeting.

Board consensus was to schedule discussion of the following budget requests on the June 24th Staff Meeting agenda: County Sheriff, Community Mental Health Center (CMHC), County Assessor/Register of Deeds, County Treasurer, Information Services (IS), Joint Budget Committee (JBC), Workers' Compensation; and Region V Systems.

7 ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Workman moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 12:05 p.m. Hudkins, Workman, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk