

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2005
8:30 A.M.**

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

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Trish Owen, Chief Deputy County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m..

County Treasurer (603)

Present were R.J. Nuernberger, County Treasurer, and Terry Adams, Deputy County Treasurer.

Adams indicated they will need some new printers for the new system in the future. He also said they have cut \$20,000 out of Data Processing costs because of the new system and the postage is up because of the mailing of the new license plates.

Kroeker said the check scanners in capital outlay that amount to \$21,000 need to come out along with the \$5,000 for the investment software which will be approved at the Tuesday Board meeting.

County Assessor/Deeds (605)

Present were Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, Scott Gaines, Chief Administrative Deputy, and Rob Ogden, Chief Field Deputy.

Agena indicated he originally budgeted \$15,000 for postage, but it was inadvertently reduced to \$13,000 and it should have stayed at \$15,000. Agena briefly went over his 2005/2006 Budget Recap (Exhibit A) and noted there is an overall 4% total decrease.

Agena also noted there is less revenue because of fewer documentary stamp filings in the Deeds office.

Emergency Management (693)

Present was Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director.

Ahlberg said he did not factor any revenues or any Emergency Management Program Grants into his budget this year. He also said they are using 40 handheld radios instead of 15 and so the maintenance contract has increased.

MOTION: Heier moved and Workman seconded to have Ahlberg contact the City to see what they can do to have sirens installed through the permitting or development process. Heier, Stevens, Schorr, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Stevens asked if Emergency Management could pre-identify locations for new sirens in the City and County as it develops.

Ahlberg said yes and said he spoke with the Parks & Recreation Department to get some future locations as the City and County expands.

Ahlberg also expressed his concern about a joint Emergency Operations Center that should be underground and weather resistant and he thought maybe they should look at an Emergency Operation Center also used as a joint City/County Training Facility.

County Sheriff (651)

Present were Terry Wagner, County Sheriff, and Bill Jarrett, Deputy County Sheriff.

Wagner briefly went over the County Sheriff's budget (Exhibit B) and noted no major changes. Wagner indicated he has budgeted \$60,000 in FY06 for new radios and are hoping to get 20 new radios this year. He said he would like an additional \$50,000 for radio upgrades and replacing 10+ year old radios. Wagner also noted he would like another Clerk Typist III, which he has requested for the past 6 years, to handle the civil process workload.

Jarrett also reported they would like 10 new vehicles this year, however they could possibly eliminate one of them.

Election Commissioner (607) & Jury Commission (627)

Present were Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, Maura Kelly-Tolzin, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner and Rebecca Hight-Moravec, Administrative Aide.

Shively reported there is only one statewide election this year, so his budget has decreased, however there will be a Bond Election at the Waverly School District in September which he has not budgeted for. He also said there was an increase in the salaries category because of two employees that are retiring this year. Shively is anticipating he may have to move or split 3 to 5 precincts due to the rapid growth in precincts located in Southeast Lincoln, North Lincoln and Air Park.

Shively also noted the Help America Vote Act of 2002 will mandate several changes in the way elections are conducted and he believes there will be some increased costs to the counties in order to implement the mandated changes.

County Engineer (703)/Geographical Information System (615)

Present were Don Thomas, County Engineer and Jim Langtry, GIS Manager.

Thomas reported there were no major changes to the budget. He said right-of-ways have increased approximately 9% and he budgeted \$220,000 for diesel in the Highway Fund and they have actually spent \$280,000.

Langtry reported no major changes to the GIS budget.

Juvenile Court (623)

Present were Juvenile Court Judge Tom Dawson and Lesli Lee, Bailiff.

Judge Dawson reported the boarding contracts have increased because of the number of new and increased filings in Juvenile Court in addition to those commitments to the Office of Juvenile Services and legal services has also increased.

Dawson also noted that after the case study is done on the caseloads in Lancaster County it will be determined if another Judge will be needed, however he doesn't believe there will be a new judge before January, 2007.

Heier asked about having a courtroom and a judge located at the Youth Services Center.

Dawson liked the idea if it's the first time a kid has been seen, however it would be difficult to get the files to the center and a court reporter would also be needed. He said all of the judges are not in favor of it and indicated it is very hard for a judge to walk into a situation, have a limited amount of information and decide to release a kid, who is charged with a felony offense, that could be a danger to the community as well as a danger to themselves.

There was extensive discussion on the juvenile detention process.

Kroeker indicated the Board needs to decide where to move the Work Release Coordinator. Eagan and Thorpe agreed to talk with Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director, about the position.

Kroeker noted there were no major changes in Adult Probation (674) and Intensive Probation (675).

There was brief discussion on the Visitors Promotion (019) budget.

Kroeker reported in the General Government Fund (612) the contingency is at \$1.8 million, which is down from last year. He suggested taking \$300,000 from the Emergency Protective Fund and put it into the Health and Human Services budget (805).

Kroeker also noted the Board of Equalization was increased to \$375,000 to cover the re-evaluations in 2006-2007.

MOTION: Workman moved and Heier seconded to adjourn the budget hearings at 11:34 a.m. Stevens, Schorr, Heier, Workman and Hudkins voted aye. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk