

MINUTES
BUDGET MONITORING COMMITTEE
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JULY 7, 2000
12 p.m.

Present: Kathy Campbell, Lancaster County Commissioner; Bernie Heier, Lancaster County Commissioner; Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer; Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Director; James Gordon, Attorney; Ron Krejci, Hickman State Bank; Dennis Banks, Director of the Attention Center for Youth and Don Thomas, County Engineer

Absent: Linda Steinman, Lancaster County Commissioner; Jim Nissen, Chamber of Commerce and John Boehm, LIBA Representative

Budget Overview

Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Director, gave a brief overview and provided documentation regarding Lancaster County's budget for Fiscal Year 2001 (Exhibit A), noting that the County Board approved a resolution which combined the Relief/Medical Fund, the Institutions Fund and the Inheritance Tax Fund into the General Fund.

Kroeker referred to Agency 613 (Administrative Services), noting that Agency 602 (County Board) includes County Commissioners' salaries only. The Administrative Services Office would include rents and salaries for the Chief Administrative Officer and the County Board Secretary. Kroeker added that the County Board has discussed expanding the Administrative Services Office.

Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that there have been discussions regarding the possibility of hiring an Assistant Administrative Officer. The County Attorney recommended that the County Board make Eagan a department head for the Administrative Services Office which would allow the County Board to hire an assistant. Eagan stated Risk Management, Records Management and possibly a grants manager would then be under the Administrative Services Office. It was noted that the County Board has not made a final decision on an Assistant Administrator.

Kroeker commented that the following offices had increases in their budgets:

- Election Commissioner due to preparation for the general election and spring election
- Clerk of District Court because of a request for additional staff and also because of rent increases
- Juvenile Court due to boarding contracts and legal services
- Corrections because of a request for ten additional employees

- Addition of a vocational rehabilitation grant at the Community Mental Health Center and because an employee, who took a one year leave of absence, is now coming back at a different position.

Agency revenues were briefly reviewed (page two) stating some adjustments were made because funds were moved.

Brief discussion took place regarding property tax funded budgets (page three). Kroeker commented that the net for the tax funded budgets for Fiscal Year 2001 is \$42,895,178 as compared to \$39,996,248 for Fiscal Year 2000. It was also noted that the County Board levied for a three year period and issued bonds for the new Juvenile Detention Facility and that they are now using some of the levy in the Debt Service Fund to help defray the tax asking for the principal interest on the annual payments.

Kroeker stated restricted revenues (page four) are under a lid and commented that there was a 5.14 percent change in restricted revenues in the previous year. He said the base for Fiscal Year 2001 will be \$39,366,407 and that Legislative Bill (LB) 989 allows for 2.5 percent increase. If the growth of real and personal property is greater than 2.5 percent, counties may use the excess amount over the 2.5 percent, which Kroeker estimated to be 1.2 percent over for Lancaster County. This would allow for approximately \$1,562,725 of new restricted revenues.

Also highlighted were the following:

- Building Fund Budget (page five)
- Inheritance Tax Collections (page seven)

Kroeker referred to the Keno Fund proposed budget (page six), stating that \$183,000 would be for a paving project in Waverly.

Campbell explained that the County has always paid for a large portion of the cost to pave a county road when it goes through a village. She further stated that after review by the County Attorney's Office, it was found that there are two opinions from the Attorney General indicating that counties can no longer pay those costs.

Eagan commented that counties cannot spend road funds within village or city limits, however, there are different provisions for roads which are on boundary lines of a village/city limits.

Prior to being made aware of the opinions, Campbell said the County Board had made a commitment to the City of Waverly and they felt they couldn't change that decision so it was decided that they would take the money from the Keno Fund.

Eagan explained that Keno funds can be used for community betterment because it benefits all the taxpayers within Lancaster County.

Campbell added that it was made clear in the motion that Keno funds would not be used again for a paving project.

Kroeker referred to the *"Match for Hazard Mitigation Program "Conservation Easements"* listed on page six. He explained that the City applied for a grant in which the match money will be split 50/50 with the County. He said that the grant allows for the purchase of farm land in the floodplain.

Kroeker referred to page nine of the handout, stating that group insurance had a significant increase. He said a 35 percent increase was built into the budget for a seven month period, however, the increase had not been built into the agency budgets.

The Bridge and Road Fund was briefly discussed and it was noted that a four percent increase was built into the fund, plus the \$183,000 of Keno funds for the Waverly project.

Kroeker referred to Lancaster Manor (page 12) and stated the County is expending approximately \$710,000 over incoming revenues, however, the County is reimbursed by Medicare/Medicaid based on cost.

Other topics briefly reviewed by Kroeker were as follows:

- Justice System (Page ten)
- Health & Human Services (Page 11)
- Allocation of levy (Page 14)

The next Budget Monitoring Committee meeting will be held at 12 p.m. on Thursday, July 27, 2000 in Room 113 of the County-City Building.