

Josephine County Budget Meeting Minutes – May 10, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

Anne Basker Auditorium, 604 N.W. 6th Street Grants Pass, Oregon 97526

Present: Marie Hill, Harold Haugen, Keith Heck, Don Reedy, Larry West, and Simon Hare. Attending: Rosemary Padgett, Budget Officer; Arthur O’Hare and Chris Carlson, Finance; Linda McElmurry, Recorder; members of the media and other interested parties.

1) Open Meeting – Harold Haugen

Chair Haugen opened the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

2) Approve Minutes of May 3, 2012

Mr. West made a motion to accept the minutes as presented seconded by Ms. Hill. Upon roll call vote motion carries, 6 – 0; Mr. Heck – yes, Mr. Reedy – yes, Mr. West – yes, Mr. Hare – yes, Ms. Hill – yes, and Mr. Haugen – yes.

3) Department Presentations:

i) Public Works – Rob Brandes (C1)

Rob Brandes, Public Works Director used **Exhibit A, Public Works** to explain their mission statement, programs, and finances. He said they would be reducing staff by 6 FTE on September 30th after the heavy summer work is done.

ii) Fleet – Rob Brandes (K1, K6-9)

Using **Exhibit B, Fleet Services** Rob Brandes, Public Works Director explained that 50% of the fleet is Sheriff’s vehicles. Departments turning in their fleet requests stayed close to status quo except the Sheriff who showed a 90% reduction. He said the County Fleet Fund is fairly robust so if County programs received financing, they should be able to build the fleet back up. Mr. Hare asked Rob to explain the new policy of assessing the price charged, making it more reflective of the miles driven. Rob explained the formula change which directly charges gas to the departments instead of having Fleet absorb the extra expense. A department can then cut down on miles driven if the price of fuel rises. He also explained why Josephine County has less road reserves than some of the other counties because the payment is based on federal forest miles. Mr. Haugen encouraged everyone to take the opportunity to ride the busses; the drivers are very helpful and they take care of you.

iii) Public Health – Diane Hoover (G1)

Diane Hoover, Public Health Director used **Exhibit C, Public Health** to explain what Public Health has done to cut fixed costs, why budgeting for the programs has been challenging, and the outcomes of prior budgets. Public Health is requesting \$85,000 in General Funds for the Animal Shelter and \$45,000 from the Solid Waste franchise payment for Environmental Health. She has cut FTE by cutting personnel from full time to part time which allows employees to keep their jobs but have no benefits. These cuts affect the billable services they can provide and next year will be a challenge. She announced that the WIC program was recently given a \$7,500 performance award for their breast feeding program. She said the Shelter cannot meet state shelter guidelines as set by the State inspector who sent a list of repairs. Licensing is down significantly as they can’t do door to door checks any more. She noted that the more they cut, the less we can do. Since the Shelter is more than 50 years old she is working on a ten year plan to get a new shelter.

iv) Public Health – Animal Control – Diane Hoover (G14-16)

Mr. Haugen noted that he felt the community will step up and help with a capital improvement project such as the Shelter. He said he realized Diane had a challenging job and wanted Diane to know he appreciates what she does. He commented that in these lean times the managers are picking up the load.

Citizen Comment on Presentations:

None heard.

4) General Discussion – Budget Committee

Chair Haugen said he felt the meeting on May 22 could be used as a final discussion and adoption of the budget and rather than add a meeting on May 24th they could stay late. The Committee agreed. Rosemary Padgett, Budget Officer, explained the role of the Budget Committee. Mr. Heck asked who could set the Commissioners salary and was told the Budget Committee can set it by motion, although it was typically done through the Elected Officials Compensation Committee’s recommendation. Mr. West felt the three public representatives were here to assist the Board with a recommendation. Rosemary clarified they were all equal peers on this Committee although the Commissioners, as the governing body, adopt the budget. Mr. Hare felt they had already dealt with this subject when the Budget Committee passed the Compensation Committee’s recommendation. Mr. Haugen reminded the Committee that this subject would be on the agenda to be discussed on the 17th or the 22nd. Rosemary said on the 17th neither the Sheriff nor Ms. Hill would be available for the Budget meeting and asked the Committee if they wanted to reschedule the meeting or continue with presentations. Ms. Hill felt it was important that the Sheriff present his own budget and suggested delaying that presentation. Mr. Haugen preferred not to wait, saying the Sheriff’s representative can present to the Committee. Mr. West agreed. The Committee decided if they had questions of the Sheriff they could be asked on the 22nd but the presentation would be held on the 17th. Rosemary asked the Committee if there were other programs they wanted to hear from. Ms. Hill commented that the content was much improved this week; the presenters did an excellent job in giving the information that the Committee needs to have to make their decision. Mr. Hare echoed Ms. Hill saying information on costs to fix a road and how often it needs to be fixed are key for the Committee to make decisions. They need to know when they look at the budget and programs that don’t pay for themselves, how they can fund them and how they can help. Mr. Haugen felt that was the role of the Liaison Commissioner who should advocate for programs that need to be taken care of and make sure the Budget Committee hears them. Mr. Reedy said they need to work at the State level because they have transferred their responsibility and will not help. The Committee felt it would be good to have local legislators observe these issues and participate in the local budget process. Mr. Haugen questioned Rosemary Padgett, Budget Officer, on the Planning budget saying they would be getting funding from the State to define resource land. Rosemary explained several scenarios with which this could be handled.

Rob Brandes, Public Works said the Managers had a discussion on Monday and realized you can’t quantify public health or public safety but felt they could be more assertive in their recommendations and offer ramifications.

5) May 17th Presentations: Public Safety (Sheriff, District Attorney, Juvenile Justice)

6) May 22nd Presentations: Continuation of Public Safety (if needed)

7) Public Comment (limit of three minutes each, public comment may be allowed at additional meetings)

The meeting reconvened at 5:28 p.m. to allow Don Moore to comment.

Meeting adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Linda McElmurry, Recorder

- Exhibit A Public Works
- Exhibit B Fleet Services
- Exhibit C Public Health