

Josephine County Budget Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2012, 4:00 p.m.

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

Present: Harold Haugen, Keith Heck, Don Reedy, Larry West, and Simon Hare (Marie Hill – unavailable) 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. and announced that the meeting would not be televised due to fiscal constraints.

2) Approve Minutes of May 10, 2012

Mr. Hare made a motion to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mr. West to approve the minutes as written. Upon roll call vote, motion carried, 5 – 0, Heck – yes, Reedy – yes, West – yes, Hare – yes, and Haugen – yes.

3) Department Presentations:

A) Public Safety Fund (D1 – D53)

i) Sheriff - Sue Watkins (D4)

Using **Exhibit A, Sheriff’s Presentation** Sue Watkins, Business Manager, explained the Sheriff’s Office will continue to follow their mission statement with the limited funding available. They are working on a citizen portal so citizens can go on the web and enter the information to generate a report for their insurance company. Forms will also be available in the lobby. She voiced concern about the lack of civil deputies saying Jackson County has had some litigation in regards to that. Sue requested that the proceeds from the last property auction of \$8,700 be used to fund the evidence technician’s salary for July. There will be another auction in August that could fund September and October. Mr. Heck asked if they could enlarge the number of Federal prisoners. Sue said there were some things to be factored in but they have already been contacted about no contract for next year for Federal prisoners. There will be three contract deputies; Cave Junction, BLM, and Marine, but they will need to fulfill their contract duties and then can back up the Sheriff. Mr. Heck asked how many of the 30 beds in the jail would be used for Measure 11 folks and was told all of them. Mr. Hare asked if the current contract deputies would be bumped. Sue said ironically two of the three can continue as assigned. Mr. Hare asked if the ratio of support staff at 7 to 1 was appropriate. Sue explained the positions. She said if she received more patrol they would need more dispatch. Mr. Hare confirmed court security was mandated. Sue said yes, it was mandated, but they cannot afford it. She added she didn’t know how they were going to run on the budget they have. They cannot use volunteers to fill paid positions as it is against the union agreement. Mr. Hare asked if there were restrictions on the money received from the auction and asked if they had thought about consolidating their offices to the jail and having an MOU with the City for dispatch. Mr. West asked for language to enable the transfer of the auction proceeds. Rosemary Padgett, CFO, explained that it would require a transfer from the General Fund this fiscal year by the Board of Commissioners. She would bring requested budget changes to the committee for their review next week. Mr. Heck was concerned about litigation from the lack of civil papers being served.

ii) Juvenile Justice – Janine Wilson (D49)

Janine Wilson Director used **Exhibit B, Juvenile Justice**, to explain they would not be able to meet their priorities and the shelter would close on June 15. They will rent three detention beds in Jackson County but they focused on preserving court & field services. Mr. Heck asked how they would be able to have an officer present at every hearing. Janine said they would have four officers and this is one of their main duties. Court usually meets on Mondays.

iii) District Attorney – Stephen Campbell (D36)

Stephen Campbell, District Attorney said this was a sober time but they must carry on. Using **Exhibit C, District Attorney** he explained the top five duties of his office. He said for the last few years they have been saving forfeiture funds and have been able to add \$227,500 to next year’s budget, which will fund two attorneys for one year. Because of that they will only have to cut four attorneys. They will have no window service to the public except to greet witnesses in the morning and about one hour in the afternoon to present discovery to defense attorneys. He said they are working on a list of what crimes they will be able to continue to prosecute and listed some he could not. He did point out to the committee that he can try a case and win but with no jail beds available would have to ask the convicted person to show up the next morning to take a bus to prison. He felt he would do more plea bargaining and their participation in Mental

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Health and Drug Courts would be drastically reduced. He will have more information after he meets with his staff.

B) Adult Corrections – Abe Huntley (E1)

Abe Huntley, Director of Community Corrections said he was standing with a heavy heart hearing of the decimation of his partners services. Using **Exhibit D, Community Corrections** he explained that while they don't receive county funding they are dependent upon their partners. Mr. Heck asked if they used a drug dog and how was it paid for. Abe said the dog and its care are paid through a grant. Mr. Heck asked Sue Watkins about the Sheriff's Office canines. She said they would be using one and kenneling the others.

4) Public Comment on Presentations:

Judy Ahrens, Grants Pass thanked everyone and said she had learned a lot. She was concerned because she thought volunteers should be increased and felt the union leaders should be contacted to allow volunteers to pitch in. She would like to have a study group to see how they can decrease crime while they are in this dire situation.

Kevin Molteni, Grants Pass asked Sue Watkins if someone in rural Josephine County called 911 to report violence who would respond. Sue Watkins, Business Manager stated the Sheriff has said he will make himself available and if it is domestic violence the State Police may send a responder but would offer no follow up.

Pamela Hackett, Grants Pass said she was proud of the low tax rate in an age of so much waste, arrogance and unaccountability. She felt government is broken and cannot be fixed so they should not give the government any more money and hoped a tax revolt would start tonight in Josephine County.

5) General Discussion – Budget Committee

Chair Haugen asked if anyone had issues they would like the Budget Officer to prepare for discussion next week. None were heard.

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

Chair Haugen said next week the Budget Officer would provide a summary and review of all issues to be dealt with. He hoped they would be able to get through discussion and deliberation on the 22nd, making it their last meeting.

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

None heard.

Meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

Linda McElmurry, Recorder

Exhibit A Sheriff's Presentation
Exhibit B Juvenile Justice Presentation
Exhibit C District Attorney Presentation
Exhibit D Community Corrections Presentation