

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

DATE: May 19, 2021

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

Members Present: Scott W. Myers, Jim Hamsher, Sam Palmer, Rob Stewart, Amy Kreger and Bob Quinton.

Members Absent: None.

Others Present: Budget Officer Julie Ellison, Watermaster Eric Julsrud and Assistant Watermaster Hailey Hughes.

Minutes. The minutes of May 12th were reviewed. **MSP: Hamsher/Myers: to approve the May 12th minutes as presented.**

GENERAL FUNDS

Department: 101426 COUNTY LIBRARY

Page 16 TA

Staff Present: None.

Expense

5100001 Librarian: The committee discussed the upcoming retirement of the current Librarian. Julie advised the committee that HR would be meeting with Vicki to review the job description and make changes as appropriate to more accurately reflect the required duties. Amy questioned why the County Court did not discuss these issues with the Librarian prior to the budget process since she had given ample notice of her retirement. Amy suggested in the future it would make it easier on Julie if these types of decisions regarding staffing were discussed by the County Court prior to presenting the budget to the budget committee.

Department: 101430 ELECTIONS

Page 17 TA

Staff Present: None.

Department: 101439 JUVENILE DEPT

Page 18 TA

Staff Present: None.

Expense

Discussion General: Due to restructuring of personnel, the cost for personnel services will be \$144,943.

Department: 101451 RELIEF HELP

Page 19 TA

Revenue

3030193 COVID 19 Fiscal Recovery: Julie explained that she is only planning to receive \$700,000 in fiscal year 2021-22. Money received in 2020-21 will hopefully be able to remain in the general fund.

Expense

5200013 COVID 19 Fiscal Recovery: Julie explained that she is only planning to expend \$700,000 in fiscal year 2021-22.

Department: 101452 VETERAN'S SERVICE

Page 20 TA

Staff Present: None.

Expense

5200012 Office Expense: Reduced to \$30,026.

Department: 101453 PLANNING DEPT

Page 21 TA

Staff Present: None.

Department: 101456 4-H & EXTENSION

Page 22 TA

Staff Present: None.

Department: 101457 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Page 23 TA

Staff Present: Tory Stinnett.

Revenue

3030184 Economic Dev Video-Poker: Increased to \$130,000.

Expense

5200014 Economic Development Video-Poker: Increased to \$130,000.

Department: 101458 ECONOMIC STABILIZATION

Page 24 TA

Staff Present: Tory Stinnett.

Revenue

3030193 COVID 19 Assist: Changed to \$12,250.

3030197 CDBG Grant: Increased to \$300,000.

Expense

5100002 Relief Help: \$6,000 was left in this budget line. The committee advised the Economic Director that if relief help was needed for special projects she needed to request court approval.

5100003 Economic Specialist: The committee discussed the hours for this position and the position was added a couple of years ago at .75 FTE. The County Court had agreed to increase the hours to full time, but only through the end of June 2021. This position has been again budgeted for .75 FTE (30 hours per week). **MSP: Myers/Palmer: to leave the position as proposed at .75 FTE. All committee members voted yes except for Hamsher who voted no.**

5200013 COVID 19 Assist: Changed to \$12,250.

5200049 CDBG Grant Exp: Increased to \$300,000.

SPECIAL FUNDS

Department: 102100 ROAD

Page 26-28 TA

Staff Present: None.

Revenue

3030204 Misc: Decreased to \$25,000 due to decimal placement error.

Expense

Discussion general: The committee discussed the fact that the county is not obligated to distribute excess SRS funding to schools or cities within the county.

5600004 Trans-School Forest: Decreased to \$360,123 to reflect actual SRS receipts.

5600017 Trans-Cities-Streets-Bridges: Decreased to \$406,243 to reflect actual SRS receipts.

5900070 Unappropriated End Bal: Changed to \$7,383,708 because of SRS funding.

Department: 103100 COUNTY SCHOOL

Page 29 TA

Department: 104100 SCHOOL FOREST

Page 30 TA

Revenue

3030442 Transfer – Road Funds: Decreased to \$360,123 to reflect SRS receipts.

Expense

5200014 ORS 294.060 ADM Dist: Decreased to \$360,123 to reflect SRS receipts.

Department: 105100 LAW LIBRARY

Page 31 TA

Department: 108100 EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Page 32 TA

Staff Present: None.

Revenue

3030816 OEM Grant: Increased to \$165,000. The Emergency Manager requested this line be increased in case of maximum grant approval.

3030821 FEMA Grant: Increased to \$350,000. The Emergency Manager requested this line be increased in case of maximum grant approval.

Expense

5200016 OEM Grant: Increased to \$165,000. The Emergency Manager requested this line be increased in case of maximum grant approval.

5200018 FEMA Grant: Increased to \$350,000. The Emergency Manager requested this line be increased in case of maximum grant approval.

Department: 111100 FAIR RESERVE

Page 34 TA

Staff Present: Mindy Winegar via telephone.

Revenue

3031112 Transfer – Fair: Increased to \$45,000 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

Expense

5400003 Capital Outlay-Bldg/Grounds: Increased to \$50,639 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

Department: 112100 COUNTY FAIR

Page 35-36 TA

Staff Present: Mindy Winegar via telephone.

Revenue

3031204 Misc: Increased to \$150,000 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds. Amy questioned why COVID money projected to be received isn't being used to replace the deficit in the Courthouse Reserve Fund for money that was spend on this year's project at the Fairgrounds? She believes the money used for the project should be replaced prior to being spent on anything else.

Expense

5200015 Judges: Increased to \$5,000 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

5200018 Entertainment: Increased to \$75,000 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

5200023 Fair Expenses: Increased to \$75,000 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

5400001 Capital Outlay Equip/Furn: Increased to \$62,500 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

5600011 Trans-Fair: Increased to \$45,000 to accommodate potential American Relief Act funds.

Department: 113100 CLERKS RECORDS

Page 37 TA

Staff Present: None.

Department: 115100 JUVENILE REVOLVING

Page 38 TA

Staff Present: None.

Department: 116100 EQUIPMENT RESERVE

Page 40 TA

Department: 117100 CITIES-STREETS-BRIDGES

Page 41 TA

Cities Present: None.

Revenue

3031742 Trans Rd: Decreased to \$406,243 to reflect actual SRS funding receipts.

Expense

5200011 Allocate Cities: Decreased to \$406,243 to reflect actual SRS funding receipts.

Department: 118100 COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS Page 42-43 TA

Staff Present: None.

Revenue

3031857 Justice Reinvest Grant: Changed to \$0 because the grant has stipulations the Sheriff does not agree with.

Expense

Discussion General: Due to restructuring of personnel, the total for personnel services changed to \$203,623.

5200057 Justice Reinvest Expense: Changed to \$0 because the grant has stipulations the Sheriff does not agree with.

Department: 119100 ROAD RESERVE Page 44 TA

Department: 120100 UNEMPLOYMENT RESERVE Page 45 TA

Department: 121100 AIRPORT RESERVE Page 46 TA

Staff Present: None.

Revenue

3010101 Cash on Hand: Decreased to \$13,500 due to an unexpected expense.

Expense

5400003 Capital Outlay-Building: Decreased to \$7,000 to pay for an unexpected expense to High Desert Aggregate.

Department: 122100 SURVEYOR SPECIAL Page 48 TA

Department: 123100 SHERIFF PATROLS Page 49 TA

Staff Present: Todd McKinley.

Revenue

Discussion General: The committee discussed this fund and the issues the Treasurer continues to have with it being in the red. Discussion regarding putting personnel costs and revenue from this fund into the general Sheriff's Department fund (101414) followed. The Sheriff agreed with the idea of placing the revenue and personnel services into 101414 and further advised the committee that he would be personally monitoring the hours worked. The possibility of changing this position to salaried and exempt was also talked about and Julie said she would ask HR to look into this. **MSP: Palmer/Kreger: to move this fund into 101414 County Sheriff Fund. All voted in favor.**

Department: 124100 AIRPORT Staff Present: None.	Page 51-52 TA
Department: 125100 MENTAL HEALTH Staff Present: None.	Page 53 TA
Department 126100 SOLID WASTE	Page 55 TA
Department: 127100 MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH Staff Present: None.	Page 56 TA
Department: 13100 COURTHOUSE RESERVE Revenue 3010101 Cash On Hand: Increased to \$224,575.	Page 57 TA
Expense 5400003 Capital Outlay Building Improvement: Increased to \$224,575.	
Department: 133100 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION Staff Present: None.	Page 58 TA
Department: 134100 DA REVOLVING Staff Present: None.	Page 59 TA
Department: 135100 COURT SECURITY	Page 61 TA
Department: 136100 COUNTY RV PARK	Page 62 TA
Department: 138100 SENIOR CITIZENS Staff Present: None.	Page 64-65 TA
Department: 142100 FOREST TITLE III Revenue Discussion General: The Title III Coordinator will be zeroing this fund and placing any revenue remaining into 147100, which is new Title III.	Page 66 TA
Department: 143100 FAMILY DOMESTIC RELATIONS Revenue Staff Present: Tammy Wheeler. Discussion General: Julie mentioned this fund is getting low. Tammy Wheeler said revenue is received once per year from the legislature.	Page 67 TA
Department: 147100 FOREST TITLE III SRS Revenue Staff Present: None.	Page 68 TA

Discussion General: Julie pointed out the revenue in this fund is getting low. Scott reported that Irene Jerome is aware of the lower revenue and wishes for this fund to last longer. The court and Jerome will mutually work on an agreement to reduce contract costs when it renews in December 2021.

**Department: 101100 NON-DEPARTMENTAL
Revenue**

Page 1 TA

3030142 PILT – Fed Entitlement: Currently budgeted to receive \$500,000. If actual revenue received is higher than this, the extra funding will be placed in contingency.

3030162 ADM Sheriff Patrol: \$0 due to moving to general sheriff fund.

Expense

Discussion General: The committee agreed to leave the county contribution of \$35,000 to animal damage control.

5200001 Office/Computer Supplies: Increased to \$25,000 due to mandatory ESD upgrades.

5200002 Telephone

5200021 Court Appointed Attorney: Due to recent expenses Julie increased this to \$8,000.

5200027 Public Health Support: The committee agreed to leave \$50,000 in this line item.

**Department: 101412 PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT
Staff Present: None**

Page 4 TA

Revenue

3030198 Personnel Mgr Reimburse: Decrease to \$47,350 due to moving sheriff patrol to general sheriff fund.

**Department: 101414 COUNTY SHERIFF
Staff Present: Todd McKinley**

Page 6 TA

Revenue

Discussion General: Due to the decision to move Sheriff's Patrol into the general fund County Sheriff budget the following changes were made:

3030171 MNFS Reimbursement: \$43,387.

3030172 BLM Reimbursement: \$20,000.

3030180 Search/Rescue Forest: \$15,000.

3030181 Transport Contract: \$14,000.

Expense

5100006 SAR Coord/Forest Patrol: \$41,908.

5100094 Social Security: Increase to \$83,551.

5100096 SAIF: Increase to \$730.

5100097 Group Insurance: Increase to \$316,189.

5100098 Retirement: Increase to \$153,049.

General Discussion: Bob asked Julie if the general fund balances as long as the two contingency accounts are closed and Julie replied yes. Do the wages need to be adopted now or at the budget hearing? Julie believes the committee will have one more call in meeting and the committee can choose to adopt the wages then. The court will officially adopt the wage scales and COLA's as well and the current COLA rates are 1.21% for non-represented employees, 1.5% for the road union employees and 2.74% for the sheriff's department union employees.

Sam asked for clarification of the amount funded for predator control and Scott advised \$35,000 has been budgeted for this.

Tory Stinnett said she was unable to call in and wanted to know what the committee's decision was regarding her assistant. Bob advised the committee funded the position and .75 FTE. Tory asked if more funding became available if the hours could increase and Sam said if this happened, Tory could present the request to the County Court.

Amy wanted to go on record stating that she does not like this budget. Julie has advised the committee several times that if cuts are not made then the committee will be dealing with the same issues next year. Amy believes the committee should be pro-active because otherwise the county will be in deep trouble. She added she doesn't feel the committee has done their job responsibly with this budget and she doesn't see things changing. Spending money the county doesn't have makes her very uncomfortable.

Jim expressed his opinion that more funding will be coming in from PILT and other sources.

Reporter Steven Mitchell asked how the county got here and what is being done to insure it doesn't happen again?

Amy believes the amount of FTE's and cost of employee benefits needs to be looked at.

Julie gave examples of increased costs such as: since 2013 \$600,000 has been given to the health department, \$35,000 has been provided to predator control for each of the last three years, and two new positions were added in the jail at a cost of around \$100,000 each per year.

Sam mentioned lost revenue sources from businesses that have closed over the years (such as sawmills) and added we now have one of the highest unemployment rates in the state, but when sawmills were active here our county had funding and low unemployment rates.

Bob agreed with Sam, but said when revenue goes down, spending needs to as well. Bob stated he is not comfortable with this budget and the overspending. He questioned why more people have been hired when technology available today should allow for less employees, not more.

Jim believes that building maintenance that was put off for years (such as the courthouse roof and pavilion floor) have also played a part in the funding issues because the fixes were not budgeted for, but had to be completed to the tune of almost half a million dollars.

Amy questioned why the money used to fix the pavilion floor was taken from the courthouse reserve account, but the money that came back from CARES Act funding wasn't returned to the reserve account.

Scott doesn't believe it is practical for departments to request additional hours for employees from the court given the discussions being held regarding cuts and reduced hours. He agreed the court hasn't been doing the best job cutting spending, but believes this has been better lately. He added the money arriving from PILT and other sources is not a fix to the budget problems, but rather just a delay.

Amy again expressed her opinion that the committee should be pro-active with cuts and said hours could always be added back to positions.

Scott said future decisions regarding the budget should include the entire budget committee and not just the court members. Amy and Rob both agreed.

Rob is not happy with the budget and said the county has been burned before by expecting money that didn't arrive. He is not comfortable with the lack of guidance on how the COVID money can be used.

Jim talked about PILT funding and potential changes to SRS funding. He also stated there is a federal bill being discussed that would set a flat dollar amount per acre for federal land within counties. If this bill passes it would likely increase payments to Grant County substantially because there is over a million acres of federal land within the county.

Steven asked what the county was going to do to make sure these budget issues don't happen again, notwithstanding PILT funding. Scott replied that mistakes and oversights were made along the way, but is hoping lessons were learned.

Julie said she told the committee last year when the budget was adopted that the county needed to start cutting costs and freezing hiring. She hopes that this year this is taken seriously. She would like everyone to look at the budget and see where cuts can be made next year because it is going to have to happen.

Scott thinks some cuts can be made from attrition/retirement, but that won't be much.

Amy requested a mid-year update be provided to budget committee members.

Bob understands that at the department head meeting the consensus was no-one wants cuts, but without cutting some here the county will be in this position again next year and large cuts to positions (including job losses) are likely. He asked Eric Julsrud how the state selects what Assistant Watermaster positions it will fund? Eric said the state bases the selection on criteria such as regulatory and/or legal issues a county might have. Bob asked if the County Court lobbied the water resource board would it possibly help. Eric believes it would.

Steven asked for clarification regarding furloughs, position cuts and predator control funding. The committee advised furloughs and position cuts are not being looked at and predator control funding is budgeted at \$35,000.

Jim is hopeful that PILT will be changed to permanent funding so counties know each year what will be coming in.

Bob advised the time has come to vote on the budget. **MSP: Hamsher/Palmer – to approve the budget as presented. Scott, Jim and Sam voted yes. Rob**

and Amy voted no. Bob abstained because the budget process needs to move forward, otherwise he would vote no and does not agree with the budget presented.

Next meeting June 2, 2021 at 9 a.m.

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rob Stewart
Secretary