

Jefferson County Commissioner Meeting Minutes August 8, 2013

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm. Those present are Chairman Raymond, Commissioner Farnsworth, and Commissioner Hegsted. Emily Kramer is Clerk of the board. Chairman Raymond gave the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Hegsted gave the prayer.

Chris arrives at 1:04 pm.

Commissioners

- **Budget Review**

Chris says the State does not have numbers for us. Chris distributes new spreadsheets. Chris says the maximum levy allowed will remain the same of \$5,510,125. Chris says this is what all clerks and assessors across the State are dealing with. Chris says the \$25,000 that we need to cut remains the same. Chris says the budget will be published higher so we can publish next week, but will still have to work on the budget. Chris says the taxable value is a new number that came from the State yesterday, but it isn't approved. Chris says the State has a problem with their numbers and so they won't approve their numbers. Chris says when they did what they did with the personal property it did not work out how it was supposed to. Chris says the new number is excluding personal property. Chris says we have taken some out, but we don't know how much to take out. Chris does some calculations on the board. Chris says she's calculated a rough levy rate to use today since we don't have the numbers from the State. Chris says the rough calculation is that the dollar amount may go up for property owners from last year to \$41.32 per \$100,000. Chairman Raymond asks where the money is that we are going to get from the State in lieu of personal property. Chris says she thinks will get \$47,670 from the State on personal property replacement. Chris says she doesn't think the projected amount for Solid Waste is going to come in so we may have to cut \$300,000. Chairman Raymond asks if the amount is different than last year and why. Chris says we don't have as much coming in as last year. Chris says she's going to really work on Solid Waste this next week. Chris says you are going to have to meet with your Public Works administrator and decide if you want to take it all out of the Special levy and fund Road and Bridge with other funds. Chris would recommend levying only in Special. Chris asks if they have ideas on what they want to cut because they need to cut \$25,000 possibly \$300,000. Chris says she can publish as is today. Chairman Raymond asks when we have to be done with the budget. Chris says our budget hearing is September 3rd at 9 am. Commissioner Hegsted asks where the PILT money is. Chris says PILT goes in to Road and Bridge. Chris says she doesn't know what the PILT amount will be. Chris says she'd recommend that no major purchases be done until the end of June. Chris says she's never had a budget like this. Chris says the only thing we can do is watch numbers. Chris says we can meet on August 26th to discuss numbers. Chris puts the budget review on the agenda for the 26th and shows the commissioners the agenda for that day. The commissioners say it looks good. Chairman Raymond asks if Chris needs the budget review on the agenda for the 12th. Chris says she'll try to work on Solid Waste tomorrow. Chris asks if they have any suggestions as of yet. Chairman Raymond says he doesn't. Commissioner Hegsted says if we don't know what we are subtracting, how do we do anything? Chris says you need to subtract \$25,000 and at least \$200,000. Chairman Raymond asks if what we are looking at right now is the same salary line as we had last year. Chris says the bottom dollar on the salary line is the same as last year. Chris

says you could take one month's insurance payment out of the Veba trust. Chris says but will need to have more money in the Veba trust to pay the new healthcare payments. Chairman Raymond asks if anyone is planning on attending the insurance training. Chris says Marilyn and her are. Chris says we haven't seen the insurance amount for next year. Chris says we had quite a bit of new hires and she will need to look at them to adjust the insurance line. Chairman Raymond asks it almost appears that whatever we do we won't be solving problems will be band aiding problems. Chairman Raymond wonders if we should think seriously about going out for a bond on the courthouse. Chris says a lot depends on our lawsuit, DEQ, etc... Chris says you may have a reduction in force. Chris says we may have to do some dual training and dual roles with employees. Chris says we may all have to cut a person if we have to. Chris says what is the State going to do on the Indigent Program. Chris says the State is going to determine if we should have the levying power. Commissioner Hegsted asks what day the conference is in September. Chris says September 23rd through the 25th. Chairman Raymond says he does not know what to do so we will just have to publish. Chris says she needs approval to levy in Special and not in Road and Bridge. Chairman Raymond says he is not sure we have enough in the bridge line. Chris says she is going to have to make sure the revenues match tomorrow before publishing. Chairman Raymond asks how much money we are going to levy in Special. Commissioner Hegsted asks where the revenue line is for the Weed department. Commissioner Hegsted says he's looking at the projected budget for Weeds and he wonders why it's so large. Commissioner Hegsted explains to the other two about 5C detention. Chris runs a Weed revenue report. Commissioner Hegsted leaves at 2:17 pm. Chris says she can transfer some money from the trust, but the revenues coming in aren't what were projected. Chairman Raymond asks about the debt service fund and why there is no non-tax revenue money showing. Chris says the reason it is zero is because she doesn't know where we are going to fund it from. Chris says she thinks will need to rework the Weed department budget. Chris says she'd recommend the commissioners work on the Weed department and she will work on Solid Waste. Chairman Raymond says they have a strong appetite to create a HR department. Chris says that will be on you. Chris said it did not work in Fremont County. It depends on who your clerk is and who your payroll clerk is. Chris says they could have a new HR person and put them under the Clerk's Office you could. Chris asks are you going to hire a new person. Chairman Raymond points at Emily. Chris says she does not have a problem with it, but there may be a problem with some employees. Chris says if you take Emily, she won't have a Chief Deputy. Chris says you have to decide where you will benefit more from. Chairman Raymond says we have a lot of employees and problems and we feel this is where we will benefit more from. Chris says you can't have HR directly under the commissioners. It needs to be its own department. Chris says she thinks it's a great idea and she'll support it, but the commissioners need to figure it out. Chairman Raymond says the reason they want a HR position is to create a better work environment. Chairman Raymond mentions they need to spend more time with their departments. The commissioners agree to levy in Special.

Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to approve the printing of the preliminary budget. Second by Chairman Raymond. Roll call taken. Farnsworth – aye. Raymond – aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Farnsworth to adjourn at 3:41 pm. Second by Chairman Raymond. Roll call taken. Farnsworth – aye. Raymond – aye. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman of the Board

Clerk of the Board

County Clerk