

Jefferson County Commissioner Meeting Minutes September 2, 2014

Meeting called to order at 9:01 am. Those present are Commissioner Farnsworth, Commissioner Hegsted and Chairman Raymond. Edidt Ramirez and Chris Boulter are clerking the board. Commissioner Hegsted leads in the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Farnsworth offered the prayer.

Commissioners

- **Public Hearing-2015 Budget**

Chairman Raymond states the budget amount was higher when published. The budget is contingent depending on revenues. If the estimated revenue does not come in the dollars will not be spent. Commissioner Raymond invites the public to speak.

Bruce Robert Baxter lives in Idaho Falls but states his address is considered Jefferson County. He feels the published budget should be available at least 30 days in advance so people have time to review it in depth. Mr. Baxter says he has researched, and is concerned about vehicles estimated insurance cost. He also speaks about equipment and says he would like Mr. Snarr to review them. He states he will write to ICRMP about the valuations. He states that he believes things in Jefferson County are worth about 10 times as much as other places. Mr. Baxter also states that he doesn't understand the amount budgeted for the prosecutor's office and recommends the business judgment rule be researched by the commissioners. He speaks about the reimbursement from the prosecutor stating that he doesn't think it was correct that he not pay \$2,000.00 because office supplies and such are already paid otherwise. He also states the he thinks much of the overhead for prosecutor's office is paid by the county and shouldn't be that way. Next to speak is Renee Stucki residing at 103 N. 3600 E. Rigby, ID. She states that salaries and insurance are down but everything else is up about 13%. Mrs. Stucki talks about there being more than a million dollars that could make the courthouse payment. Speaking now is Gary Maples residing at 627 N. 3510 E. in Menan, ID. And he is a member of the Menan city council. Mr. Maples speaks about when his wife and him doing their own budget they never consider the "if". He is concerned about basing the budget on the "if come" and doesn't like this aspect of the budget. He states that usually once a fee is raised it's a bad practice to come back later on and continue raising the fee. He doesn't believe the land fill fee will be brought back down after the courthouse is paid.

Up to speak is Jerry Whitehead residing at 221 N. 3383 E. Grant, ID. He states he is concerned in the aspect of budget. He states there is \$331, 570.00 worth of miscellaneous wants to know what it is. He would also like to know what dues and memberships are in the budget. He is assuming that the two columns are what has been requested and what was granted. Considering this he noticed some of these departments requested less but did receive more. He inquires about the treasurer's budget for a deputy treasurer part time, employee recognition, cloud seeding, dues and memberships because he does not understand these. Mr. Whitehead also asks for clarification on what overhead is for \$30,000.00 and would like to know if there are any buildings owned by the county to hold the prosecutor's office rather than renting. He wonders what the ambulance contract

is. He speaks about road and bridge where it speaks about medical insurance and wonders if this is based on the number of employees. He states they are reducing salaries by \$18,000.00 yet medical insurance is going down. He states that the Emulsion tank fund has a miscellaneous expense that he believes should be itemized. As for the jail he wonders if inmates could do the janitorial and other jail repairs. He states that the indigent department should also really be looked at.

Chairman Raymond states he appreciates the information, opinions and suggestions. He states that in general some of the questions asked will require more than just simple answer. He states that PILT is expected in 2015 however it is not guaranteed. He states that the budget needs to be done with expectation of revenues because if it is not done this way the budget will have to be opened up. Chairman explains that the dues and membership are with IAC, IAT, trainings and such that need to be done. RC&D is cloud seeding which is putting moisture in storage if it were needed. Next Chairman explains that Computer Arts is technical support for computer software's etc, the ambulance contract is in place because there is no ambulance in Jefferson County therefore there needs to be a contract in place so the city of Idaho falls ambulance can respond and have first call ambulance service. Next he explains that there is a fair amount of things taken care of by the inmates in the jail however due to legal and other issues the inmates cannot perform some of these other tasks. It is also explained to the public that the emulsion tanks stores the oil for the durapatcher which repairs potholes in the road. Surrounding counties also purchase this oil from Jefferson County. As for the Miscellaneous line it means that the county doesn't know how much oil is going to be purchased. Clerk Chris Boulter explains that clerk's office will provide information on break down of miscellaneous if it is requested. As for the indigent department Clerk Boulter explains that cases are gone through in depth. County is obligated by statute to pay the bill on indigent bills; however these are reimbursed on cases to who has been approved. The buildings that county owns include; the building where 4H office is, solid waste, road and bridge, health district in Mud lake, and weed department. The courthouse facility has been used as much as possible.

Public Hearing concludes at 9:46 a.m.

Commissioner Hegsted requests that clerk speak about the differences in salaries and insurance. Clerk Boulter indicates that a lot of the lines that were higher stay down and she has allowed a "cushion" in case a change was made in insurance. Clerk says the budget has been reworked, many times and has been one of the most difficult budgets she has worked on. Clerk states that the published budget is a working budget and it is still a tentative budget.

Commissioner Farnsworth says he doesn't believe the rent increase should be done and believes that before raising the rent amount they need to look for a less expensive building. He doesn't believe a contract should be done and is not in favor of the salary increase. Commissioner Farnsworth would like to see the Sheriff's old budget because he believes it went up and he also states that he doesn't want to see a salary increase for the Sheriff. Commissioner Farnsworth also speaks in regard to the prosecutors salary increase. Chairman Raymond asks Commissioner Farnsworth if he thinks things are on track. Chairman Raymond speaks about there never being a full time prosecutor in Jefferson County and why the office was left out of the courthouse. Prosecutor Dunn speaks in regards to this. Historically when the courthouse was built there was a request

by the prosecutors to purchase a piece of land by the courthouse. This was denied because commissioners at time didn't believe was a good option. Prosecutor Dunn explains he pays taxes on the building and explains they have divided out personal from county use. Prosecutor explains that he doesn't believe what is suggested is a bad idea and does think it would take approx 20 years to build a building and fully staff it. The reason being is because they would have to weigh it to fund a new building. Mr. Dunn states he thinks the ideas given by Commissioner Farnsworth and the public are good and recommends that they do some research on the subject. Clerk Boulter speaks to Commissioner Farnsworth explaining that most of the increase comes from Badger Medical which was increased significantly because the hit taken last year at the jail. Commissioner Hegsted speaks about the prosecutor's and sheriff's salaries making comparisons to like counties; showing those prosecutors and sheriffs are paid quite a bit more than those of Jefferson County.

Motion by Commissioner Hegsted to approve the budget in the amount of \$16,600,692.01; motion is seconded by Chairman Raymond. Roll call taken Commissioner Farnsworth-aye, Chairman Raymond-aye, and Commissioner Hegsted-aye. Motion passes

Carlos Aponte

- **County Health Insurance**

Carlos is present today to follow up on the dental portion of insurance. Last year Blue Cross paid claims on dental in the amount of \$155,845.00. Carlos states that Delta Dental is a very compatible company and has the same providers in this area and would provide savings to the county. The only change would be carrying two different insurance cards. Carlos proposes commissioners to look into changing to Delta Dental because of a better discount. Now speaking about health insurance with Pacific Source the county would only seeing about a \$6,000.00 savings and with Blue Cross there would be a \$39,000.00 increase. Pacific Source does not have Mountain View Hospital in tier 1 so the employees would be paying a lot more in they have specialists and procedures with Mountain View Hospital. Carlos states that the balance on VEBA not including deposits is \$415,524.91 not including current claims. Emily reports about survey sent out to the employees. Most employees rather option 1 even though they would have to pay more for insurance. There were some employees that chose option 2. Some employees didn't understand why HRA would be taken away. There were also some that didn't respond with an option choice. Chairman Raymond says he is not in favor of doing away with HRA but does want Carlos to explain this better. Carlos states he is not proposing to get rid of the HRA benefits. He reports there would be a 7.5 increase overall to the county and having Delta Dental will help to keep \$350,000.00 in VEBA. Carlos informs the commissioners HRA can be reconstructed if needed because the county chooses the amount given to employees. Discussion is held between Carlos and Commissioners about the HRA. Carlos will come back next week to explain HRA and self-funding

Motion made by Commissioner Hegsted to switch to Delta Dental based on the savings for next year; motion is seconded by Commissioner Farnsworth Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth-aye, Commissioner Hegsted-aye, Chairman Raymond-aye. Motion passes

Motion is made by Commissioner Farnsworth to switch from Blue Cross effective January 1st, 2015 with a 3.5% increase to county and a 15% increase to the employees; motion is seconded by Commissioner Hegsted. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth-aye, Commissioner Hegsted-aye, Chairman Raymond-aye. Motion passes

Break for 5 minutes

Public Works-Paul Snarr

- **Vehicle Purchase**

Paul hands commissioners some bids for the Chevy Equinoxes. Tadd Jenkins said he would match Smith Chevrolet's prices. Paul would like to get 2 of these vehicles; one for his use and the other for Roxanne and Cassey's use. The budget line has \$46,000 available for vehicles.

Motion made by Commissioner Hegsted to authorize public works admin to purchase 2 equinoxes for the price of \$21,527.00 each(piggybacking on the state bid); motion is seconded by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth-aye, Commissioner Hegsted-aye, Chairman Raymond-aye. Motion passes.

- **IWORQ**

Paul speaks about this computer program software named IWORQ which is used for roads and road conditions currently. There are two additional modules available one of them is for fleet management. This one keeps track of stock items and prices and places where they can be purchased. The price for this module would be \$2,000 per year and a \$600.00 charge to get it installed and for training. The other module is for work management and service request. This one keeps track of bridges and culverts, signs conditions, locations etc. keeps track of all maintenance records also. With these modules there is unlimited tech support and phone trainings. The cost for the second module is \$4,730.00 a year and a \$600.00 startup cost. Commissioner Hegsted asks if there is a software line that this can be pulled out of; the response is yes.

Commissioners

- **Credit Card Assignment-Paul Snarr**

Motion made by Commissioner Hegsted to assign a credit card for \$1,000.00 not to exceed without prior approval of the commissioners; motion is seconded by Commissioner Farnsworth. Roll call taken. Commissioner Farnsworth-aye, Commissioner Hegsted-aye, Chairman Raymond-aye. Motion passes

Motion made by Commissioner Hegsted to amend his prior motion and change the amount of the approved budget from \$16,600,692.01 amount to \$16,656,467.01 rather than the first amount that was stated with a difference; motion is seconded by Chairman Raymond. Roll call taken Commissioner Farnsworth nay, Commissioner Hegsted aye, Chairman Raymond aye. Motion passes

- **Sign Certificates of Residency**
Certificates of residency signed.

Clerk- Christine Boulter

- **2015 Budget**

Chris speaks about the changes compared to the previous budget sheets brought in. On Commissioners line the amount came up \$20,000.00 for the legal line. Also including \$1,725.00. In data processing is \$2, 000 brought down and \$2,000 up that Cody said she needed because Computer Arts will be here 3 days a week rather than 2 days a week. The General fund went down because the dropped contingency. Road and bridge's budget was down too low so had to bring the amount up. As for the justice fund \$20,000.00 were put back into the vehicle line. Chris goes over budget with commissioners page by page. Clarification all 3 offices (clerk, assessor, treasurer) are all in the same salary. Page 26 with sheriff's salary remains the same no raise in salary. Only a \$80,000.00 increase in the sheriff's budget. Sheriff explains what the inmates can do as for janitorial and other jobs in the jail. Sheriff welcomes anyone to come shadow the deputies so they can get a feel of what goes on in the jail. Sheriff speaks about being just about the only jail that doesn't have a television. Short discussion held about translator services from indigent director. Public works director salary is divided out between the solid waste part and Road and Bridge departments. The solid waste revenues were lowered. Chris reviews another form with the commissioners and explains to them points that they will need to watch for in the next budget year. The general fund will have an excess but it is not in the budget. If step and grade were to be implemented it would require a public hearing and they would trade revenue sharing with the levying in the general fund. If funds are short on the medical aspect they would have to open up the budget. If step and grade were to be brought into place it would be less than a 3% increase to the employees but could do a onetime allowance of COLA..

Motion made by Commissioner Hegsted to adopt resolution #2014-14 to approve the budget; motion is seconded by Chairman Raymond. Roll call taken Commissioner Farnsworth-nay, Commissioner Hegsted-aye, Chairman Raymond aye. Motion passes

Motion to adjourn at 1:18 p.m. made by Chairman Raymond motion is seconded by Commissioner Hegsted. All in favor. Motion passes

Chairman of the Board

Clerk of the Board

County Clerk