

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 31, 2001
12:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins
Linda Steinman

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Director
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (693)

Present was Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director.

Ahlberg stated the biggest change was in salaries and noted that last year the County Board approved \$15,000 for a temporary employee which was not used. He explained he had originally planned on updating the local Emergency Operations Plan, however, the funds which were to be used were not made available by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Ahlberg stated he would like to increase the \$15,000 to \$17,500 which would be reimbursable funds through the State of Nebraska.

Other increases reflected were as follows:

- ▶ Fuel - \$300
- ▶ Other Equipment (Siren Replacement Schedule)

Ahlberg commented that he would like to retain the siren on top of the YMCA, which was due to be replaced. He stated Schmader's inspected the siren and indicated it continues to be functional. Ahlberg explained that the University of Nebraska is purchasing a 2001 warning system to be located at North 14th and New Hampshire Streets which will cover Memorial Stadium, Haymarket Park and a large percentage of downtown. The money set aside to replace the siren on top of the YMCA could be used for another location.

Ahlberg also noted that a used siren will be installed in Pioneers Park which will cover the playground area, Pinewood Bowl and a portion of the golf course. He said he would also be meeting with St. Mark's Church regarding the installation of warning siren at South 84th Street and Pioneers Boulevard.

Ahlberg also stated he would like to retain the \$4,000 budgeted for his "backup" which would allow Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer, a one year period to see if he has sufficient time to act as the "backup".

Ahlberg addressed Line Item 3062 (Equipment Maintenance Agreements) and stated it was for siren repair.

A \$500 increase in printing costs was noted, however, with the purchase of a CD burner the printing costs would be minimal.

In response to a question asked by Heier regarding Data Transmission Network (DTN), Ahlberg stated an additional \$1,500 would be needed for transmittal over Channel 5. He explained he had visited with Channels 8 and 10 and they have agreed to put crawlers on the bottom of the television screen based upon information provided to them by Emergency Management.

Campbell inquired about the use of Keno funds for sirens.

Kroeker stated they transferred \$37,570 from the Keno Fund to General Fund for the first year of siren replacement.

Campbell suggested that they continue to use money from the Keno Fund for siren replacement.

REGISTER OF DEEDS (604)

Present were Dan Nolte, Registrar of Deeds and Maura Kelly-Tolzien, Deputy Registrar of Deeds.

Nolte stated his budget reflects an increase in personnel due to an increase in filings because of economic conditions and general growth in the community. He stated he would like to hire one additional clerical employee and one temporary employee.

Kroeker asked Nolte why he used a temporary agency.

Nolte explained that it has been their experience that they can obtain a better trained individual in a more timely fashion by using a temporary agency.

Kroeker asked if the work was year round.

Nolte responded that work would be for approximately 12 to 14 months, however, if the individual isn't needed for that length of time, they wouldn't be utilized.

Nolte stated he had projected a \$10,300 expenditure for Line Item 3091 (Temporary Services) through June 30, 2001.

In response to a question asked by Kroeker regarding revenues, Nolte stated there is a significant increase in revenues when the last two months are compared to the same two months of the previous year.

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT (066)

Present was Don Killeen, Building Administrator.

Killeen gave a brief overview, noting the following changes:

- ▶ Juvenile Detention Center to be included in the budget in November or December. Also includes an additional .5 full-time employee (FTE).
- ▶ Mental Health Center which includes the following:
 1. Remodel of client account area
 2. Control modifications
 3. Installation of access room
 4. Install automatic flush valves
 5. Replace entryway concrete
 6. Waterproof basement wall
 7. Damper replacement
 8. Rework flower bed area
 9. Resurface parking lot

Killeen stated that Line Item 3070 (Janitorial Services) should be decreased by \$36,000.

Kroeker inquired about the utilities at the juvenile detention facilities once they become vacant.

Killeen stated there would be some minor utilities and that he had some monies budgeted.

Kroeker asked if the \$67,000 subsidy at Trabert Hall was because of vacancies.

Killeen responded yes. He added that Dean Settle, Executive Director at the Community Mental Health Center, anticipates some use of Trabert Hall in July and Community Alternatives will be using a section of the lower level, beginning in June.

CORRECTIONS (671)

Present were Mike Thurber, Corrections Director and Liz Thanel, Business Manager for Corrections.

Thanel disseminated documentation entitled Summary Analysis of Requested Budget (Exhibit 1) and explained that documentation shows a 12.2 percent increase in total expenditures. She stated she felt the numbers were misleading because the approved budget (7.267percent) is being compared to the budget request. Thanel stated when the budget was developed in February, 2000 their population was at 323, however, as soon as the request was in place the jail population went to 340. She explained that the current budget request is based on a population of 377 which is a 17 percent increase. Thanel stated they had requested a 7.5 percent increase last year and received a 7.2 percent increase based on a population of 323, however, they paid for a population of 377. She stated if you compare what it actually cost Corrections to what they are requesting the increase is five percent.

Hudkins asked why supplies/pharmaceutical costs had increased 20 percent.

Thanel responded that they are using more drugs because of the population and also because they are better and cost more.

Steinman asked if any of the costs were reflected in the use of psycho tropic drugs.

Thurber responded yes. He also added that they would be working with their doctors to seek other avenues of medication.

Thurber gave a brief overview of Exhibit 1 (Summary Analysis of Requested Budget), noting the following increases:

- ▶ Merit and cost of living increases
- ▶ Health and dental increases
- ▶ Food service increases

Thurber also reviewed the following requested increase in personnel or services (pages 38 and 39 in the Lancaster County Proposed Budget for 2001-2002):

- ▶ Four additional correctional officers - \$124,850
- ▶ One program administrator - \$58,000
- ▶ Drug testing program - \$12,000
- ▶ Buildings - \$80,000

Campbell questioned the reasons for an increase in temporary salaries and the decrease in overtime.

Thanel explained they have been able to employ more on-call correctional officers to cover vacations and to fill vacancies which has decreased overtime and increased temporaries.

In response to a question asked by Campbell regarding Line Item 3057 (Consulting Services), Thanel stated those fees were for the needs assessment.

Kroeker stated they are taking those monies out of Keno funds and some of the costs would be recovered.

Campbell asked about Line Item 3091 (Temporary Services).

Thanel replied that was for temporary medical staff.

In response to a question asked by Campbell, Kroeker stated there are six positions needed which are not included in the budget (pages 38 and 39 of the Lancaster County Proposed Budget for 2001-2002). The positions located on pages eight and nine are not included in the budget.

Campbell asked if money had been budgeted for implementation of recommendations from the needs assessment consultant.

Kroeker stated \$500,000 had been placed in the General Fund under Justice Miscellaneous (Line Item 3411), however, Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator, had applied for a grant which decreases that amount by \$128,000.

In response to a question asked by Campbell, Thanel stated they would collect approximately the same amount from the City next year as was collected for the current year. She said the rate would increase approximately one dollar a day if the population remains the same. Thanel stated the number of City days is dropping. Last year they represented 23 percent of the total days and this year they are at 18 percent.

Campbell asked how much the City would be affected if the six full-time employees are added.

Thanel responded if the total amount of \$340,000 for the additional employees were added, the City would pay \$50,000.

SHERIFF (651)

Present were Terry Wagner, County Sheriff and Bill Jarrett, Chief Deputy Sheriff.

Jarrett disseminated documentation regarding their budget request for 2001-2002 (Exhibit 2).

Wagner provided a brief overview of the budget, noting major changes:

- ▶ 13.19 percent increase in personnel costs
- ▶ 900 percent increase in data processing supplies (Line Item 2053)
- ▶ 18.5 percent increase in data processing services (Line Item 3053)
- ▶ 40 percent increase in medical services (Line Item 3058)
- ▶ 20.19 percent increase in other contractual services (Line Item 3076)
- ▶ Increases in meals (Line Item 3201), lodging (Line Item 3202), fares (Line Item 3203), parking (Line Item 3205) and vehicle rental (Line 3206) due to aircraft being grounded
- ▶ Decrease in aviation parts (Line Item 2313), airplane repair and maintenance (Line Item 3569) and other insurance (Line Item 3454)
- ▶ Increases in property insurance (Line Item 3451), liability insurance (Line Item 3452), vehicle insurance (Line Item 3453)
- ▶ 14.96 percent increase in building rents (Line Item 3604)
- ▶ 32.63 percent increase in motor vehicles (Line Item 4201). (One four-wheel drive vehicle replacement and the addition of one plain investigator's vehicle. Addition of one prisoner transportation van.)

Other allocations Wagner reviewed were:

- ▶ \$20,000 for aircraft in the event it cannot be sold
- ▶ \$30,000 for mobile radio replacement program
- ▶ \$20,000 for mobile data terminal project
- ▶ \$10,000 for handgun replacement project

In response to a question asked by Campbell regarding full-time employees (FTE), Wagner stated no new FTE's were added to the budget request.

Jarrett stated the County Board authorized the Sheriff's Office to hire one additional deputy for the junk vehicle program.

Campbell asked if the FTE which is being proposed would be a new position.

Jarrett replied yes and added that they had discussed an additional deputy for extraditions because they won't have the convenience of the aircraft.

Wagner stated the deputy who handles the data processing aspect of the office has reached retirement age and there is a possibility they may change the position to a civilian position.

ELECTION COMMISSION (607) & JURY COMMISSIONER (607)

Present were Dave Shively, Election Commissioner and Dee Lee, Election Commission Office.

Shively gave a brief overview of the requested budget, noting the following:

- ▶ Increase in Line Item 3251 (Postage) due to the increase in postage and the volume of absentee voting
- ▶ Increase in Line Item 3406 (Enrollment Fees)
- ▶ Decrease in Line Item 3604 (Rent Buildings)

It was also noted that photocopying and printing have increases due to absentee voting.

Shively stated he doesn't believe they will have to purchase additional polling booths. He explained once they are able to redesign the precincts they will have a better idea on what they need. It was noted that they do expect to merge a couple of precincts and to also create new ones.

Jury Commissioner (627)

Increases were noted on Line Item 3251 (Postage) and Line Item 3301 (Printing).

Shively added that they are working on new ways to send information electronically to the judges so that runners will not be needed.

HUMAN SERVICES & JUSTICE COUNCIL (837)

Present was Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator.

Boesch disseminated documentation regarding her budget request for 2001-2002 (Exhibit 3).

Boesch stated she has removed Cory Steele, expediter, from her budget because he should not be located in her office. She suggested moving Steele to Juvenile Probation.

Campbell suggested that Boesch and Kroeker speak with Lori Griggs, Chief Probation Officer.

Boesch inquired as to how to split the grants management position.

Board consensus to split the allocation for the grants management position 50 percent County and 50 percent City.

COUNTY TREASURER (603)

Present were Richard Nuernberger, County Treasurer and Terry Adams, Deputy County Treasurer.

Adams stated Lancaster County is averaging 3,500 new driver's licenses per year. He stated a new system will be installed in August or September will allow individuals to obtain their license in any county in the State. That will cause an increase in licenses issued in Lancaster County due to the number of University of Nebraska students in Lincoln.

In response to a question asked by Kroeker, Adams stated the County will keep \$2.75 of the license fee.

Adams stated they need three additional employees by July.

Adams addressed revenues by stating at the time the budget request was prepared in March or April it was estimated they would receive approximately 2.1 to 2.2 million dollars in interest next year, however, no one knows what the rates will be like in six to eight months. He stated they would like to do some more work on the revenues and meet with Kroeker at a later date.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk