

**MINUTES
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JUNE 14, 2001
1:00 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Kathy Campbell, Chair
Bob Workman, Vice Chair
Bernie Heier
Larry Hudkins

Commissioners Absent: Linda Steinman

Others Present: Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy County Clerk

Visitors Promotion (019)

Appearing were Mark Essman, Director of Visitors Promotion and Gary Powell, Business Manager.

Essman disseminated copies of the proposed 2001-2002 budget for Visitors Promotion (Exhibit 1) noting they are projecting a room tax fund source of approximately \$808,000. He explained that no figure is shown under the Lodging Line because that number has not been finalized. Essman also stated that no figure is shown under Miscellaneous and explained that those numbers come from room rebates which are requested from hotels on larger events and cannot be charted until the process begins.

Brief discussion took place regarding the increases/decreases in the following areas:

- ▶ Increase in salaries
- ▶ Increase in office supplies
- ▶ Decrease in event promotion

In response to a question asked by Workman as to how the Events Center fits into the scheme, Essman stated they would be treated as any other event which comes to Lincoln.

Campbell asked if there had been any discussion regarding new lodging facilities.

Essman stated there have been three hotel properties which have expressed interest in the 84th Street and Highway 2 area and the 70th Street and Highway 2 area.

COUNTY ENGINEER AND GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEM (GIS) (703 & 615)

Appearing were Don Thomas, County Engineer; Larry Worrell, County Surveyor; Jim Langtry, GIS Mapping Division Head and Candy Hunt, Administrative Services Officer.

County Engineer

A copy of the budget worksheet for Fiscal Year 2002 was disseminated (Exhibit 2).

Thomas noted an increase of 455.94 percent in Line Item 1105 (Workman's Compensation Insurance).

Kroeker stated in recent years there have been more workman's compensation pay outs and also indicated that individuals have been hiring attorneys to represent them.

Thomas noted the following decreases/increases:

- ▶ Decrease of 19.32 percent in Supplies and Materials
- ▶ Increase of 1.07 percent in Operating Expenses

Thomas referred to Line Item 4052 (Right-of-Way) and noted that \$16,000 should be subtracted from the total amount budgeted for Fiscal Year 2001 (\$92,732) explaining that the \$16,000 was for Kawasaki right-of-way. He also explained that \$15,000 of Line Item 4301 (Engineering) was for Kawasaki engineering.

He stated it appears that Capital Outlay is being decreased from \$149,000 to \$128,575 when in actuality it is increasing from \$117,000 for Fiscal Year 2001 to \$128,575 for Fiscal Year 2002.

Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

A copy of the budget worksheet for Fiscal Year 2002 was distributed (Exhibit 3).

Langtry stated the major change was Workman's Compensation Insurance which increased 594.92 percent.

Another substantial change noted by Langtry was a decrease in Line Item 3553 (Office Equipment Repair) of 17.40 percent.

In response to a question asked by Heier regarding the cost of a new plotter, Langtry indicated it would be approximately \$10,000.

Langtry stated he does not have maintenance agreements for the two plotters or the Global Positioning Satellite (GPS), however, \$7,300 is available if repairs are needed.

Thomas stated there have been projects such as Kawasaki, relocation of Wildrose and NW 70th and Superior Streets which are not a part of the regular program. He suggested choosing "suspect" projects in the future which may or may not be able to be accomplished and to also include projects which they know they will need to completed.

Thomas further stated they have used the Sinking Fund Paving for projects which they know they will need to complete. He stated they have changed the name to Sinking Fund Special Projects which will include projects such as South 68th Street as well as "suspect" projects such as Wildrose Lane and NW 70th and Superior Streets.

LANCASTER MANOR (061)

Appearing was Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator.

Van Hunnik highlighted the following areas:

- ▶ Renewal & Replacement
- ▶ Expense (Administrative)
- ▶ Nursing
- ▶ Income
- ▶ Personnel
- ▶ Contract Services

Van Hunnik noted that a minor change in the Expense budget was the phasing out of the purchase of lumbar support belts. Increases in liability insurance and building rental were also noted.

He also explained that he took a more realistic approach toward expenses for nursing temporaries. Van Hunnik stated they would be budgeting a total of \$1,045,000.

Van Hunnik briefly discussed revenues stating that Lancaster Manor was at 90 percent occupancy based on 293 beds available. He added that during summer months occupancy is always down.

He also informed the Board that Veterans Administration would like to enter into an agreement with Lancaster Manor for long term nursing home care for certain veterans and that the County Attorney's Office is reviewing the agreement.

Van Hunnik referred to Personnel and stated Lancaster Manor had 299 employees for Fiscal Year 2000-2001. Fiscal Year 2001-2002 shows 278 employees.

Brief discussion took place regarding the following equipment replacement:

- ▶ Refrigerator doors
- ▶ Closet doors
- ▶ John Deere tractor mower
- ▶ Small washing machine

In response to a question asked by Kroeker, Van Hunnik stated that no monies are being put into the Renewal and Replacement Fund for Fiscal Year 2001.

Kroeker inquired about rate increases.

Van Hunnik stated there was an increase in January and that next year they will receive the average of the net increases of the State of Nebraska. He noted that those monies have not been built into the proposed budget.

Kroeker suggested increasing the cash reserve.

GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION

Consensus of the Board to approve the following:

- ▶ Add \$41,000 to Corrections regarding the consultant for the needs assessment
- ▶ Add \$9,634 for Emergency Management Director's salary
- ▶ Hold additional appropriation for juvenile diversion services

Kroeker distributed documentation entitled *Lancaster County Comparison FY02 to FY 01 Expense Budget* (Exhibit 4) and *FY02 Budget Adjustments to Agency Budgets* (Exhibit 5).

There being no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk