

**MINUTES**  
**DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS**  
**LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
**COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113**  
**THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2003**  
**12:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bernie Heier, Chair  
Ray Stevens, Vice Chair  
Larry Hudkins  
Deb Schorr

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer  
Dave Kroeker, Budget and Fiscal Officer  
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Amy Prenda, Director of Legal Research and Analysis for  
Kissel/E&S Communications

The meeting was called to order at 12:43 p.m.

**Property Management (066)**

Present was Don Killeen, Building Administrator.

Killeen gave an overview of the budget, noting that expenses at Trabert Hall are considerably higher than last year due to a higher occupancy.

**County Court (622)/Indigent Defense (626)**

**County Court (622)**

Present was Peggy Gentles, Judicial Administrator.

Gentles gave an overview of the County Court budget, noting that the bulk of their budget was for rent which increased \$22,000.

Gentles reported a 16.6 percent increase in postage costs (Object 3251) due to a ten percent increase in civil filings.

### Indigent Defense (626)

Gentles stated the budget presented is for the Indigent Screener pilot program which goes through July, 2004 because it is three year pilot program.

Discussion followed regarding the efficiency of the Indigent Screener project and whether the County should continue funding it.

Gentles stated she felt it was a worthwhile program, but that there was no way of knowing whether the County was paying for the program through savings.

### County Attorney (652)

Present were Gary Lacey, County Attorney, and Eileen LeGrande, Administrator.

Lacey presented an overview of the following documents: *Summary of Case Load Increase/Decrease for Three Year Period* (Exhibit 1) and *County Attorney Filings* (Exhibit 2).

Lacey proposed making a temporary attorney position permanent after October, 2003, to hire a criminal secretary and replacement of outdated computers.

LeGrande noted there are currently 24 computers using Windows '95 and 33 monitors which have 13 inch and/or 15 inch screens.

### Public Defender (625)

Present was Dennis Keefe, Public Defender, and Monica Ross, Office Manager.

Keefe stated there were no major changes in his budget from the previous year, but did indicate a 4.5 percent increase. He said there would be one personnel change which converts a senior paralegal position to an attorney position, however, there would be no monetary change.

### County Assessor/Register of Deeds (605)

Present were Norm Agena, County Assessor/Register of Deeds, Rob Ogden, Chief Field Deputy, and Scott Gaines, Chief Administrative Deputy.

Agena gave an overview of documentation disseminated to the County Board which included the following: (Exhibit 3)

- ▶ Breakdown of present budget
- ▶ Number of parcels created and building permits issued
- ▶ Tax Equalization and Review Commission
- ▶ Future valuations
- ▶ Present staff

Also disseminated and reviewed was the following:

- ▶ Number of instruments and images (Exhibit 4)
- ▶ Register of Deeds instruments (Exhibit 5)
- ▶ Register of Deeds Revenue by Month 2000-2003 (Exhibit 6)

Proposed by the County Assessor/Register of Deeds were approximately 20 microcomputers using Windows '95 and scanning equipment.

### **Budget and Fiscal (611)**

Kroeker reported no change in the budget from the previous year.

### **Administrative Services (613)**

Kroeker referred to page six of the budget, noting that the County would receive approximately \$10,000 from the City for a shared Excluded Clerk Typist II position.

### **County Board (601)**

Kroeker reported no change.

### **General Assistance (801)**

Kroeker reported a representative would be attending the hearing and recommended the County Board review the budget prior to the hearing due significant increases.

### **Election Commission (607) & Jury Commission (627)**

#### **Election Commission**

Present were Dave Shively, Election Commissioner, Maura Kelly-Tolzin, Chief Deputy Election Commissioner and Rebecca Hight-Moravec, Administrative Aide.

Shively disseminated and reviewed *Election Commissioner Fiscal Year 2003-2004 Budget Request* (Exhibit 7).

Shively reported reductions in temporary and overtime salaries.

#### Jury Commissioner

Shively reported no change in the budget.

Hudkins asked Shively if the University of Nebraska was charged for the special election conducted by the Election Commissioner.

Shively stated the Election Commissioner's Office billed the University of Nebraska approximately \$130 for their role in the election. He explained that his office tabulated the results and verified that those individuals eligible to vote did, in fact, vote. Shively stated it took approximately eight and one-half regular staff hours.

#### **Emergency Management (693)**

Present was Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director.

Ahlberg reported they continue to try to replace the Plectron systems in the County which are approximately 40 years old.

He also said discussions are in place regarding sirens in new developments within the City, specifically on North 14<sup>th</sup> Street just north of the Interstate to Alvo Road and Southwest 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Southwest 40<sup>th</sup> Street.

Ahlberg reported that Object 4217 (Pager) could be deleted, as well as Object 4217 (VHF/UHF radio for new command post).

Ahlberg requested that Object 4204 (Education & Training Equipment) be left in the budget because the volunteers use the training as an opportunity to grow.

#### **Extension Office (645)**

Present was Gary Bergman, Extension Educator.

Bergman disseminated general information regarding the functions of the Cooperative Extension Office (Exhibit 8).

Bergman reported a 3.1 percent increase in salaries and utilities and added no request for additional monies was being made.

**General Fund Miscellaneous (612, 628 and 805)**

Hearing was moved forward and held on May 20, 2003.

**MOTION:** Stevens moved and Schorr seconded adjournment of the departmental budget hearings at 3:26 p.m.. Schorr, Hudkins, Stevens and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

---

Bruce Medcalf  
County Clerk