

MINUTES
DEPARTMENT BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, JUNE 5, 2003
1 P.M.

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

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dave Kroeker, Budget & Fiscal Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

The meeting was called to order at 1 p.m.

Visitors Promotion (019)

Present were Jim Fram, Chamber of Commerce President, and Sandi Witkowicz, Director of the Lincoln/Lancaster County Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Budget documentation was distributed and an overview was given of the following:
(Exhibit 1)

- O County Lodging Tax Revenue
- O County Lodging Tax Percentage Growth
- O County Lodging Tax Revenue
- O Lancaster County Lodging Tax Collections from the Two Percent Tax
- O 2003/2004 Proposed Budget
- O Source of Funds (corresponds to the 2003/2004 proposed budget)

Fram referred to advertising (Line Item 4410), event promotion (Line Item 4445), travel (Line Item 4455) and specialty items (Line Item 4475), noting that adjustments were made. He explained that the \$50,000 overage would be paid to a consultant hired to analyze the tourism industry.

Kroeker stated it is his understanding that Visitors Promotion is requesting the County to budget \$939,000, plus the \$7,500 next year.

Fram stated that was correct.

In response to a question asked by Hudkins regarding the percent increase, Witkowicz stated it would be 7.5 percent.

Relief/Medical Fund (801)

Present was Susan Klein, Department of Social Services.

Kroeker gave an overview of the *Projected Costs for General Assistance: Primary Care Medical Program - July 1, 2003 through June 30, 2004* (Exhibit 2).

Extensive discussion followed regarding the lease agreement for space for the administration of public assistance.

Kroeker projected the County would spend approximately \$2,715,000 this year. He said the budget would be very tight if the \$2,713,000 in the proposed budget is used. Kroeker added that an additional \$400,000 in appropriations is being requested. \$350,000 would be for pharmacy and \$50,000 for rent.

Lancaster Manor (061)

Present was Larry Van Hunnik, Lancaster Manor Administrator.

Van Hunnik distributed and summarized the following documentation: *Fund Balance - 2001/2002 - Cash Basis, Fund Balance - 2002/2003 - Cash Basis and Nebraska Health and Human Services System Proposed Rate Regulation Revision* (Exhibit 3).

Van Hunnik suggested the County Board have some type of Contingency Fund in the event he doesn't get the Intergovernmental Transfer Fund.

Kroeker stated that Van Hunnik would like the principle on the bonds to be paid from the Renewal and Replacement Fund, however, the bond agreement states that if there are not sufficient monies to pay the bond payment it must be taken from the Reserve Fund and that the bond holder must be notified. He further explained that if there are not monies to replenish the Reserve Fund, they can use the Renewal and Replacement Fund.

Other areas of the budget reviewed by Van Hunnik were:

- O Expense Budget
- O Equipment
- O Revenue Budget
- O Personnel

Kroeker asked the Board if they wanted to budget \$1.4 million in Contingency.

Board consensus to add the extra \$1.4 million.

County Engineer (703) and Geographic Information System (GIS) (615)

Present were Don Thomas, County Engineer, Larry Worrell, Chief Deputy County Surveyor, and Jim Langtry, Geographic Information System Manager.

Thomas gave a summary of the County Engineering Department's General Fund budget (Exhibit 4), noting a 2.69 percent increase.

Langtry presented an overview of the GIS budget (Exhibit 5), stating there would be a 10.16 percent increase.

Information Services (610)

Present was Doug Thomas, Information Services Manager.

Thomas gave an overview of *Budget Review - Information Services 2003/2004* (Exhibit 7), indicating a two percent decrease as compared to last year.

Extensive discussion took place regarding microcomputer requests from various County departments.

Thomas recommended that 20 computers in the County Assessor/Register of Deeds Office be replaced.

MOTION: Hudkins moved and Workman seconded to authorize the purchase of 20 PC's for the County Assessor/Register of Deeds Office from the current budget and to exclude the color printer. Workman, Heier, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

(Schorr exited at 3:27 p.m.)

Agricultural Society (045)

Present were Charlie Willnerd, Agricultural Society President, and Jim Countryman, Agricultural Society Treasurer.

An overview of the following documentation was presented by Willnerd and Countryman:

- O *General/Fair 2003-2004 Budget Worksheet* (Exhibit 7)
- O *Lancaster Event Center Profit & Loss By Class - May, 2003* (Exhibit 8)
- O *Lancaster Event Center Balance Sheet As of May 31, 2003* (Exhibit 9)

Countryman projected an approximate \$20,000 loss for the current year in comparison to an \$8,000 loss the previous year.

Willnerd referred to the *Capital Spending Budget Worksheet* contained in Exhibit 7 and explained they need to address the following function deficiencies:

- O Equipment replacement
- O Electrical availability
- O Concessions

Library (020)

Present were Carol O'Connor, Library Director, and John Dale, Assistant Director.

O'Connor gave a brief overview of documentation disseminated regarding *Funding for the Contract for Library Services for Fiscal Year 2003-2004* (Exhibit 10) and a packet of information regarding the Bookmobile, Subscription Databases, Summer Reading Program, Book Review Form and Book Groups (Exhibit 11).

O'Connor stated the budget continues at the current level of service and does not include new services or additional staffing. She also stated a specific dollar request is not available at the current time.

Juvenile Court (623)

Present were Juvenile Court Judges Linda Porter and Tom Dawson.

Judge Dawson reported a continued drop in the use of boarding funds.

It was also reported that Legal Services (Object 3052) would increase and that more private counsel would be used.

Judge Dawson stated he felt Attorney Fees would continue to increase.

In response to a question asked by Hudkins regarding Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), both Judge Dawson and Judge Porter indicated they are in support of CASA.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Workman seconded adjournment of the department budget hearings at 4:55 p.m. Stevens, Workman, Hudkins and Heier voted aye. Schorr was absent from voting. Motion carried.

Bruce Medcalf
County Clerk