

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 24, 2007
1 P.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Bob Workman, Chair

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

The Chair opened the meeting at 1 p.m..

Human Services (837)

Present was Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator.

Boesch reported decreases in the number of employees as well as a \$3,000 a decrease for cell phone contracts. The only significant increase was in Object 64825 (Cell Phone Service) which was due to the purchase of a blackberry for Corey Steel, Juvenile Justice Coordinator.

Veterans Service (803)/General Assistance (801)

Present was Gary Chalupa, Veterans Services Officer.

General Assistance (801)

Chalupa reported there would be an excess of approximately \$200,000 in the budget at the end of the current fiscal year. He explained the excess was due to a computer software program and by expanding staff to include an accounts receivable position.

General Assistance Continued:

Chalupa stated he had projected \$234,000 in revenue with \$209,000 collected to date. He added there is currently \$367,000 in revenue pending from other providers which does not include \$120,000 from other counties.

Discussion took place regarding whether revenues should be increased. Chalupa stated he would feel comfortable increasing it from \$240,000 to \$500,000.

Veterans Affairs (803)

Chalupa referred to Object 61250 (Temporary Salaries) explaining that he does not budget for any overtime. He stated he is requesting \$12,000 in temporary salaries to cover staff shortages when someone takes an extended absence or vacation.

Chalupa also stated he would like to purchase two flat screen monitors to replace two monitors which no longer work. He stated he has approximately \$4,500 remaining in the current budget which he would like to use for purchasing the two new monitors.

Board consensus was to allow Chalupa to proceed with the purchase of two flat screen monitors from the current year's budget.

Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, recommended review by Information Services.

Chalupa also stated the current vendor for the software program for the automatic filling of forms has quit and no longer offers any support or updates. He explained he would like to purchase a different software with a lifetime program located in South Carolina. The cost would be \$2,800. Chalupa stated he does have enough money in his budget for the purchase, however, he needs the Board's authorization.

Board consensus was to allow the purchase of the new software program.

Community Corrections (676)

Present was Kim Etherton, Director of Community Corrections.

Etherton distributed a 'Quick Facts Sheet' (Exhibit 1) and the Fiscal Year 2006-2007 Third Quarter Report (Exhibit 2) stating revenues were increased by \$173,000. She stated she anticipates no staffing increases, however, she may need to come back to the Board in July regarding the purchase of additional electronic monitoring equipment.

County Board (601)

No significant changes reported.

Budget and Fiscal (611)

No significant changes reported.

Administrative Services (613)

No significant changes reported.

Board of Equalization

Dennis Meyer, Budget & Fiscal Officer, stated last year the budget for Board of Equalization was approximately \$650,000 due to the number of property valuation protests. He stated he may decrease that to \$325,000 and asked the Board if they would be agreeable to the decrease.

Hudkins suggested they leave the Board of Equalization budget at \$650,000 because of greenbelt disqualification protests.

Board consensus was to leave the Board of Equalization budget at \$650,000.

Jail/Land Issues

Meyer stated he has nothing in the budget for a new jail or for the purchase of land in connection with the construction of a new jail.

Discussion took place regarding purchase of land versus lease of land and the possible issuance of a bond.

Meyer distributed *Property Tax Funded Budgets: FY 2008 Requested Compared to FY 2007 Adopted* (Exhibit 3) stating an additional \$2,800,000 would be needed in additional taxes without any dollars being designated for the jail.

Lancaster Manor (061)

Present was Ron Fetters, Interim Administrator of Lancaster Manor.

Meyer highlighted the following contained in the 2007-2008 Revenue Budget:

- Private, Routine Service (Object 4615)
- Medicaid, Routine Service (Object 4617)
- Resident, Routine Service (Object 4616)
- Medicare Service (Object 4660)

Discussion took place regarding the Renewal and Replacement Fund with Meyer explaining that the funds may be accessed in increments of \$100,000, however, there would be a penalty of \$372 per \$100,000 taken out.

Fetters stated the replacement of the roof and over bed tables are two priority items.

Stevens suggested \$300,000 be withdrawn from Renewal and Replacement for repair of the roof.

MOTION: Stevens moved and Schorr seconded to request Ron Fetters to work with Purchasing regarding the letting of a bid for a new roof at Lancaster Manor up to \$300,000 and to also request a list of other items needed at the Manor based on priority. Hudkins, Stevens, Schorr and Heier voted aye. Motion carried.

Mental Health Center (676)

Present were Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Director, and Judi Tannahill, Administrative Services Officer.

Settle highlighted the following points contained in a memorandum, dated May 24, and distributed to the County Board (Exhibit 4):

- Projected new monies
- Two percent rate increases for revenues from Medicaid/Medicare and Region V Systems
- Concern regarding large amounts of receivables from Medicaid/Medicare

Mental Health Center (676) continued:

- Failure of Unicameral to override the governor's line-item veto relating to rate increases for community-based behavioral health being cut
- Request for an assistant for Judi Tannahill (\$49,255)
- Request for an increase of ten hours per week for an outpatient therapist dually certified as a mental health professional and a licensed alcohol and drug counselor (\$14,000)
- Funding of a new position for a peer community support worker (\$26,869)

Youth Services Center/YAC (678)

Present were Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center Director, and Melissa Hood, Administrative Aide II.

Schindler gave an overview of the proposed budget and reported an increase of three to 3.9 percent from expected expenditures. She also indicated that population is decreasing.

Schindler stated they are in need of a new vehicle for transporting youth to Kearney and Geneva and referred to Object 67410 (Vehicles). She added that Purchasing gave them an estimate of \$18,000 for a new vehicle.

Juvenile Court (623)

Present were Juvenile Court Judge Roger Heideman; Juvenile Court Judge Linda Porter; and Juvenile Court Judge Toni Thorson;

Heideman, Porter and Thorson gave an overview of the budget request.

Schorr inquired about the \$10,000 increase in Computer Equipment (Object #67475).

Heideman said it is for the purchase of Center Court, a web-based calendaring and scheduling computer software. He said he believes the estimate is on the high-end.

Hudkins asked what impact an additional judge will have on the budget.

Thorson said the new judge will likely not be sworn in until August.

The judges were asked to bring prepare an estimate of the financial impact, including rent, equipment and supplies, bailiff and support staff.

Juvenile Court (623) continued:

Don Killeen, County Property Manager, appeared and discussed space availability.

Board members suggested constructing courtrooms in the Youth Services Center and looking at the feasibility of holding night or evening court.

There was Board consensus schedule a tour of the juvenile court area.

Schorr questioned the capital outlay request for replacement of courtroom chairs and carpet in the lobby.

Meyer said he moved the request out of the budget as a possible item for the Building Fund. He noted that the request for a juvenile court administrator is still in the budget.

Porter said she believes the \$20,000 that the Nebraska Supreme Court has allocated for a part-time Family Drug Court position is still available and can be used to help offset the expense.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Hudkins, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

NOTE: Documents referred to are included in Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2008 (a copy is on file in the County Clerk's Office).