

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2009
1 P.M.**

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

Commissioners Absent: Ray Stevens, Vice Chair

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Angela Zocholl, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

County Clerk (602)

Present were Dan Nolte, County Clerk; Cori Beattie, Deputy County Clerk; and Tim Genuchi, Accounting Operations Manager.

Nolte said there were no major changes in the budget.

Beattie noted the increase in revenue was due to occupation tax.

Beattie said rent is going up a little to accommodate the expansion.

The remodeling project was discussed. Beattie said they would be taking some of the used furniture from the third floor to help decrease cost. Schorr asked if \$7500 would be adequate. Beattie agreed to look at lights and file cabinets as possible ways to trim the budget.

Meyer asked about the microcomputer request. Genuchi said two should be replaced due to their age and ongoing performance issues.

Heier asked about the software maintenance for the payroll system. Genuchi stated \$35,000 is the County's share.

Nolte said they have not budgeted for temporary help with property valuation protests. Around 11 or 12 temps have been hired, and it is not yet known how many hours of work will be involved.

County Board (601)

Hudkins noted a 2.65% increase. Meyer said this is strictly based off salary increases.

Administrative Services (613)

The revenue increase was discussed, and Meyer said this would be due to a salary increase. Schorr noted there was no money for temps.

Schorr questioned the high cost under Telephone-Local (Object 64810). Meyer agreed they should evaluate this cost.

Budget & Fiscal (611)

Meyer said a deputy position was added to the budget which increased personnel costs. He will remove this position for now and review it mid-year.

County Treasurer (603)

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

Hudkins asked if they were moving ahead with the Orion system. Adams said they were currently not using Orion.

Heier inquired about the bank interest and fees. Adams said the FDIC cost has tripled. The possibility of bidding to another bank was discussed.

Schorr asked about four full-time clerks being switched to Department of Motor Vehicles. Adams said they were moved because the State is looking at taking over all of the duties for issuing drivers' licenses.

County Assessor/Register of Deeds (605)

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

Agena said there are no significant changes.

Agena said salaries account for the biggest increase. There are no additional full-time employees.

Agena summarized some of the changes, including increases in office rent and maintenance agreements and a decrease in information services.

Gaines noted non-personnel costs were down around \$28,000. Meyer said personnel is up 4½%, which is on the same pace as everyone else.

Hudkins noted the increase in Computer Equipment (Object 67475). Agena said they have recycled a lot of equipment, but they would like to start replacing some of the older pieces.

Heier asked about Enrollment Fees & Tuition (65670). Agena said this is used for continuing education of the staff.

Geographic Information System/County Engineer (615/703)

Present were Don Thomas, County Engineer, and Erik Hubl, GIS Manager.

Budget worksheets were distributed (Exhibits A and B).

GIS (615)

Hubl gave a brief overview of the previous year.

- The incremental approach of replacing computers is working well, and they would like to continue with this approach.
- Significant progress has been made in obtaining new geodetic control with G.P.S. equipment.
- Jeff McReynolds, GIS manager, has worked to implement long range plans which resulted in more departmental communication. His office pays the annual GIS fee, which covers high end usage of GIS for the Engineering and Assessor's Offices.
- A Konica Minolta office printer was purchased. He estimated the cost of the new printer would be covered by the money saved on upkeep of the old printer.

Hubl said he would like to plan for some improvements on GIS. They would like to obtain new LIDAR (Light Detection and Usage) coverage, which falls under Engineering & Tech Equipment (Object 67470).

NIROC (Nebraska-Iowa Regional Orthophotography Consortium) was discussed.

Hubl said they would like to hold their open position to probably be filled within the next budget.

County Engineer (703)

Thomas said there was not much change in the budget - only a 1.3% increase.

Two employees retired, resulting in a cost difference between them and the replacement employees.

Thomas said operating expenses are up around \$4200, mostly attributed to liability insurance. Hudkins asked why Insurance - General Liability (Object 65915) has changed so much. Thomas was not sure why it changed.

Thomas said capital outlay has increased around 10% due to higher land values.

Thomas discussed the Arbor Road Project and the cost of doing it as two projects versus one big project. In the end, the project will cost much more than anticipated.

The East Beltway project was discussed. Thomas would like to budget a certain amount of money each year so they can stay committed to the project. This money comes from keno and currently holds \$853,000.

Thomas said their Gasboy Software is 24 years old and needs to be updated. This would cost around \$18,000. Thomas suggested using money from keno.

Thomas said the County Board would be receiving a bid for paving of SW 14th Street, 3/4 of a mile to Bennet Road. He noted the money that would have been used for Saltillo Road could be used for this project since Saltillo Road is now using stimulus money.

Meyer asked about stimulus money. Thomas said the State will elect the projects, and he assumes 100% would be paid versus the normal 80/20. This will cover overlay, shoulders, and new striping.

Records Management (648)

Present was Brian Pillard, Records & Information Manager.

Pillard said they have been maintaining the existing level of service without any major changes.

Pillard noted the record center holdings have increased due to new departments using their storage and more scanning is being done instead of microfilming.

In regards to the work station request, Hudkins said to check on the third floor for any furnishings that could be used.

The possibility of eliminating the fax machine was discussed.

Emergency Management (693)

Present was Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management Director.

Ahlberg said he is negotiating with a different paging company. Previously they bought the pager and the service was included. The new company requires payment for the service.

Ahlberg applied for a grant and thinks he will receive around \$78,000 for sirens in the County and City. The University is buying some additional sirens, including one on East Campus that has a direct phone line.

The high phone bill was discussed. Ahlberg has spoken with the phone company about making some phone lines dormant, but the phone company could not guarantee activation in less than 24 hours.

Ahlberg discussed hiring a Deputy Director. He added he did not put this in the budget because he wanted to use an employee from the Health Department who is currently under grant.

Property Management (066)

Present was Don Killeen, Property Manager.

Killeen discussed the increases in utilities at the larger facilities.

Killeen said one full-time employee was dropped in Youth Services but a maintenance person was added to Mental Health. The number of full-time employees did not change.

Killeen noted Trabert Hall is about \$41,500 over on expenses, which is typical of this location.

Killeen discussed the various repairs and replacements needed: roof re-shingling at 46th & R, parking lot repair, steam line repairs, a strainer system, a fire panel replacement, air conditioning at the Department of Motor Vehicles, and the equipment pad at Youth Services.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Schorr moved and Hudkins seconded to adjourn the meeting at 3:20 p.m. Hudkins, Workman, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

NOTE: Documents referred to are included in Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2009 (a copy is on file in the County Clerk's Office).