

LANE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 1991 - 5:20 - 7:15 p.m.

PRESENT: Karsten Rasmussen, Chair; Ron Hanson, Rob Laney and Scott Bartlett (arrived at 5:45), citizen members; Commissioners Cornacchia, Frazier, Dumdi, Rust, Roberts (arrived 5:25)

ABSENT: Citizen member Peter Bartel.

STAFF PRESENT: Jim Johnson, County Administrator; Margo Drivas, Assistant County Administrator; Nancy Cameron and Jack Lindstrom, Management Analysts; Jim Gangle, Assessor and his staff; Jef Faw, Director, Finance & Management Services and his staff; Bill Van Vactor, County Counsel. Fair Board President Emerson Hamilton also addressed the Budget Committee.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rasmussen called the meeting to order at 5:20 p.m.
Minutes from the May 6, 1991, meeting were approved 7-0.

2. COUNTY COUNSEL (Fund 24 and Fund 12)

A. Overview

Jack Lindstrom gave the overview for County Counsel and mentioned the one reduction, a .5 FTE Law Student Intern.

Bill Van Vactor emphasized that the proposed budget was "bare bones" and the department was not in any way close to operating at optimum levels. With the absence of the .5 law intern position, the department will not be able to maintain its affirmative action goals through use of the minority law intern program.

Rust MOVED approval of the budget, Laney SECONDED. VOTE: 8-0.

Recorder: Jack Lindstrom

3. ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION (Fund 24)

Assessment and Taxation overview was presented by Nancy Cameron. The first grant application submitted to Department of Revenue (DOR) was not acceptable to DOR, and after negotiations, the BCC agreed to add 2 appraisers and 1 team leader, and increase the revenues from the grant, total \$106,433. This occurred after the proposed budget went to print.

Jim Gangle presented a brief statement that the department is on schedule with the compliance plan and is working on Measure 5 implementation.

Rust moved tentative approval of the A&T proposed budget, with \$106,433 in addition for the 3 positions and revenue in General Expense. Second by Roberts.

Cornacchia stated that he did not like the process that DOR has in place for approval of the A&T budget, and the end result is that other departments are taking the brunt of the budget cuts. He stated that he favored the elimination of the Deputy Assessor position and could not vote for the motion. He moved to eliminate the position, and after discussion withdrew the motion. Committee members expressed a desire for more information for any actions that have not been presented in advance.

The original motion was amended to exclude the Deputy Assessor position. Motion as amended passed 7-2 (Cornacchia, Dumdi).

Gangle will present additional information about the Deputy Assessor position at a future meeting.

4. FAIR BOARD PREVIEW

Emerson Hamilton presented an overview of current budget issues for the Fair Board. The Board has been moving toward implementing many of the audit recommendations. The audit recommended a change from using temporary positions, to using a service to provide temporary help. Kelly won the contract. When temporaries were hired directly, the overhead cost was 22%. With Kelly the overhead was 43%, but is being negotiated down to 34%. The 43% had a \$330,000 impact on expenditures, contributing somewhat to the cash problems at the Fair Grounds.

The Administrative Services Manager position is being reclassified to Assistant Fair Grounds Manager, and will be recruited quickly. The Board will be hiring interim assistance.

The proposed budget is built on history and the Board is comfortable with the budget as submitted. The Board is looking at ways to increase revenue and decrease expenditures.

Rust moved that the Fair Board be directed to submit a line item budget. Second by Bartlett. Failed 3-6 (Cornacchia, Laney, Frazier, Hanson, Roberts, Rasmussen).

5. FINANCE AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES (Multiple Funds)

Cameron presented an overview of the Finance and Management Services budget.

Roberts moved tentative approval of Fund 22, 25, 28 budgets for F&MS as proposed. Second by Cornacchia. Passed 9-0.

Cornacchia moved tentative approval of Fund 27 budget as proposed. Second by Dumdi. Passed 9-0.

Cornacchia moved tentative approval of Funds 83, 84 budgets as proposed. Second by Dumdi. Passed 9-0.

In considering the General Fund budget, discussion between committee members, Jef Faw, and Annette Pomeroy centered around the operations of elections and deeds and records. Roberts expressed a reluctance to make any cuts in those areas until after an audit by the performance auditor. The audit is scheduled to begin in August.

Roberts moved tentative approval of Fund 24 proposed budget with the addition of the two clerical supervisor positions. Second by Laney.

Rust moved an amendment to delete one clerical supervisor position. Second by Cornacchia. Failed 1-8 (Cornacchia, Laney, Frazier, Hanson, Roberts, Rasmussen, Dumdi, Bartlett).

Original motion passed 9-0.

Recorder: Nancy Cameron

6. BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS/COUNTY ADMINISTRATION/HUMAN RESOURCES

Margo Drivas gave both the budget staff overview and the department overview, commenting that the service departments provide the budget, policy, legal and personnel support to help line departments get programs developed, implemented, and delivered to the citizens. The staff works hard to assist citizens in understanding how to get their issues before the Board. The staff works hard to make the "rules" help departments, not get in their way. The staff works hard to get the tools and the resources to departments so they can deliver the service. Drivas urged the committee NOT to apologize for delivering service to the public THROUGH assistance to departments.

a. Board of Commissioners: Discussion involved the policy of issue of maintaining an equal allocation for staff assistance among the five Commissioners. Commissioner Cornacchia indicated that whether or not the allocation was restored, it was highly unlikely that he would spend it.

MOTION (Roberts/Dumdi) to tentatively approve Board of Commissioners budget with restoration of the assistant allocation.

AMENDMENT (Bartlett) to restore all assistants to the 1.0 FTE level. Failed for lack of second.

MAIN MOTION CARRIED 9-0.

b. County Administration/Self Insurance Fund (Fund 12)

Commissioner Rust noted that overall assessments to departments for worker compensation and liability have decreased markedly, and that the loss control effort is paying off.

MOTION (Cornacchia/Hanson) to tentatively approve County Administration/Fund 12 CARRIED 9-0.

c. County Administration Fund 24

Commissioner Rust expressed support for the historical museum and indicated his intention to seek restoration.

Commissioner Cornacchia indicated his concern that the County focus on direct service, characterizing it as a "handshake", and that service to the institution is more remote. He indicated an interest in eliminating positions that have been created in the last four years to primarily serve the institution. The positions identified include: DP coordinator (.5 portion), Employee Assistance Coordinator, Employee Health Coordinator, Assistant County Administrator, Justice Services Coordinator (.2 general fund portion) and the Training and Development Coordinator. Commissioner Cornacchia emphasized that the quality of the programs and the performance of the incumbents were not being questioned in any way, that his concern was based on the needs and priorities of the organization.

He also indicated that while he was interested in eliminating the Assistant County Administrator position (ACA), in part due to the creation of the Human Resources Department which removes this from the County Administration department, he was concerned that the action not be taken in a vacuum. His intent, if the position is eliminated, is to re-store the .5 management analyst from the reductions and increase it to 1.0 FTE.

Commissioner Rust requested information from the County Administrator evaluating the current work and the proposed work, and asked the Museum Director to respond in writing evaluating the Friends proposal.

Commissioner Roberts requested information from the County Administrator about the ACA, but indicated that he felt the reduction of the Justice Services Coordinator to .6 (.5 CCA and .1 justice court) had already been decided. Further, that he did not support the reduction of the .5 DP coordinator, given the ISSC agenda and the Architecture Committee project.

Chair Rasmussen indicated that, in keeping with the process being used, information would be returned on all identified issues.

MOTION (Rust/Cornacchia) to defer action on the County Administration budget and to return with information on the .5 DP Coordinator, ACA, .2 Justice Service Coordinator and the Museum CARRIED 9-0.

Human Resources (Fund 24 and Fund 14)

MOTION (Cornacchia/Frazier) to approve the Human Resources Base Budget except for the Employee Assistance and Employee Health Coordinator positions which will be brought back CARRIED 9-0.

Recorder: Margo Drivas