

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

APPROVED April 25, 1996

LANE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

This document, upon approval in a public meeting by the Board of County Commissioners, serves as official minutes of such meetings as required under the Open Meetings Law, ORS 192.650.

Pursuant to notice made by mailing agendas to news media, a selected list of jurisdictions and individuals in Lane County, a meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was held.

Questions should be directed to The Board Office Specialist 3, ext. 4203.

March 18, 1996
5:15 p.m.

LANE COUNTY
BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioners'
Conference Room

PRESENT: Peter Bartel, Marie Bell, Steve Cornacchia (arrived 5:28 p.m.), Ellie Dumdi, Bobby Green, Sr., Carol Jones, Del Phelps, Jerry Rust, Bud Stewart (arrived 5:22 p.m.) and Cindy Weeldreyer. Sharon Giles, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

Green called the meeting to order. He introduced Carol Jones as the new Budget Committee member replacing Kate Jones. Jones explained that she is an associate with Kirkpatrick and Associates and is in the process of getting her c.p.a. license.

II. ELECT NEW BUDGET COMMITTEE CHAIR.

MOTION: Peter Bartel as Chair of the Budget Committee. Rust **MOVED**, Phelps **SECONDED**. **VOTE:** 8-0 (Cornacchia and Stewart absent.)

MOTION: Del Phelps as Vice-Chair of the Budget Committee. Dumdi **MOVED**, Rust **SECONDED**. **VOTE:** 8-0 (Cornacchia and Stewart absent.)

III. APPROVE PRIOR MEETING MINUTES:

5/2/95, 5:30 p.m. meeting

5/9/95, 5:15 p.m. meeting

MOTION: Approval of the Minutes. Phelps **MOVED**, Dumdi **SECONDED**. **VOTE:** 8-0 (Cornacchia and Stewart absent).

IV. REVIEW FY 96-97 BUDGET SCHEDULE.

Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator, reviewed the schedule (see material on file).

Stewart arrived at 5:22 p.m.

There was consensus that the 5:15 meeting times were preferable.

V. REVIEW SURVEY RESULTS.

Van Vactor distributed and reviewed the survey results (see material on file). He referred to the summary on page 7, noting that there was significant support for reopening the Forest Work Camp, increasing rural patrols, increasing prosecution and adding 48 beds to the jail (all receiving over 50%). Van Vactor stated that a tax base increase does not appear to have support and will probably need several years of public education. Weeldreyer commented on the question regarding adding 48 beds to the jail, observing that it had different language than the last poll and may have sounded like it involved a major construction project. Steve Carmichael remarked that the survey did not include questions in the field of juvenile justice. Phelps expressed concern about having developed the juvenile facility and having no funds to run it. Bartel commented that the survey is a pretty narrow band of information.

Cornacchia arrived at 5:28 p.m.

VI. REVIEW FY 96-97 BUDGET OPTIONS.

Doug Harclerod, District Attorney, distributed a handout dealing with a revised list of proposed options for a replacement levy (see material on file).

(Page 1) - Harclerod reviewed the current serial levy programs and their projected costs for the next two fiscal years and reviewed the figures for a two-year replacement serial levy. Harclerod then reviewed the county general fund deficit figures on the handout. He indicated that rolling over the current levy and covering the county deficit would amount to a 63 cent annual rate per thousand. Harclerod explained the list of additional options that were included in the handout. Van Vactor noted that it takes 5.5 FTE in the Sheriff's Office to staff one position for 24-hours per day, seven days per week. Harclerod provided a brief explanation of SB1145 funding/mandates.

(Page 2) - Harclerod reviewed the possible reduction allocations for FY 96-97 based upon a FY 95-96 percentage of discretionary general fund use, along with a list of general expense fixed cost items that cannot be reduced. He observed that 90% of these potential cuts would come from law enforcement related services.

(Page 3) - Harclerod presented an overview of the potential options for a three year

replacement serial levy. Van Vactor pointed out that major changes occur in a three-year levy as new Youth Services programs will come on line during that period.

Green distributed a handout related to the Lane County Domestic Violence Council and suggested an add package for a coordinator for that group. Rust asked that staff provide figures related to funding the high risk infants maternal/child program. Harclerod stated that the Policy Committee of the PSCC has met and is prepared to present their input.

Cornacchia stated that he looks at this information as a resource. He indicated that the first exercise is to decide on a serial levy, a tax base increase, etc., factoring in the results of the poll and the input received around the failure of the levy. He commented that the public cannot afford another failed measure in May. Harclerod also noted that one option is to do nothing. It was explained that decisions must be made by Wednesday in order to allow time for County Counsel to craft a title prior to Thursday's deadline.

Rust proposed looking at the potential for A&T's computer problem and roof problems to be paid over a longer period of time (via certificates of participation) instead of just over two years.

Green offered a report from the policy group of PSCC, indicating that their recommendation is to keep it simple and define a baseline levy. He stated that there was no discussion on using a tier approach and that there seems to be consensus to abandon that. Green continued that there was consensus for a two year levy versus a three year levy, although there was not agreement regarding a dollar amount.

Phelps indicated the need to set priorities and begin by deciding on a levy or tax base, commenting that there doesn't seem to be a lot of support for a tax base. Weeldreyer concurred with Phelps, observing however that since the process has been changed, any tax base increase would have to wait two years before coming before voters.

Bell questioned whether there were going to be other money measures on the May ballot. She stated that she feels the group has an obligation to put their best effort on the next ballot. Bell remarked that there are some built-in negatives, including that the advocates are people who are involved. She stressed the need for an outside group to advocate for any levy.

Stewart offered support for another levy, instead of a tax base increase. Jones indicated that as a new member she is not sure at this point. Dumdi remarked that the survey shows people are not ready for a tax base, offering support for a levy, preferably three years. (She later changed her preference to a two year levy.)

Cornacchia stated that he has reviewed the criticisms leveled at the recent levy and that there seems to be one recurring theme, i.e. that the County shouldn't be taking care of business with serial levies. He noted that the poll said no tax base, but that he would like to fashion a measure to respond to criticisms. Cornacchia stated his preference for a tax base increase, remarking that if the County does another serial levy, it compounds the problem.

Bartel indicated the need to listen to what people are saying and to step back and take a new approach. He agreed that a tax base is clearly the best option, but observed that it takes a lot of time to develop the level of trust to do that. Bartel commented that the public seems to be saying that the County should go back and do its homework and work on coordination of services. He explained that the issue of a rural law enforcement district needs to be tackled, noting that it will require dollars and political will. Bartel stated that the largest growing crime population is young people and that the County needs to be consistent in terms of its approach/programs. He commented that if the group does go with a levy, it will need to say that in two years there are plans to come back with a tax base approach.

Phelps agreed that a tax base is best, but that he doesn't think there is time now to put a program together to get it passed. He stressed the need to utilize the next two or three years to get the public to understand County programs. Green indicated that he was more in favor of a tax base, but expressed concern that the poll reflects that the public is against that. He stated that he is in favor of a three year levy, focusing in the meantime on the need for a longer range solution for the criminal justice system. Citing that the City of Eugene has a \$43 million tax base while Lane County only has a \$9 million tax base, Green agreed with the need for public education on the issue.

McManus advocated Green's position regarding three years, stating the time that will be necessary to get the PSCC into place and get the job done. Rockstroh stated his preference for going for current levy programs and covering the deficit, with no adds. He added that two years is easier to sell partially because of its lesser dollar amount. Gangle remarked on the need for a tax base, but agreed that the problem is that voters probably won't support it at this time. He concurred that a two year levy is most sellable although he would like to see three years. Harclerod offered support for a conservative two year levy, as it would "hold PSCC's feet to fire."

This meeting recessed at 6:45 p.m. to reconvene at 7:00 p.m.

Bartel, citing general agreement with the levy approach, attempted to get consensus on a two or three year approach for a levy with Bell, Cornacchia, Dumdi, Jones, Phelps and Rust in favor of two years and Bartel, Green, Stewart and Weeldreyer in favor of three years.

Responding to Bell, Teresa Wilson, County Counsel, indicated that the County could do a tax base measure in May '96, November '96, May '98 or November '98 and that the County could make it work around either a two or three year levy.

Cornacchia, noting he had advocated for a tax base, stated that if there is a levy, he would prefer a two year as it would require upcoming commissioner candidates to express their views on the debate. He added that a two year levy has a lower price tag and holds everyone's feet to the fire. Cornacchia cited the need for impetus to push a rural law enforcement district.

Green stated his preference is three years as it is not prudent to try to recruit personnel for two years. Bell offered support for a modest two year levy, noting that an "as-is" budget will not be the same in three years.

McManus observed that if the County is committed to get through the PSCC process and go for a tax base, then it needs to be in a good position. He expressed concern that the dynamics of elections and a "must pass" in two years may make some afraid to go for a tax base.

Phelps advocated for two years, remarking on his belief that there are voters who need it proven to them that the County is spending dollars efficiently.

Rust stressed that the group has agreed that the County will be going for a tax base in either two or three years, stressing that it shouldn't plan the future around that. He indicated that he thinks the public will buy a two year fix.

Responding to Bell, McManus noted that the survey says people want a three year levy, also observing that the City Club said to look for stable funding. Harclerod indicated that he had asked Lindholm (the survey consultant) if the poll meant that the 42% would not support a two year levy and Lindholm had stated that is not what it meant.

FINAL VOTE: 6-4 for a two year levy, Bartel, Green, Stewart and Weeldreyer dissenting.

Current Year Serial Levy Programs

After a brief discussion there was **CONSENSUS** to include all of the current year serial levy programs in a new levy.

General Fund Deficit

Bartel expressed concern that 25% of the levy would be to cover the deficit, suggesting that there be programs to match the \$2.4 million each year.

Rust suggested decreasing the deficit by the \$1 million cash carryover (which would have funded the "year 2000" computer conversion for Assessment and Taxation in the model). Harclerod stressed that if a list is identified to attach to the deficit, then if the levy fails, that list must be what is cut.

There was CONSENSUS to include a \$1.5 million deficit in the proposed levy (Bartel dissenting). Van Vactor observed that there will still need to be a way to solve the A & T computer problem. Responding to Bell, Gangle briefly explained the "year 2000" computer situation, noting that the entire computer system is obsolete.

Additional Options

Green indicated that it is his understanding that the City of Eugene will support whatever the County puts on the ballot in terms of options.

The group voted individually on additions included in the list (see material on file).

48 Beds/Jail - VOTE: 9-1, Cornacchia dissenting.

60 Beds/Work Camp - VOTE: 9-1, Bartel dissenting.

120 Beds/Work Camp - 0-10.

Bookin - VOTE: 2-8, Dundi and Stewart in the affirmative.

Rural Patrol - VOTE: 6-4, Bartel, Cornacchia, Green and Rust dissenting. (To be discussed again later.)

Civil - VOTE: 0-10.

PSCC Staffing - VOTE: 8-2, Bartel and Bell dissenting.

JJC Shelter - VOTE: 9-1, Weeldreyer dissenting.

D.A.'s Office - 5-5. (To be discussed again later.)

M.H. Corr/Domestic Violence - VOTE: 5-5. (To be discussed again later.)

Roof Replacements - VOTE: 0-10.

Replace CCA \$ w/levy \$ - VOTE: 7-3, Bell, Jones and Weeldreyer dissenting.

Pretrial Supervision - VOTE: 1-9, Bell in the affirmative.

Juv. Girls A&D Program - VOTE: 8-2, Green and Weeldreyer dissenting.

Domestic Violence Coordinator (added to the list) - VOTE: 10-0.

High Risk Infants (added to the list) - VOTE: 10-0.

Three items (Rural Patrol, District Attorney and M.H./Domestic Violence) were discussed again:

District Attorney: Green asked Harclerod what his add package would look like if it were funded at half the amount requested. Harclerod responded that he will have to make choices between the computer system and staffing. VOTE: (To include funding District Attorney at the reduced amount of \$375,000.) 6-4, Bartel, Cornacchia, Rust and Stewart dissenting.

M.H./Domestic Violence - No interest was expressed in looking at a lesser sum.

Rural Patrol - Cornacchia reminded the group of the rural voters' vote against the recent levy. Phelps commented that the survey shows support, but that the no vote reflected too much money and that a lesser figure may be more viable. Weeldreyer stressed that the current rural response time is unacceptable. Harclerod reminded the group that if rural patrols are added, it will create work for the DA's office. VOTE: 5-5 (resulting in rural patrol not being included).

Preliminary totals indicated a levy as proposed thus far would cost \$10,817,892, or \$11,758,000 with uncollectibles, for the first year, and \$13,729,994 or \$14,923,000 with uncollectibles, for the second year. Rust estimated that would bring the rate to approximately 80 cents per thousand.

This meeting recessed at 8:32 to reconvene at 8:40 p.m.

Stewart left the meeting during the recess.

Budget staff distributed a handout with the revised total figures based on tonight's discussion (see material on file). Bartel commented that these are tentative figures, subject to change. There was concurrence to allow some time for public comment at Wednesday morning's Board meeting, inviting the lay members of the Budget Committee to sit up with the Board during that time. It was suggested that people speak with other agencies and their constituencies regarding this opportunity.

Rust suggested opening up tonight's meeting to allow for staff/public input tonight. Harclerod observed that the agreed amount still more than doubles the current levy.

Jim Hale, 1995 Teresa Avenue, noted that only a week ago it was important for voters to vote a \$2 tax rate to provide an increased rural presence and now that is being abandoned. He suggested that the group consider having a second levy available to vote upon for increased rural patrol.

Jim Gangle, Assessor, commented that voters seem to want a short term fix and minimal dollars, with a later process for a coordinated law enforcement system and that this is not what this consensus represents. He offered support for rolling over the current levy and perhaps adding the work camp and rural patrols, but that other things are too much.

Dan Heuvel, Sheriff's Office, observed that the "little things" have added over \$1 million.

Sheriff McManus stated the he remains concerned that there will be a major credibility problem with changing scope and not providing for continuity.

Ken Tollenar, City Club representative, indicated that their group plans to recycle their study and take a position. He observed that staffing of the PSCC is essential.

Cornacchia left the meeting at 8:57 p.m.

Tollenar indicated that the Club believes that the 48 jail beds are essential. He stated that his committee was not excited about reopening the forest work camp as analysis has not been made that would justify a major investment in the work camp when compared to alternative programs. Responding to Dumdi's question regarding rural patrols, Tollenar indicated that the group favored "modest enhancement." Dumdi suggested that perhaps that group may be more willing to look at rural patrols versus the work camp. Responding to Green, Tollenar remarked that the dollar amounts discussed by the Club were approximately \$10 million.

Joni Mogstad commented that she works at the jail and appreciates the votes on the 48 beds and the work camp. She expressed concern, however, that with the addition of patrol officers in Eugene and Springfield, the bookin facility has been struggling for three or four years.

Jan Clements proposed five additions: 1) 48 more beds (\$600k); 2) add jail bookin (\$447k); 3) Forest Work Camp: do 60 beds on a contingency basis while doing a feasibility study and if it proved not to be feasible and wasn't signed off by '190' partners, then not release the funds; 4) consider adding back five resident deputies (4 would be \$361k); and 5) add a fully funded custody referee (\$165k).

John Clague remarked that he is most uncomfortable with CCA dollars being replaced by levy dollars. Harclerod commented that if they are eliminated from the expanded levy, then the PSCC will decide if that's the best use of monies or whether to scale back to fund other programs.

McManus stated that, in light of the City Club's concerns, he could consider thinking about not reopening the Forest Work Camp, but doing book-in, 48 beds and rural patrol instead. He continued that then the Forest Work Camp could be given to the PSCC to review and have them see if they want to reopen it and, if so, at what level. McManus indicated that the 13 FTE in rural patrol includes 3 detectives, 7 patrol officers, 1 sergeant, 1 CRO and 1 warrants officer. Responding to Rust, McManus stated that they may consider reducing the number of days the bookin is open by one or two. He added, however, that if the proposal is cut back, he cannot guarantee a 15-minute system at all times. Rust suggested that the Sheriff and staff look at proposals and bring something cost-neutral back to the group.

Green expressed concern about coordination of services with the Oregon State Police and the assumption that Lane County needs to do it all. McManus responded that OSP budget cuts have left a large void.

Consensus was reached to ask the Sheriff to come back with a cost neutral proposal.

VII. ADJOURN.

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.



Sharon Giles
Recording Secretary



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