

suggested that the Budget Committee encourage the commissioners to hold a public hearing and restrict use of funds for recording conversations between a minister and a parishioner.

Teresa Wilson, County Counsel, explained that while the Board "holds the purse strings" and can direct how budgeted funds can be used, she was not sure whether there is a way to devise a line item that says these funds cannot be used for the purpose of taping a confession. She also noted the difficulty in defining minister or religious group. Wilson stated that the issue will need more research and work. She added that there is also the underlying question of the relationship under the Charter of the Sheriff's role and the commissioners' role on administration of the jail. Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator, observed that the Budget Committee and the commissioners do work on the budget in large categories and the suggested line item would be a break in tradition to go into that kind of detail. He remarked that the Budget Committee does not have a good mechanism handy to implement the suggestion tonight.

Cornacchia stated that it would be of value to hear what members of the Budget Committee think. Responding to Cornacchia, Stewart indicated that he thinks such taping is appropriate under some circumstances. Bell stressed that it is not any more appropriate to tape clergy than to tape an attorney. She emphasized that inmates and clergy need advance notice that taping may occur and that it should not occur without their knowledge. Phelps stated that he does not believe the budget is a proper forum as this issue is political, not budgetary. He added that, personally, he thinks it becomes an issue of the value of the victim and their family and the gravity of the crime versus the privilege of the information given in confession. Phelps indicated that when talking about murder, that as long as everyone knows the ground rules, he believes taping should be allowed. Jones stated that she does not personally believe the taping was appropriate, indicating that the knowledge of the ability to tape needs to be established beforehand. Dumdi agreed with Phelps' comment about the appropriate forum and also expressed concern that the person in question has not even been charged yet. She also expressed concern that the priest didn't know the conversation was being taped. Dumdi stressed that she believes this is policy that needs to be determined at the attorney general level. Weeldreyer acknowledged that the statute does allow taping and that the exception is with an attorney, indicating that she believes clergy should also have the same respect. She expressed concern that nowhere in the public visiting room does it say that conversations may be subject to taping. Green remarked that if it were his kids who had been killed, then he would want those means available to assist the prosecution. Cornacchia stated that he has immense respect for Doug Harclerod and endorses his use of every available tool to accomplish a criminal investigation; noting, however, that he doesn't believe that this particular tool should be available. He observed his ongoing stance regarding privacy issues. Cornacchia indicated that he would be supportive of the commissioners sending a message to Harclerod that they do not find the expenditure of funds for this purpose to be appropriate. Bell stressed the need for at least one private conversation with a religious person by an inmate. McManus noted that credentials can be purchased in a magazine and that it would be difficult to define a religious person. Wilson

agreed that access to religion is broad and complicated and that leaders would be hard to define. There was eventually consensus that this issue was beyond the scope of this committee.

IV. BUDGET REVIEW

Garnick distributed responses to questions from previous meetings: 1) summary of workers' compensation claims costs; 2) spending on domestic violence (3 categories); and 3) road fund economic development projects.

General Fund 24

Garnick also distributed "Final Reconciliation of Department Budgets/Issues." He reviewed these items individually (see material on file). There was a brief discussion of Land Management's lapse dollars.

Parks and Open Spaces Fund 16

Garnick reviewed these items. There was a brief discussion regarding room tax dollars/tourism grants, with the recognition that the Board would be discussing these issues further at a later date. Responding to Green, Bob Keefer, Parks Director, indicated that staff is considering the inclusion of advertising in the campground directory.

Two further items were noted for action by the Board prior to the final action. Responding to Cornacchia, Garnick indicated that decisions had not yet been made regarding where the money for debt service for the PSB roof, etc. would come from.

Bartel discussed the Land Management budget, stating that he would like to stay with the goal of full cost recovery. He stated that the increase to meet that standard is not that great. Bartel indicated, however, that he will not vote against the budget for that reason, but just wanted to get his comment on the table.

V. MOTIONS TO APPROVE THE FY 96-97 LANE COUNTY BUDGET

MOTION: Approval of the entire FY 96-97 Budget, excluding Solid Waste's budget, with the reconciliations and all previously agreed upon adjustments, additions and reductions. Cornacchia MOVED, Phelps SECONDED. Responding to Bartel's wish to vote no on the Solid Waste budget due to concerns with solutions on Short Mountain leachate and personnel issues not yet resolved at the SWEG, Cornacchia AMENDED his Motion to exclude Solid Waste (as shown above), which was agreed to by Phelps. VOTE: 9-0.

MOTION: Approval of the Solid Waste budget. Cornacchia MOVED, Phelps SECONDED.

Weeldreyer agreed that although she still had concern about some issues before the Solid Waste Executive Group, she is comfortable with the bottom line amount for the Solid Waste program with SWEG still dealing with issues, indicating that she would support the Motion. Responding to Phelps, Van Vactor explained that SWEG is still debating management structure and that there is an ongoing debate between the management and labor unions. Responding to Green, Weeldreyer indicated that the division is going through tremendous change in a short period of time. Green stated he would support this budget, suggesting that the competing interests need to be secondary to the needs of Lane County. Cornacchia concurred with Weeldreyer that the proposed budget includes a maximum amount and that is the bottom line tonight. He stressed that the Board remains committed on the decisions made regarding the leachate disposal problem. Bell remarked that "holding this budget hostage" would not be the solution to this problem. VOTE: 8-1, Bartel dissenting.

MOTION: Approval of the FY96-97 Tax Levies as shown on the attachment marked Comparative Summary of Property Tax Levies and Rates, which includes a placeholder amount in the event Levy A Plus passes. Cornacchia MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED. VOTE: 9-0.

This meeting recessed at 7:08 p.m. to reconvene at 7:19 p.m.

VI. DISCUSSION ABOUT LONG-TERM PLANNING

Green distributed and reviewed a handout dealing with long term financial planning (see material on file). He indicated that it was his hope that the Budget Committee would forward this on to the Board of Commissioners. Green referred to reductions over the last five years, totaling \$7,289,000 and eliminating 119 positions. He proposed the formation of a Citizen Task Force to be coordinated by the County Administrator and Management Team which would have a minimum of five goals, including 1) review of any functions that should be eliminated; 2) oversee development of a task force to create a law enforcement enhancement district for unincorporated Lane County; 3) review, supplement and update the Revenue Task Force Report; 4) develop a citizen involvement process; and 5) develop a local government involvement process. Green stressed the need for a proactive stance. He summarized that he would suggest that the County Administrator and the Management Team report back at a July meeting of the Budget Committee with the details necessary to complete a work plan for each of the tasks. Green also recommended that the Board of Commissioners each recruit a citizen member for the task force. Bartel commended Green for bringing this forward. He suggested that there also be a discussion of capital improvement needs.

Bartel was excused from the meeting at this time.

Bell proposed adding an item related to alternative funding, i.e., ideas regarding grant writers, business partnerships, to help identify sources that could help in any areas that may

be eliminated. Cornacchia suggested possibly emulating Washington County's exercise that focused on similar goals. He asked that the Management Team also consider again the idea of a county newsletter or some way of interfacing with constituents. Dumdi stated that she was on board with Green's recommendation. Weeldreyer remarked that one of the most valuable investments Lane County could make would be with a full-time position which would dedicate half-time to public information and half-time to volunteer coordination. Stewart offered support for Green's proposal. Phelps suggested that the team member representing particular outlying areas be asked to do local meetings to involve members of that outlying area.

Management Team members present were asked for their comments. Green indicated that Jim Gangle was unable to be present, but had offered his support for the plan.

Rockstroh supported Green's proposal, stressing the need for partnerships and the need to look for outcome/evaluation. Carmichael remarked that this presents an opportunity to allow people to work toward a vision. Goodson agreed and indicated that Public Works staff were trying to recruit more newsletter articles from the Board, etc. and perhaps there is an opportunity to incorporate some of these into a quarterly newsletter. McManus stated that he likes the idea and is committed to help make it happen. Wilson noted that department heads are tired of negatives and that this provides an opportunity to work on a positive project. Suchart stated that he was encouraged and challenged Green to remain the champion of this proposal.

MOTION: To accept the recommendations of this long term planning process, with the addition of the additional ideas presented, and forward this on to the Board of Commissioners. Green MOVED, Dumdi SECONDED. Cornacchia offered his support for continuation of the goal of partnerships/cooperation. VOTE: 8-0.

Van Vactor offered his thanks to the budget staff and other staff who contributed to this year's budget effort.

VII. ADJOURN

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.


Sharon Giles
Board Secretary