

MINUTES & NOTICE OF BOARD ACTION

APPROVED 10/15/96

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.

May 9, 1996
5:15 p.m.

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

Commissioners'
Conference Room

PRESENT: Peter Bartel, Marie Bell, Ellie Dumdi, Bobby Green, Sr., Del Phelps (arrived at 5:45 p.m.), Bud Stewart (arrived at 6:54 p.m.) and Cindy Weeldreyer. Steve Cornacchia, Carol Jones and Jerry Rust excused. Sharon Giles, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Peter Bartel called a subcommittee of the Budget Committee together at 5:30 p.m. with five members present (Bartel, Bell, Dumdi, Green and Weeldreyer) until Phelps arrived to form a quorum at 5:45 p.m.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bob Cantine, Association of Oregon Counties, discussed a number of issues including school finance, with Weeldreyer asking if the proposal on the table would truly provide additional funds for schools. Cantine indicated that they may develop a constitutional amendment that would make sure the additional funding was not diminished by a shift in funds. With regard to Ballot Measure 67, Cantine stated that it could have a dramatic impact on counties and their property tax dollars. Cantine discussed Tillamook County's budget problems and the potential loss of their grant dollars if they do not keep their assessment and taxation department in compliance.

III. BUDGET REVIEW

Assessment and Taxation

Rick Schultz, Management Analyst, briefly review this budget, noting that it is basically status quo with the budget document reflecting a proposed reduction of one FTE.

Phelps arrived at 5:45 p.m.

Schulz explained that the department, as a result of concerns regarding the accuracy and quality of complex assessment functions, is now requesting that the reduction not be taken right now, but that they be allowed to wait for a retirement that they expect to happen in the next fiscal year.

Jim Gangle, Assessor, discussed the possibility, as is being done in Jackson County, of assessing fees for applications on exemptions, plat processing, division processing, etc., indicating that they plan to see if they can legally do that. He commented that these would be alternative revenue sources and are not included in this budget. Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator, discussed some case law authority that appears to specifically limit the authority of Assessment and Taxation offices to charge fees. Weeldreyer asked Cantine if other counties share Lane County's concerns regarding the issue of the cost of collection of taxes. Cantine indicated that other counties have that concern, too. Weeldreyer asked if a new strategy might be to charge other jurisdictions for the collection of taxes. Cantine indicated that he did not think AOC was ready to take that on. Phelps asked about the legality of the state requiring collection, but not providing funds to do that. Cantine referred to Ballot Measure 30 which deals with the prohibition of unfunded mandates. Responding to Weeldreyer, Cantine stated that the measure would affect increases of current mandates or on future mandates.

Gangle spoke about two issues: 1) the need for a new computer system to deal with the year 2000 millennium conversion problem, and 2) the considerable progress since 1990 regarding efficiencies. He introduced Fred Barker, Residential Manager, to discuss operational efficiencies.

Barker distributed a handout dealing with the work days per year by type for residential field appraisals (see material on file) and provided a brief history. He explained that the largest improvement has been the ability to trend in sub-areas.

Responding to Green, Gangle explained that Ballot Measure 5 will be fully implemented in 1996 and valuation increases will result in increased taxes, thus the department expects more appeals next year. Weeldreyer asked if Assessment and Taxation has a long-term plan on how technology could provide more information to the public. Gangle stated that, as the department looks at a new computer system, they are looking for other beneficial applications in this regard. Responding to Bell, Schulz explained that the new computer system is not in the budget now, but will probably be handled in a bonding process with other capital needs.

Roger Skelton, Commercial/Personal Property Manager, observed that his section's experience correlates with the same trends as in residential appraisal.

MOTION: Tentative approval of Assessment and Taxation's proposed budget with the restoration of the \$50,000 reduction in the budget document. Green **MOVED**, Dumdi **SECONDED**. **VOTE:** 6-0.

J.T.P.A. Department

Schulz provided a brief overview of this department's budget (see material on file), indicating that Lane County's relationship with JTPA is currently under review. He explained that there has been a substantial reduction in federal funding this year, resulting in the need for the 9.5 FTE reduction, a 15% reduction in materials and services, and a 100% decrease in capital expense after the requested adjustments. Schulz explained the specifics regarding indirect for this department. He outlined the three technical adjustments requested, explaining that these would result in restoration of 2 FTE, with the offset being a further reduction in materials and services.

Stewart arrived at 6:54 p.m.

Chuck Forster, JTPA Director, provided an explanation of their various programs. Responding to Bartel, Forster explained that choices were predicated on federal requirements, other entities available that could pick up services and the need for a certain amount of money for some programs to remain viable.

MOTION: Tentative approval of the JTPA proposed budget, with the requested adjustments. Green **MOVED**, Dumdi **SECONDED**. **VOTE:** 7-0.

Fair Board, All Funds

Schulz very briefly reviewed the three funds (see material on file):

Fair Board Fund

Fair Board Improvement & Maintenance Fund

Fairgrounds Construction Fund

Mike Gleason, Fair Board Director, provided information on a variety of the Fairgrounds' present and planned programs. He reported that relationships with the neighborhood have been improving regularly. Gleason summarized the Fair Board's concern that any further increase in building usage fees would push out some users, explaining, however, that there remains the need for revenue to maintain/protect the building assets.

Responding to Weeldreyer, Gleason indicated that "admissions" reflects fair fees, parking fees, concert tickets, ice arena, ice arena lessons, etc. Weeldreyer asked if efforts have been made to

coordinate with Eugene regarding conflicting activities, particularly during the fair. Gleason stated that he has been working with Jim Johnson. Responding to Phelps, Gleason explained that the Fair Board master plan has helped develop the figure of \$1.00 per foot rental value to deal with restorative/preventive maintenance. Phelps encouraged the Board to work with the Fair Board on a plan for funding to maintain the assets. Green suggested that the Board and the Fair Board get together, possibly after the fair, to work on maintaining a competitive fee structure. Responding to Weeldreyer, Gleason and Schulz explained that some of the differences in figures result in a difference in financial systems between the Fair Board and Lane County. Weeldreyer asked if there is a way to use room tax monies for some of the long term improvements that are necessary. Green remarked that the industry may not be totally resistant, but that a discussion including all interested parties would be necessary to review that issue. Dumdi remarked that it would be beneficial to include other players in the room tax arena. Gleason stressed the need for planning for convention investments to benefit the community overall as the market is becoming very competitive.

Responding to Bartel, Gleason discussed the market/planning for indoor soccer. He explained that the project will break even after the first year. There was a brief discussion regarding the ice facility and its needs. Dumdi suggested that members of the Budget Committee tour the Fairgrounds. Green commented on how critical the transportation piece is to the convention venue. Gleason stressed that LTD needs to be a player. Responding to Bell, Gleason explained that the capital dollars figure in the budget will probably more accurately be \$300,000.

Cleve Dumdi reported that 1) the Fair Board looks at Gleason as a great addition to the Fairgrounds, 2) that there is a need to do planning beyond the Fair, and 3) that youth is a high priority to the Fair Board.

MOTION: Tentative approval of the proposed Fair Board budget, all funds. Weeldreyer **MOVED**, Dumdi **SECONDED**. VOTE: 7-0.

This meeting recessed at 8:10 p.m. to reconvene at 8:20 p.m.

Department of Information Services

Schulz reviewed the vision/mission and budget overview for the new department of Information Services (see material on file). He explained that the new department does not represent any new costs for the County, but rather a reorganization of how Personal Services and Materials & Services are grouped in the budget. Van Vactor explained that a major goal is to speak with a single, consistent voice regarding the issues of information technology.

MOTION: Tentative approval of the Information Services budget. Phelps **MOVED**, Weeldreyer **SECONDED**. VOTE: 7-0.

Observing the need to finalize the Waste Management portion of the Public Works budget, Bill Van Vactor, County Administrator, explained that staff has determined that the acquisition of tarps can occur through their materials and services budget, so there is no need for the budget addition.

MOTION: Tentative approval of the Waste Management Division budget, without the addition for the tarps, but with the add for the household hazardous waste collection facility, including the position for the Special Waste Technician and the \$2.7 million figure for capital improvements at Short Mountain. Bartel indicated that he would be voting no on this matter as there were issues still to be worked out. Weeldreyer remarked that this is a tentative Motion, based on further discussion by the Board. Weeldreyer MOVED, Phelps SECONDED. 6-1, Bartel dissenting.

IV. NEXT MEETING

May 14, 1996
5:15 p.m.
Commissioners' Conference Room

V. ADJOURN

There being no further business, this meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.


Sharon Giles
Board Secretary