



CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES – WORKSHOP

Thursday, February 04, 2016 –10:00 A.M.
Commissioners' Hearing Room, Courthouse Annex
94235 Moore St., Gold Beach, Oregon 97444

Commissioners Present: Chair Thomas Huxley, Vice-Chair Susan Brown, David Brock Smith

Support Staff Present: County Counsel John Huttli, Administrative Assistant Shellá Megson

CALL TO ORDER

Commissioner Huxley called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. The Pledge was recited by all.

DISCUSSION TOPIC: BUDGET

County Accountant Short recapped the sheets that he had presented on Tuesday 02-02-2016. He showed the most recent carry-forward sheet that showed the capital transfer of \$40,000 that was not included last time. He reviewed the non-departmental sheet that showed recent actual semi-year expenses/revenues. He said tobacco taxes usually come in monthly. It showed the current budget with numbers but he warned he is not proposing any of the numbers and just put them there as a starting point. He said that the District Attorney Victims Advocate and Child Advocacy Departments were probably going to need some adjustments. He explained that if they were set up by the Board for a fund in the past then it will take formal action to change that. He advises against pulling from self-funded insurance and Public Employee Retirement System (PERS).

Short addressed the timing issue concerning the County Assessment Function Funding Assistance (CAFFA) grant. It will be submitted to the State by May 01, 2016 but the Budget Committee will not be meeting until after that time. After the CAFFA is submitted, certain affected areas cannot be reduced in the final budget without jeopardy of losing the grant.

Various spreadsheets and examples are available to the staff if they are accessed from within the County system and if the computer had been updated with the most recent plug-in for Excel. He recalled that there had been a question of missing \$1.6 million in a category but said that the sheet had shown correct totals. Short said the tables showing the non-departmental figures were based on his current actual estimates. Commissioner Smith was working with the State and the Association of Oregon Counties (AOC) to make sure some of the external income sources would remain whole. Commissioner Huxley said those funds would be very restricted in their use.

Commissioner Brown asked about a few numbers shown on the spreadsheet. She said that the Board would need to decide whether to include Road Department funds for the Sheriff Department or not and then give the department heads direction for doing their own budgets. Commissioner Huxley talked about scheduling the Budget Committee. Short explained that a month would be needed in order to prepare for them. Short also cautioned to leave some time for any changes after the committee hearings. They would then publish a budget summary, followed by an official action by the Board adopting the annual budget. If any significant changes were to be made afterwards then it would require another published hearing.

Commissioner Huxley said that Budget Committee member John Spicer's term would soon be expiring and efforts should be made to see if anyone else would want to replace him. He also recalled the District Attorney's office speaking during the last workshop about their request to not lower their budget in the coming year. He said it had been well thought out with statistics and reason. He would like all departments to follow suit. Smith asked Huxley what his plans were for generating funds to support the County services. Huxley answered that his approach is to figure out things to cut from the budget and you can only provide services to the extent of what funding you already have. Smith disagreed with only cutting items and asked how Huxley planned to support the services on a \$2.6 million budget. He reminded Huxley that the available carryover amounts would be a one-time event.

Commissioner Huxley told Commissioner Smith that his time to speak was up. Smith said that he would appreciate not being interrupted, could continue talking, and again asked for plans to secure funding for services. Huxley disagreed with Smith and said that as Chair he could set limits of time on anyone. Tom said he thought there was plenty of money for this year and would want to sit down with each department to discuss their budgets. Smith said that he has the utmost trust in the department heads. Huxley again interrupted Smith citing time constraints and asked Brown if she would like three or four minutes to speak.

Brown said that Road Department money will need to be used. She will meet with her departments to figure out any needed cuts. She thought it important to identify what the County had available before trying to figure out what can be spent. Brown said that she was not in favor of using the worksheet tool presented by Smith at an earlier meeting because it already determines an end which has not yet been decided. Smith asked if the Board would want a workshop with the lay members of the Budget Committee so that they could see the worksheet. Short advised against the action saying there could be prohibitive laws concerning it. He said that the Budget Committee lay members could attend meetings as public residents. Brown said that she did not want to treat the budget as a shared pie to be fully consumed. Smith said that he had hoped the worksheet could be used so that department heads could collaborate and find ways of cost sharing and saving but not as an alternative to individual budgets.

Smith said that it was unfortunate but agreed that the Road Department funds be used to keep the services whole for the County and residents. Huxley said that maybe a department should be closed or researching to see if any position in the Sheriff's department as an example is not mandated. Smith asked what departments could be closed. Smith then asked if Huxley thought each department should be made to show their worth to which Huxley responded in the affirmative. Smith asked if Huxley thought any departments were more important than others. Smith said that the fat had already been cut and did not see where it could be done further.

Sheriff Ward said that the current budget for his department was not really enough and could not do with any less. He said as an example, the limited staffing created scenarios requiring expensive overtime. Ward said that the Sheriff's office had received over 500 calls concerning animal control alone. They were already in a situation where deputies could not be sent out on some calls and prioritization had to be implemented leaving some requests for services denied. The wages offered to the deputies were not competitive and increased the possibility of the employee accepting alternative employment after the County had paid for them to be trained. Ward addressed a recent letter to the local newspaper written by Huxley and said that the information wasn't completely true. He noted that not everyone gets raises and many had been there long enough or with enough experience and/or training to have been topped out on the wage scale and therefore had not been receiving increases. It was determined that \$3.3 million was needed for the Sheriff's Department not including the District Attorney or Juvenile offices. Smith pointed out that even with the carryover funds, only \$300,000 would remain to fund all other county services while remaining with an existing diminished Sheriff's Department. The District Attorney office would need \$340,000 and is already overwhelmed as talked about during the last meeting. Smith suggested revisiting the idea of a consolidation 911 call center. Sergeant Hensley said that due to new technology that there would need to be more communications towers erected. The current system would reach the end of its useful life in four years. Each new tower was estimated to cost \$1.3 million.

Consensus was reached to plan to include Road Department dollars in the development of the next fiscal budget. Brown would like the departments to prepare a budget and bring it to the Board. Huxley would like them to bring a budget with less expense than the prior year. Smith would like the Board to work on and support measures to increase funding.

Lieutenant Espinoza explained that he has many internal departments with many mandated services. He said he was not getting a clear direction from the Board and suggested that they give his department a definite number. He said that the departments should all work together and not be made to compete against each other to try to show worth. Smith asked for consensus to let the departments make status quo budgets. County Counsel Huttl said that the direction would be to only make budget proposals and not decisions. Huxley said that he agreed on status quo consensus but then said maybe it could be a ten percent cut.

Commissioner Brown left the meeting.

Huxley said that he will save the County over his four years in office \$325,000. Smith said 'you get what you pay for' and Ward said that most were not on retirement and do work for their paychecks. Huxley said that he worked for many years to earn the retirement income that he currently receives. Ward said that is what they were trying to do as well.

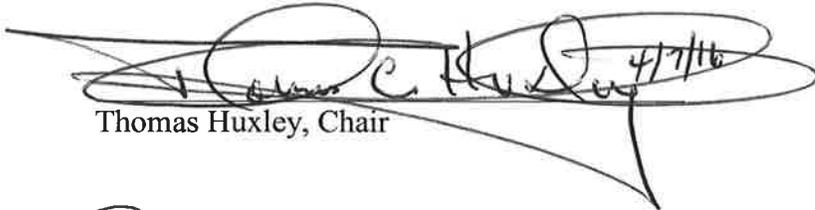
ADJOURN

Commissioner Huxley adjourned the meeting at 12:10 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelia M. Megson

These minutes from Thursday, February 04, 2016 Board of Commissioners' Workshop approved this 6 day of April, 2016.

CURRY COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Thomas Huxley, Chair



Susan Brown, Vice Chair



David Brock Smith, Commissioner