

FINANCE COMMITTEE
July 17, 2008

The meeting of the Finance Committee was called to order by Chair, Dan Priske at 4:30 PM on Thursday, July 17, 2008, in the Green Lake County Board Room. The requirements of the open meeting law were certified as being met.

Present: Dan Priske
Deb Schubert
Alma Hedberg
Susan McConnell
Eugene Schroeder

Also Present: Marge Bostelmann, County Clerk
Orrin Helmer, County Board Chair

Department Heads: Mark Podoll, Linda Van Ness, Jim Hebbe, Dean Slark, Winn Collins, Linda Richards, Ed Schuh, LeRoy Dissing, Kathy Morris, Leone, Seaman, Kathy Munsey, Darlene Strey, Terri Stellmacher, Sue Sleezer, John Simmons, Al Shute, Brenda Keller, Becky Pence, Bill Hutchison, Gary Podoll, Judge McMonigal, Jerry Beuthin, Mark Arend, Chris Carroll

Also present: Maureen Schweder

AGENDA

Motion/second (Schubert/McConnell) to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT – 3 Minute limit None

MEET WITH DEPARTMENT HEADS REGARDING 2009 BUDGET:

Priske gave an overview of the issues relating to the tax freeze, fuel costs, economy and problems with the state and federal government.

Schroeder, Hedberg, McConnell and Schubert gave their impressions on the reports from the department heads and the need to make reductions in the budgets.

Van Ness stated they have looked at fee increase which would not generate much money. She also explained the need for services on the front end to eliminate large costs on the back end.

Mark Podoll explained cuts Law Enforcement has made in management, fleet changes, and transports.

Jim Hebbe is looking for additional grants and increasing revenue.

Judge McMonigal there are services that we are mandated to provide and other that are optional. Need to look at how basic can we get and determine what is truly optional and what is not. He explained how

helpful the community service project is, it is not essential but provides a good cost effective service.

Winn Collins is concerned that departments are very cooperative and he is concerned that departments not be put in competition with each other for revenues. He is in favor of a cooperative effort to continue with departments.

Leone Seaman does not want to see staff reductions, however believes in the cooperation between departments.

Morris stated that the budgets are as close as they have ever been. She recommends that the lunch hour be increase from ½ hour to 1 hour.

Al Shute agrees with the comments made regarding services. He has 6 ordinances that they have to maintain. A reduction in staff would be a reduction in services.

John Simpson stated that the Highway department is able to charge for all hours that they work for the County and the County departments are required to pay. Suggests flex time rather than overtime. Do we need to provide Kleenex?

Jerry Beuthin stated that the staff has reduced the staff from 2 full time and 2 part-time to 1 full time and 1 part time. Programs continue to increase and they now have less people taking care of more programs. The community will have accept a reduction of services if there is a reduction of staff.

John Selsing suggested that we just tell the state this is not working. 2% is not enough of an increase. Schroeder asked if Selsing is capable to do the TPRs. Selsing stated that Camp agreed that it works better through the DAs office.

Terri Stellmacher would like to see what is required by the office and then see what is not required and what can be eliminated.

Sue Sleezer stated that prevention is important because if there is not prevention then there is greater cost later. If 17 year olds go back to the juvenile court.

Ed Schuh stated that in their department they always look at combining positions.

Linda Richards stated that as the economy is going into crisis the mental health services are increasing.

LeRoy Dissing best way to deal with the process is to work together internally and externally with other counties.

Mark Arend Chris Carroll stated the libraries are in the same boat as the County. They are working with all the library systems to see how to reduce expenses. Library reimbursement is based on loans. Reimbursement to the libraries from the County is based on previous year's expense.

Brenda Keller agrees that we need to know the critical services with non-critical services. She also

suggests we look for possible duplication of services. What do the tax payers want us to provide.

Becky Pence is streamlining and possible consolidation as necessary. Make sure we are reimbursed when ever possible.

Lori Evans suggested volunteers in offices, use Brenda for suggestion in personnel issues, make it known to the state this is a problem. Voluntary layoffs or cut backs. Specify the specific services in departments to determine mandates vs non-mandates.

Dean Slark stated that the UWEX is 40 % funded by the county and 60% by the state. Need to look at the services UWEX provides which are mostly prevention.

Judge McMonigal stated that in the courts they use video conferencing which help with transportation costs and reduced the expense by about \$5000. He is willing to share the system with any department that may be able to use it.

Orrin Helmer stated that we talk about services we need to provide. When looking at the fair the Highway department moves out for ten days and then moves in for ten days. The fair is an expense to highway but it is worthwhile for the youth of the county.

Priske thanked everyone for coming and asked for budgets to be sent in soon.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

Future meeting dates: Thursday, July 31, 2008 at 4:30 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion/second (McConnell/Hedberg) to adjourn at 6:00 PM. Motion carried.

Submitted by,



Marge Bostelmann
County Clerk