

LANE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 17, 2018

6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Harris Hall

Chair Denis Hijmans presided with Budget Committee members present: Commissioner Gary Williams, Commissioner Sid Leiken, Vice-Chair Herb Vloedman, Commissioner Jay Bozievich, Dale Stoneburg, Commissioner Pat Farr (via phone), and Commissioner Pete Sorenson. Larry Abel excused.

Also, there was one person signed up for public comment to speak. Her name was Majeska Seese-Green.

Steve Manela, Division Manager for Human Services with Health and Human Services, made comments when the Budget committee was discussing the Dusk to Dawn housing funding and the Metro TV filming for the Poverty and Homelessness Board Meetings.

I believe Karen Gaffney, Director for Health and Human Services, made comments when the Budget Committee discussed the NAMI funding.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Denis Hijmans called the meeting to Order.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Hijmans introduced Majeska Seese-Green, a resident of Eugene.

Majeska Seese-Green stated she attends most of the Poverty and Homelessness Board meetings. She expressed her request for support from the Budget Committee to continue funding for the Dusk to Dawn emergency housing program supported by Commissioner Farr. Commissioner Farr also supported more funding for the Poverty and Homelessness Board TV services to make the programs more visible and accessible to the public.

Majeska explained how she is impressed with the Board's improvement over her years of being affiliated, but urges that there is still much to be improved.

Chair Hijmans closed the Public Comment session.

III. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Chair Hijmans moved to approve revisions to the Committee Minutes for the days of May 8th, 9th, and 10th of 2018. Chair Hijmans called for a vote to approve the motion, and the motion was approved unanimously.

IV. PROPOSED BUDGET RECAP

Before beginning, Christine Moody noted that because the Committee is a citizen member vacancy, the number of members will be changing to nine, which makes the quorum size five. Also, there are specific rules around the majority that the decisions are based on the size of the committee, not who is in attendance, so that number will also be five. She finished by thanking a few members of the Committee and its affiliates for the good job on the budget planning.

Steve Mokrohisky, County Administrator, began by informing that this is the second year the staff has come up with a structurally balanced budget with no use of reserves, no layoffs, no reductions in services, as well as enhancements in targeted areas and key initiatives. There has been no increase in health insurance costs for three years in a row.

He countered this by saying that those working in the local government have to keep looking into creative ways to manage resources and create long-term financial stability for the organizations that they lead. Even with many improvements to the program, Steve Mokrohisky emphasized the importance of continuous maintenance.

V. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION / DELIBERATION

Chair Hijmans began the discussion by siding with Mr. Mokrohisky and saying Christine should be awarded a budget staff award for her hard work. He then brought to attention the six different proposals to be judged for the day.

Commissioner Sorenson wanted to know, if all the proposals were accepted, how would it affect the general budget?

- Christine Moody: the first has revenue coming in to cover it, so it will have net zero impact, while the others are assumed to come from reserves, specifically what has been reserved for capital, otherwise the general fund would dip below 20%.
- Christine Moody also stated, because the first proposal is one-time money, it would be structurally imbalanced.

Vice Chair Vloedman asked what is the dollar amount of the future capital reserve in general funds?

- Ms. Moody stated the Capital Planning Reserve money is \$3.35 million.

Item 1: Transfer SRS funds to fund 5 years of rural patrol

Chair Hijmans opened Item 1 for discussion. He brought to attention two papers, one being about 5 years of rural patrol with a cost of \$1,115,104. The road fund onetime investment projects reduction scenarios is \$1.375 million. He asked Ms. Moody to clarify this.

- Ms. Moody said that because the projects are of a specific size, they want to take more out of the first year. With the actual budget adjustment, it would result in

capital expenditure decrease of \$1.3 million, as well as increase the transfers out and some money would go into reserves to fund a future year.

- Chair Hijmans then asked if the money could or could not stay in the road fund, to which Ms. Moody said it could stay.

Chair Bozievich mentioned that this proposal was his brainchild and explained that this was a good opportunity to utilize road fund SRS money because it is flexible. But, he stated the proposal was not thoroughly planned, and he expressed concern over the fact that the program could cause the budget to be structurally imbalanced. He urged a policy discussion among the Committee around separately tracking secure rural schools and federal forest road fund monies from all other funds in the road fund and setting up a policy of spending those dollars last so they become reserve money in the future. He emphasized the importance of deciding where the money should be spent first.

Ultimately, he requested to take Item 1 off the table.

Commissioner Sorenson asked if the money could be included in next year's budget in the way Chair Bozievich had mentioned. How many road funds would there be in the one general fund?

- Ms. Moody answered that yes, they can be tracked. Inside of a fund is the department IDs which tracks specific revenue within department IDs. It would still be in the road fund.

Commissioner Leiken stated he was originally going to approve the proposal but changed his mind based on Bozievich's comments. He liked the idea because it allows for tracking of the SRS money. He supported taking the proposal off the table but noted the ability to track it is a good idea. He believes if it was ONC, the conversation would be different because the gap is actually shrinking.

Commissioner Williams agreed with Commissioner Leiken's assessment, as did Herb Vloedman.

Commissioner Sorenson asked what is the downside to making it so funds must be used for only one purpose as opposed to multiple purposes.

- Ms. Moody answered that the road fund is defined in other places that are not under committee control. What could be used is a sub fund, but additional funds are not always legally possible. So, a road fund must be used.

Mr. Mokrohisky offered to take the proposal back to the drawing board to be fine-tuned so as to iron out budget issues.

Motion 1: Herb Vloedman motioned to request that staff come back to the next scheduled meeting to break down the road fund following the guidance of the Board.

- Commissioner Bozievich seconded the motion.
- The motion was carried to move Proposal 1 to be discussed at the January meeting when more information is available.

Motion 2: Commissioner Vloedman motioned to end discussion of Proposal 1.

- The motion carried with a unanimous vote, resulting in Proposal 1 being tabled.

Item 2: Dusk to Dawn emergency housing funding

Chair Hijmans opened Item 2 up for discussion about the Dusk to Dawn housing funding program. He requested Commissioner Farr's explanation on the proposal.

Commissioner Farr requested an increase of \$38,205 to the program. He noted that last year the program spent only \$23,000, so this would be about a \$14,901 increase from the money spent last year. The money would help to increase the number of beds provided to the homeless and support money for housing, along with \$162,505 provided by the city of Eugene.

Commissioner Bozievich clarified that the city had already approved the additional amount for Dusk to Dawn.

- Commissioner Farr responded that this is a separate budget issue.

Steve Manela, Division Manager for Human Services with Health and Human Services, made comments when the Budget committee was discussing the Dusk to Dawn housing funding and the Metro TV filming for the Poverty and Homelessness Board Meetings. He emphasized that the program is vital to providing 95 more beds for the homeless.

Ms. Moody reminded that this proposal would be funded through the capital reserves in the general fund.

Commissioner Sorenson wanted to clarify that there is only one capital reserve.

- Ms. Moody responded yes, and that the fund number is in the general fund.
- Commissioner Sorenson also clarified that the Dusk to Dawn program would take up 1% of the reserve. He then expressed his support for the funding of the program.

Motion 1: Commissioner Farr moved for approval of the proposal to increase funding for the Dusk to Dawn program.

- Commissioner Williams seconded the motion.
- Motion 1 carried unanimously to increase funding to \$38,205.

Item 3: Metro TV services for Poverty and Homelessness Board meetings

Commissioner Farr went on to discuss getting a \$6,000 increase to broadcast the Poverty and Homelessness Board meetings and executive committee meetings because the meetings are becoming popular with the general public.

Ms. Moody wanted to clarify whether this is a one-year request or ongoing.

- Commissioner Farr stated it would begin as a one-year request with the expectation of becoming an ongoing part of the budget after the Committee proves that the money leads to beneficial effects.

Motion 1: Chair Hijmans moved to approve the \$6,000 increase to the Poverty and Homelessness Board meetings to fund Metro TV services.

- Commissioner Williams seconded the motion.
- Motion 1 carried unanimously.

Item 4: National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) funding

Chair Hijmans opened Item 4 up for discussion. He noted that Larry Abel, the citizen member who brought up the item, was not in attendance.

Christine Moody clarified that the fund source was not accurately outlined. She also stated that Larry Abel had requested \$100,000 be placed in reserves in the event that Trillium funding is discontinued.

Herb Vloedman stated that he would like to hear from the department..

- Karen Gaffney informed that Trillium is still going through the process of revising its contract. They anticipate they will have settled the decision by late summer. Ultimately she discouraged adding to the reserves because it might in turn discourage Trillium from providing funds.

Commissioner Sorenson asked if there is a service provider network that weighs in on the proposed budget before it gets proposed.

- Karen Gaffney answered this particular contract is connected to Trillium, not the county.
- Commissioner Sorenson stated if the item does not pass today and Trillium revokes their funding, it should be the responsibility of the board to provide supplemental funding.

Item 4 was tabled.

Item 5: Lane Watermaster Funding

Chair Hijmans opened Item 5 with a comment that this item has been requested for 15 years and has never been approved in those 15 years.

- Ms. Moody offered that the Watermaster position is now held by Lenea Blakely.

Commissioner Sorenson explained that it seems fair for the Board to offer monetary support to citizens at a state level, but to extend that to government employees is sending the wrong message.

Commissioner Bozievich expressed sympathy for the Watermasters in that their workload has doubled since the rise of marijuana grows in the county, but this is an issue of state

funding so they should converse with the legislature about redistributing marijuana money to the Watermasters office. \$5,000 per county would barely dent that fund, which requires legislative action. Ultimately, Commissioner Bozievich requested to know if there are 4 votes to continue this discussion.

Item 5 was unanimously tabled.

VI. APPROVE BUDGET

Before getting into the motions, Christine Moody clarified that one of them will be on the local option tax, so there will be a border that changes the percentage split now that the sheriff's office piece is going up and the youth services is staying the same.

Motion 1: Move approval of the FY 2018-2019 Lane County Permanent Tax Rate of \$1.2793 per \$1,000 of Assessed Value.

Chair Hijmans moved to approve the motion.

- Commissioner Bozievich seconded the motion.
- Motion 1 carried unanimously.

Motion 2: Move approval of the FY 2018-2019 Local Option Tax for Jail & Critical Youth Services in the amount of \$0.515 per \$1,000 Assessed Value with \$0.435 for Jail Services and \$0.08 for Youth Services.

Chair Hijmans moved to approve the motion.

- Commissioner Williams seconded the motion.
- Motion 2 carried unanimously.

Motion 3: Move approval of the FY 2018-2019 Local Option Tax to support 4-H and OSU Extension Programs in Lane County in the amount of \$0.015 per \$1,000 Assessed Value.

Chair Hijmans moved to approve the motion.

- Commissioner Bozievich seconded the motion.
- Motion 3 carried unanimously.

Motion 4: Move approval to allow the use of transient room tax dollars for operational purposes consistent with Lane Code 4.175(5) & (6) and ORS 320.350 as follows:

- Lane Events Center – \$874,115
- Lane County Parks Division – \$732,677

Commissioner Williams moved to approve the motion.

- Herb Vloedman seconded the motion.
- Motion 4 carried unanimously.

Motion 5: Move approval of entire FY 2018-2019 budget with all adjustments approved by the Budget Committee.

Commissioner Bozievich moved to approve the motion.

- Commissioner Leiken seconded the motion.
- Motion 5 carried unanimously.

Commissioner Bozievich thanked Mr. Mokrohisky and the budget staff for the diligent work they have done and for preparing a structurally balanced budget that is saving and also building reserve money.

Commissioner Sorenson also expressed gratitude to the staff, department people, and citizen members for the excellent work and contributions. He hopes to hear more about citizen problems such as with the youth, the elderly, poverty, crime rates, suicide rates and substance abuse.

Chair Hijmans closed by commenting that it is a pleasure to work with the Committee and appreciates the hard work and honesty.

VII. ADJOURN

Commissioner Leiken stated that this is his final Budget Committee session and wanted to let the staff know that it has been a pleasure being a part of the team. He appreciates the improvement and leadership over the years.

Chair Hijmans adjourned the meeting.