

**Budget Work Session**

**April 21, 2009**

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Budget Work Session at the Otero County Administration Building, in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 9:00 a.m., April 21, 2009; and he announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, and to Radio Stations, KPSA, KINN and KYEE.

**Present:**

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|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Ronny Rardin    | Chairman                 |
| Doug Moore      | Vice-Chair person        |
| Clarissa McGinn | Member                   |
| Timothy Smith   | County Manager           |
| Ray Backstrom   | Assistant County Manager |
| Pamela Heltner  | Commission Liaison       |
| Lynn Estrada    | Deputy Clerk             |

**DRAFT**

Tim Smith, County Manager and Donna Brandon, Financial Director, went through the changes that the Commission had requested from the last Budget Session.

Mr. Smith discussed the Community Services. We left the Senior Centers, transportation, library and mental health services at last years funding. Commissioner McGinn stated that she would like to get our operational budget set and then come back to the Community Services.

The Board went through each Department's budget with the changes that were made. The projected spend into cash carryover with capital outlay and salaries is \$1,662.043.28. This figure is without the 4 new

dispatch personnel. Commissioner McGinn would like to leave all of staff recommendations and the changes that were made today, plus the four dispatchers. Mr. Smith stated that we took out \$54,000.00 and then added \$65,000.00. Commissioner Moore stated that he would like to have some more information on the dispatchers. He wants to know how many times somebody's call is getting delayed. We should be able to figure this out by the logs that are kept. Commissioner Moore would like to budget this coming year for two dispatchers. He would like to see the evidence of how many times a day does that really happen or how many times a shift.

Commissioner Rardin stated that he can't make any decisions until he has more information. Once he has his questions answered, he will then be able to make a decision.

Commissioner Moore stated that he is alright with staff recommendation of the \$1,662,043.28 spending into the cash carryover, given what we have done today. He would also throw in 2 dispatchers, possibly 2 more given the information that he is going to get. The lobbyist money was left in. Robyn Holmes, County Clerk, would like to discuss the lobbyist issue with the Board. There is great concern with the big Board at New Mexico Association of Counties that the Clerk's Affiliate has formed an LLC. There is some concern that may be technically illegal. They are having that review now by the attorney. Leadership with NMAC is getting with the Leadership from the Clerk's Affiliate to discuss their needs and desires. There was lengthy discussion at the Board Meeting about NMAC not meeting the needs of all the affiliates. They are going to try and develop something so that we can work through NMAC and each County through their membership fees. The lobbyist that we currently have, we need to sit him down with all the elected officials, who need the lobbyist help. If he can't provide the service, we need to look at alternative methods.

Commissioner Rardin stated that the \$8,000 from Robyn's fund 17, this guy does other things for the

Clerk's besides lobbying. Commissioner Rardin stated maybe cut the lobbying out and let him do everything else and use our lobbyist. Ms. Holmes stated that the County Clerks are trying to become uniform. That is basically why he came on board in the first place. He is an attorney and a lobbyist and he just stepped into that position this year. Commissioner Moore stated that NMAC is going to approach the Clerk's affiliate president and also this guy to see if he would become a staff member of NMAC to provide these services to the Clerks year round.

Commissioner McGinn stated that the \$1,662,043.28 recommendation changes that we made, we keep here. We come back at our next meeting before we get to Community Services or salaries, we decide on the dispatchers and the console for the dispatchers. Then we go into salaries, sick leave buy back and Community Services.

Commissioner Rardin stated that he agrees with Commissioner McGinn to put the four dispatchers in the budget for now. Before they are approved though, Commissioner Rardin would like to have the information from Sheriff Blansett of how many times a call to service goes unanswered by a dispatcher because of their work load.

Commissioner McGinn stated that once we get our whole operating and salary budget set, then look at the Community Service projects. Commissioner Moore's recommendation for the Community Services is to put back in everything that was cut out. If we feel any are inappropriate, we need to send them a letter that they will not be considered next year for funding. Our Community Service is consistent funding. We won't always consider an increase, but we don't want to leave them hanging either. Put all the funding back at last years funding and no new programs.

Commissioner Moore requested Ms. Brandon to figure a cola increase of \$1.00 an hour and .50 an hour. Insurance premiums will not increase this year, but the employees co-pay will be increasing.

Ms. Brandon has direction to make the budget adjustments that were discussed today and have them ready for the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

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Ronny Rardin, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Robyn Holmes, County Clerk

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