

Budget Work Session

July 13, 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., July 13, 2009; and he announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, and to Radio Stations, KPSSA, KINN and KYEE.

Present:

Ronny Rardin	Chairman
Doug Moore	Vice-Chairman (absent)
Clarissa McGinn	Member
Timothy Smith	County Manager
Pamela Heltner	Commission Liaison
Christina Nuno	Deputy Clerk

DRAFT

1. Review of the interim budget for fiscal year 2009/2010.

Donna Brandon, Financial Director, handed out a final budget recapitulation sheet and pointed out her projections from the interim budget in May that was different from the final budget recapitulation sheet. Ms. Brandon stated that the actual beginning cash was \$14.3 million and in May she had projected \$10.9 million, which the majority of the differences come from the sale of the hospital lot. In PILT there was \$770,000 more in the budget than what she had projected. Commissioner Rardin stated that he and Timothy Smith, County Manager, will be in Nashville, Tennessee next week and they will pushing hard to make that a permanent fund; and the committee for PILT is working to make it a permanent funding

through Congress. Commissioner McGinn asked if the difference in the beginning cash is the additional PILT and the sale of the hospital lot. Ms. Brandon said also the cash transfers that were not made that were projected to be over \$1.1 million and property taxes that were collected for the second half for a total amount of \$437,000. That is where the majority of the significant increase cash carry over came from. Ms. Brandon stated that revenues in the interim budget she had projected were \$2.2 million. The budget the way it is now is \$22.7 million and that includes the reduction in the revenue for the sale of the hospital lot as well as other final items to include the grants for law enforcement which were significant. Commissioner McGinn asked if the revenues they projected came in more than what they budgeted? Ms. Brandon stated yes, they did. She also said the grants for law enforcement that she entered in this final budget recap are \$633,000 and expenditures went from \$25.5 million to \$27.4 million and that is a net increase of \$1.9 million. She stated these are items receivable encumbrances carried over from fiscal year 2008/2009 to 2009/2010 the total amount on items receivable are \$817,000 and again the law enforcement grants which totaled \$890,000. The law enforcement grants are primarily for equipment plus three vehicles for under cover narcotic agents, Stone Garden, which is mostly over time related to border security issues, as well as more equipment.

Ms. Brandon stated she would like to get the commission's "Blessing" she added a \$1000 to the Administration's capital outlay for another five drawer lateral file cabinet for accounts payable. She also stated Commissioner Moore requested a carry over for Dr. Fowler and Dr. Thal.; however, she did not make any appropriations for Dr. Thal. She said as she understands the money that is there, it is for a specific project. The Rifle Range received a small grant of \$800 from the NRA for "Women on Target" which involves shooting training and activities for women. The Sheriff's grants are in and also on the Farm and Range Improvement Fund at Bobby Jones's request; she added an additional \$10,000 appropriation for the

Aerial Coyote Hunt. Ms. Brandon stated the \$80,000, for the construction of the storage facility room that will be on the property of the Road Department, failed to be encumbered last year, so she put it back in. On the Indigent Community sole provider they were expecting, when approved, \$2.7 million for the hospital and they were projecting the cost over \$700,000 for the local match; however, it is \$400,000 with no reduction in funding to the hospital which saved them a significant amount of money. Commissioner Rardin asked about the \$190,000 minus transfers on line item "E". Ms. Brandon stated that is for the Health Reserve Fund for ambulance which it is being transferred from the Indigent to funding for Health Reserve Fund. Ms. Brandon will put back the \$700,000 into the Indigent Fund. Commissioner McGinn asked about Dr. Boehm's contract? Ms. Brandon said they didn't spend any money on that and she left it as "status quote". Commissioner McGinn stated if it stayed in and Ms. Brandon said yes \$10,000 for his liability insurance and \$20,000 for his servicing fees as Medical Director.

Ms. Brandon stated that the only thing that can change between now and Thursday, for the next Commission Meeting, is that she has placed a call to the State Fire Marshall's office since she has not yet received an estimate of what the state fire allotments will be this year and the EMS funds. She said the State Fire and EMS funds are all funded at last year's level. Ms. Brandon stated she would like to have good numbers so that she doesn't have to do budget adjustments. Commissioner McGinn would like to change line item 1018500, EMS Licensing, the new state mandate fee for each new EMS vehicle to change the amount to \$18,300 an increase of \$15,700. Commissioner McGinn also asked about the salary increases as she understands it; they only did 50 cent C.O.L.A. for everybody no merits or other increases even though she sees a request. Mr. Smith indicated there is an increase for the assessing department but it's not a salary increase it's for a promotion whenever it takes place rather than funding for a new position presumably if somebody in the department takes that position. They have budget the difference of \$14,000.

Commissioner Rardin stated for this year he would like to strike that one for now and adjust it for next budget. Commissioner Rardin stated prior to him be elected, he attended a commission meeting and remembered a question Commissioner McGinn had regarding any raises or promotions included in the new structured Wage and Compensation and the answer was no; however, there were two and one was already done which nothing could be done and this one is not done and he would like to put a stop, because he does not think it is fair that across the board nobody got an adjusted just this one department. Commissioner Rardin would like to strike out the \$14,000 and move it to another line item. Commissioner McGinn agreed with Commissioner Rardin to remove the \$14,000. Ms. Brandon stated there is another salary action which is the new positions for the Sheriff's department and the other salary action is for Bill Osborn from part-time to full-time status, there is a grant to cover the majority of that cost. Commissioner McGinn asked since there is a grant they won't have to expend money because he will be going from part-time to full-time. Mr. Smith stated they will not get reimbursed for that portion of monies till the end of the year, so that is why they budgeted for it now. Commissioner Rardin would like a copy of that grant. Ms. Brandon stated the other salary action is in the Assessor's office for one of their appraisers. When they achieve certain levels of certifications, they get an increase. There is one appraiser who has not yet received the maximum level of certification and he will be testing soon and assuming he passes there will be \$1000 increase. Ms. Brandon stated there are also some increases in Detention. Carolyn Barela, from Detention, gave the names of the employees that will be receiving increases and one individual from Corporal to Sergeant. Commissioner Rardin stated these increases were already budgeted for two meetings ago. Ms. Brandon asked about Ray Backstrom will he be receiving a C.O.L.A plus a \$10,000 increase The Commission stated just a \$10,000. Commissioner Rardin stated that he is a contract employee at will.

Ms. Brandon asked the Commission if they are ready to set a date for the sick leave buy back. The

cost to do that is about \$25,000. Ms. Brandon stated they went back to the old personnel policy and the provisions were to have two hundred and eighty (280) hours of sick leave on the books and sell up to eighty (80) hours and one half of the value (1/2). Commission Rardin stated he remembers talking about it, but not getting all the details. Bill Parker, Road Superintendent, stated December 1st was when they would sell or buy the sick leave. Commissioner McGinn stated they've already put the monies in the interim budget they should keep it there and make it effective December 1st 2009 or the first pay period in December.

Commissioner Rardin asked how much money was put in the Predator Control which falls under the Community Services. Mr. Smith stated \$91,000 which was up from \$62,000. Commissioner Rardin stated he does not want to give this to U.S.D.A. and for them to hire another trapper through their system. He stated if it is in the budget for that he wants to take that out. Commissioner Rardin stated the way he wants that money to be spent is to let the Grazing Board and those groups who are affected by it, tell them (the commission) how they would like it best spent and also allow them to hire a board on how to spend it under the direction of the commission. The Commission would like another separate line item called Predator Control.

Commissioner Rardin asked Commissioner McGinn, County Manager Timothy Smith, or Ms. Donna Brandon or anyone in the audience if they had any other questions. No one had any other questions.

There being no further business before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

APPROVED:

Ronny Rardin, Chairman

ATTEST:

Robyn Holmes, County Clerk

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