



STATE OF NEW MEXICO, COUNTY OF CHAVES
FILE FOR RECORD JUN 19, 2017 AT 10:21 O'CLOCK AM
Book 00072 Page 00807 Pages 4
Dave Kunko, County Clerk

MAY 11, 2017

The Board of Chaves County Commissioners held their special commission meeting in the Commission Chambers of the Joe Skeen Building, #1 St. Mary's Place in Roswell, New Mexico. Chairman Corn called the meeting to order at 8:45 a.m. Those present were Commissioners Duffey, Corn, Cavin, Ezzell, and Bilberry. Also present were County Manager Stan Riggs, Sheriff Britt Snyder, Chief Financial Officer Joe Sedillo, Chief Deputy Clerk Jeff Ortega, news media, staff and guests.

Commissioner Ezzell led the Pledge of Allegiance and Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Stan Riggs, County Manager highlighted the commission on the 2017/2018 Budget. He stated this year is different because we don't know what's going to happen at the state level and there's still questions at the federal level with SRS and PILT. What we've put together today is the best budget we could come up with at this time. The employees will continue to move across the chart as they normally do. The county is picking up the additional 1% insurance costs. Everything we normally fund will be funded. Some may be a little less than we normally fund. Capital outlay is in this budget. Not all capital outlay but the things that are normally funded like the sheriff's vehicles and road department capital outlay. He thanked the elected officials and department heads for doing a really good job of keeping their budgets flat. A lot of budgets have actually gone down. Expenses are down about 6 percent for this budget. Revenues are also down.

Joe Sedillo, Chief Financial Officer stated our theme this year is attaining fiscal equilibrium. Joe Sedillo stated their goal is to restore fund balances for the future. He stated it's in the hands of the Governor at this point. He thanked all the departments and the Commissioners for their input.

Stan stated we are not adding any new employees at this point and one empty full time position has been eliminated.

Chairman Corn asked what the full-time employment has been for the last three years. Stan stated we are down three or four employees. He stated we have 254 employees.

Chairman Corn stated the relationship between PILT and SRS is a complicated mess. He stated we get approximately 25,000.00 from SRS. If the federal government doesn't fund the secure rural schools, then we probably will get maybe 2,500.00 because they will reach into the PILT pile and pull out 20-45% of the PILT payment. We don't know what the state is going to do. They keep talking about taking the hold harmless money which is about \$600,000.

Commissioner Duffey stated some Congressman are disappointed with the US Forest Service and they think by keeping the SRS payments away from them that they are penalizing the forest service. He thinks they made an impact by explaining to them that by doing that they are impacting all the rest of the counties that are getting PILT payments.

Joe Sedillo, Chief Financial Officer explained the revenues and expenditures. The entire budget is 38.6 million. The general operating fund has \$565,841 more in revenues than expenditures. This is considered a blessed balanced budget because it will create an asset for us. This budget may change in its dynamics by July 31st and it will be influenced by December when we have the final numbers from the State and Feds. Capital outlay was cut back including the outside agencies. Our intent is to restore the funding as much as we can in the future. Expenditures are down 5.81%.

PRESENTATION OF DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Britt Snyder stated his budget for the most part is flat. He's asking for more cars. Cars are something they need to keep doing what they do. They do not send cars to auction until they are absolutely worn out. Sheriff Snyder stated the card key computer system in this building needs to be upgraded. The current system is 15 years old. The cost of the upgrade will be \$12,000.

Mr. Riggs stated five ford explorers, the transport van, and the twelve thousand is in the budget. The two-way radio system is not in the budget.

Sheriff Snyder stated the counties portion for the 2 way-radio's is \$936,000.00 which is 40% of the cost of the project. The city would pay the other 60%. The total cost of the project is between 3.5 and 3.8 million. So far we've received 1.1 million from homeland security grants.

Commissioner Ezzell asked how close the city is to their 60% of the radio money. The Sheriff stated they are at 0% now.

Chairman Corn stated this is something we will need to do but we don't have the money this year. He thanked the Sheriff for keeping this project on the front burner. The Sheriff stated any amount would be a good start.

Commissioner Cavin asked if we are going to receive Magistrate Courts rent for May and June. Stan stated they received a letter from the Administrative Office of the Courts stating they didn't have the money to pay May or June's rent. They pay about twenty thousand per month.

Sheriff Snyder would like to eliminate his department 758 budget because it's a pain. The 758 budget is for the 7 employees assigned to the Court House. Having a separate budget creates problems when the courthouse employees are moved to 752 because they are 8 hour employees and are on a different holiday schedule. He would also like to add one additional deputy because of all the employee's that are off for military leave, maternity leave or other leave.

Commissioner Duffey asked the Sheriff how many vacancies he has. The Sheriff stated he does not have any vacancies. The Roswell P. D. is down about 20 employees.

DETENTION CENTER

Clay Corn, Detention Administrator stated food service is up 2.5% and medical is up 3.5%. He's not requesting any upgrades, new positions or vehicles. He stated he was down 14 employees. He stated they are offering incentives such as shift bids for those that don't call in sick during a 3-month quarter or for those who work overtime. Mr. Corn stated retaining detention officers is difficult because most of them are younger and when they see their take home pay they are surprised because they do not understand deductions such as PERA and health insurance. They also work a tremendous amount of overtime. It's a constant struggle to figure out how to retain and make the officers happy.

Commissioner Duffey thanked Mr. Corn for his work and stated he's noted as one of the best in the state and appreciates having him in Chaves County.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Joe West, Road Department Director stated this is his first presentation to the commission on the budget. He stated he has trimmed back the chip seal budget by about two hundred and fifty thousand. Historically the budget was about one million dollars. In the waste management department, by changing the work schedule he will save about one hundred three thousand dollars in overtime. There will not be any capital outlay requests for vehicles this year. One new roller has been requested because the other roller which was purchased in 1996 has been in the shop and twenty-five thousand has already been spent on repairing it.

Chairman Corn stated there was interesting discussions in the finance committee about changes to the chip sealing process that seems to add life to the roads. Mr. West explained how polymers extend the life of roads. Using polymers does cost more but if they are not used you lose about 3 years of road life.

TREASURER'S OFFICE

Charlotte Andrade, County Treasurer stated they have kept their budget costs relatively low with one exception. She is requesting \$3,100 for a match on a grant application to the New Mexico Historical Records advisory board to digitize about 20,000 pages. Other than that, there's minimal

increases to some line items. Ms. Andrade pointed out the property tax collections they take in derive about 33% of the operating budget and their expenditures are 2%. She stated the Treasurer's office is doing their job. The Treasurer's office has a staff of five and two of the deputy treasurers are very low on the pay scale. In the future, she would like to address this and possibly do a market survey. She believes her employees are just as worthy as the other departments that have received increases and position upgrades.

Chairman Corn asked if there was a vendor that does this kind of work. Charlotte stated they requested a quote from Professional Document Systems. Their quote was \$11,000. The county is required to provide a 25% match which is \$3,100. Chairman Corn thanked Ms. Andrade for finding the grant.

Mr. Riggs stated HR is also looking at the same vendor to digitize old personnel files. The cost is \$15,000 dollars and it's not in this year's budget. Joe and IHC are also considering digitizing records as well.

Mr. Riggs also stated we need to do a salary survey. They cost about \$25,000 and it's not in this budget. We haven't done one in a while. We don't have the money this year but it's something we need to look at.

ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Mark Willard, County Assessor handed out a couple of statutory reports. One was the maintenance plan the second one is an update based on the prior two years to determine the efficiency of our evaluation program for the county.

Mr. Willard stated he proposed changing the title of his chief deputy to assistant assessor and increase his salary by 15%. The reason he's asking for this is because chief deputy pay according to our policy is 95% of the elected official pay. The elected officials did not receive a pay increase in 2011 largely because there was no bill introduced. Since then non-elected department heads salaries have far exceeded elected department heads. This is no fault of the commission or the county manager but why should a 35-year veteran who has served the county well be penalized by having his salary linked to the elected official. This is a county policy that can be changed and is not a statutory requirement. A request to change the title of the position is an effort to eliminate the discussion of chief deputy policy and other chief deputy situations. He believes the salary is justified by the current IAAO national salary survey with someone with Ron Lethgo's experience and it would put him about where he would be if the elected officials had received that increase that had taken place the prior three terms.

Commissioner Duffey stated he appreciates the job they are doing out in the county making assessments because people have asked him how we know people have made additions to their property's. He told them we have aerial imagery.

CLERK'S OFFICE

Jeff Ortega, Chief Deputy stated their budget is down about \$18,000. They are not asking for much other than operating expenses and maybe some equipment from the clerk fee fund.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS

Larry Connelly asked if there was going to be another addition coming up to the solar farm. Stan Riggs stated he is not aware if they are going to add to the solar farm at this point. They have been talking about it but don't know if they are in the third phase yet. Chairman Corn stated as he understands it they are out trying to solicit someplace to go with the power. They want to get some kind of education before they start buying panels and building out to make sure they have a market for the extra generation.

COMMISSIONERS QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS

Mr. Riggs asked the Chairman if he wanted to look at the outside agency budgets. Chairman Corn agreed. The state library requested 525.00 it was cut to \$125.00, County Youth Fair requested

\$45,000 it was cut down to \$25,000, the Extension Service was reduced to \$110,000 they requested \$116,000, USDA predator control was cut down significantly, the Chamber of Commerce had been receiving \$57,500 we cut down to \$45,000, Boys and Girls Club was cut from \$20,000 to \$15,000, Soil and Water noxious weed program was cut by 25%. The ambulance service was at \$25,000 its now at \$20,000. The three valley communities were getting \$17,500. They were cut down by 14%. Economic development asked for \$80,000 we reduced to \$48,750.

Mr. Riggs stated he wished we had the money to do more and we have committed to look at this midyear but we can't fully fund at this point with the uncertainty we have. We still have the Phoenix flight requirement and it's in the budget. The amount will be between \$36,000 and \$38,000.

Chairman Corn stated his notes have the Phoenix flight funding at \$36,850. So far we've paid \$62,000 and that doesn't include this last quarter. He hopes the legislature and federal government leave us alone. We aren't asking for anything. We are just trying not to get hurt anymore.

Commissioner Duffey stated hopefully at mid-year we can bring everybody back up. He prays the State and Federal Government treat us well. If not this is going to look good compared to what it's going to be when it's all said and done.

Commissioner Ezzell asked about the Phoenix flights effect of American Airlines putting on a larger plane to our obligation. Chairman Corn stated it's his understanding that It has no merit.

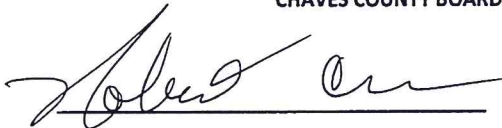
Commissioner Cavin stated we are trying to get them to change their departure and arrival times because with them being in the middle of the day it's just not quite as functional as it would be if they were flying out in the morning or evening.

MANAGER'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Riggs stated the interim budget will be on the agenda next Thursday for approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 A.M. pending the signature of documents.

CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



ROBERT CORN, CHAIRMAN



WILLIAM E. CAVIN, VICE CHAIRMAN

not in attendance

JAMES W. DUFFEY, MEMBER



T. CALDER EZZELL JR, MEMBER



JEFF BILLBERRY, MEMBER

ATTEST:



JEFF ORTEGA, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK

