



MAY 10, 2018

The Board of Chaves County Commissioners held a Budget Workshop in the Commission Chamber of the Joe Skeen Building, #1 St. Mary's Place in Roswell, New Mexico. Chairman Corn called the meeting to order at 8:54 a.m. Those present were Commissioners Bilberry, Duffey, Ezzell, Corn and Cavin. Commissioner Ezzell led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Bilberry led in prayer. Also present were County Manager Stan Riggs, Public Services Director Bill Williams, Finance Director Joe Sedillo, Sheriff Britt Snyder, Treasurer Charlotte Andrade, Assessor Mark Willard, County Clerk Dave Kunko, staff, media and guests.

PRESENTATION:

The City of Roswell Parks and Recreation Director Jim Burress presented Will Cavin with the City of Roswell Parks and Recreation Commissioner of the Year award.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Stan Riggs stated this budget really sets the stage through 2020. He mentioned the work done by the Budget Committee. He mentioned a new chart which adds 3 years for employee step increases. The major departments will always be the Detention Center, the Road Department and the Sheriff's Office. He mentioned the Road Department would be chip sealing more miles this year and there is money in the budget for a vacuum trailer which will really help clean cattleguards. He stated the increase for the Elected Officials salaries is figured into the budget. There has been no money allocated for the Boys and Girls Club at this time. We may adjust figures if they are moving in the right direction. The preliminary budget will be approved May 21st. This is a really good budget.

Joe Sedillo gave a brief overview of the Revenue and Expenditures. He mentioned required reserves and went over the summaries. He thanked the Elected Officials and Department Heads for their work on the budget.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Britt Snyder explained the Sheriff's Office Budget. He is asking for 2 more deputies and would like to see them as School Resource Officers. Schools need to be safe. Currently the Department is down 4 deputies. Fuel cost will be their largest increase. Commissioner Cavin suggested getting with the School District and working with them. Commissioner Duffey thanked the Sheriff for his work on the budget.

Clay Corn explained the Detention Center Budget. He stated he is down 16 officers. Food Service, Medical and Mental Health are very costly. He did not request additional personnel. He appreciates the raise for entry level officers. The price to house City prisoners will go up from \$65 to \$75 per day. He stated it is a NMAC Legislative Priority to get the State of New Mexico to fully reimburse the Counties for State prisoners. A big problem is some of these prisoners are extremely dangerous and feel they have nothing to lose. The Commissioners thanked Clay and his staff.

Joe West explained the Road Department Budget. Most of the Road Budget has not changed. There will be a Purchasing Agent strictly for the road. He would like to look into having their own crusher. There is approximately a 49% increase from the State. Fuel cost has gone up \$100,000 and they will run over this year's budget. In Capital Outlay he is asking for 3 pickups, 2 water trucks, a vacuum unit, a dump truck and a frontend loader. He also mentioned an increase in overtime for his department.

Charlotte Andrade went over the budget for the Treasurer's Office. She stated her office is approximately 1% of the County budget. They have currently collected 90% of the taxes currently due. She met with the County Manager and Human Resources Director about the new wage charts. She appreciates the 3 years added to the current chart which will benefit 2 of her employees. She has a problem with the Executive Chart and stated one of the individuals listed on the chart will be receiving a 45% increase. Approving the Executive Chart will put in place a 67% pay increase over a 3 year period. She stated this is disheartening because she proposed an increase for one of her employees. She stated

her office is working with the Assessor's Office on mobile home delinquencies. There are over 1,000 delinquent mobile homes, which accounts for approximately \$171,000 in delinquent property taxes. She planned to research these delinquents and locate them to see if they were still viable. If they are not viable they would be removed from the tax role. This position request would amount to a 4% payroll increase. This was denied. This would give one staff member a 4% increase and one additional duty. Mr. Riggs stated this job duty is already being done by a different employee in the Treasurer's office and shifting it to another individual should not entitle someone an increase. Mr. Riggs stated that it is not new that a large increase has gone into effect in Chaves County. Chaves County has been unique in that we "morph" positions by adding specialized duties. Ms. Andrade stated her predecessor tried to also increase this position so this has gone on for quite some time. This individual would be going out into the field with the appraisers to research these mobile homes. We continue to place liens on these mobile homes and this practice would help us to find out if they are even inhabitable. This is an issue statewide, and other counties have addressed this by having auctions on these mobile homes. Mr. Riggs stated the good thing is this individual will be getting a 3% raise. He also stated this is an issue that has been discussed with previous Treasurer's and is a no-win situation. A problem with taking mobile homes is storing them and then trying to sell them for enough to cover your cost. Mr. Riggs felt taking mobile homes off the tax role could be done now without the change in job description. Chairman Corn stated he took exception to the Treasurer questioning the ability of Commissioner Ezzell and himself who serve on the Budget Committee that they are not paying attention to these requests. Charlotte Andrade thanked the Chairman and appreciated their time. It is disheartening to try to make positive changes to no avail. Commissioner Ezzell stated he applauded the Treasurer's effort to address the mobile home problem, but their decision is based on the fact that this is a problem without a solution. He would be supportive if he believed we could collect a single tax dollar as a result of the effort. We do not want to enforce liens on property with no value. Charlotte Andrade thanked him for his comments.

County Assessor Mark Willard just wanted the Commission to be aware of his department Maintenance Valuation Plan and the comparison of the last 2 years to show the stability of the total net taxable value. He stated his budget has not really changed. The issues he had were addressed by the additional years added to the wage chart and the new Executive Chart. He did ask for one upgrade for his office transition.

County Clerk Dave Kunko stated his budget has not really changed. The one thing his office does need is a new plotter which would come out of the Clerk's Equipment Fund. He stated he really appreciated the additional 3 years on the wage chart and he likes the executive chart. At some point in the near future he would like to see the Bureau of Elections position added to this chart. Chairman Corn agreed that the BOE position is a big part of the Clerk's Office. Mr. Riggs also agreed the BOE position has become more complex and he expects that in the future it will be added to the executive chart.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Chairman Corn stated he has some heartburn over the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). He believes they should get no support from the County. Commissioner Ezzell disagrees as the other member of the Budget Committee. Commissioner Cavin sits on the EDC Committee and has been frustrated. Many of Chairman Corn's conversations with EDC have not been very truthful or honest in his mind. When work was being done on the Airport Authority Legislation it was extremely difficult to get someone involved early on. The Commission supported the initiative with a resolution. We were one of the first to get a letter to the Governor's Office in support of the legislation requesting that she sign it into law. Information from the EDC has not been very forthcoming. One of their members asked to have a meeting back in April and Chairman Corn agreed and gave him dates he would be available and never heard back from him. Currently the figure in the budget is \$48,750, the same as last year. Chairman Corn said the EDC can be a very important tool to bring more business and business activity but he is not happy with the progress that has been made. In his mind previous promises made were not kept. Maybe we should step back and quit investing money in a questionable organization.

Commissioner Ezzell stated the Budget Committee agreed to disagree. He believes the Commission has a duty to do economic development. The question that arose was "are we getting anything for our money?". Last year's figure was plugged in with the intention of the decision to be made by the full Commission. Commissioner Duffey asked Commissioner Ezzell if he felt like we're getting our money's worth. Commissioner Ezzell went on to say he did not know and added that in their presentation the EDC did show their budget and are projecting an end of year \$50,000 surplus. Commissioner Ezzell stated he sees that as our money. The EDC talks about "certified sites" which means sites that have utilities and are ready to go and are more likely to entice businesses. If they stick to their budget the money from the County is not necessary for their administration. Commissioner Ezzell suggested that they present the Commission with a specific plan for example \$30,000 is needed to get this site certified and ready for potential businesses. If the site is in the County that it would be a perfect example of our involvement in County Economic Development. Chairman Corn stated for the last couple years he hasn't even known who is on their board except for the County Representative.

Commissioner Cavin said the EDC is going to have their annual board meeting to elect new officers to the Executive Committee. The EDC Treasurer Kurt Gass made some promises that communication will exist and Commissioner Cavin believes he will follow through. In the last year there was a bottling company ready to come to Chaves County but the site they felt like they could use for that facility had some environmental issues which kept them out of our County. He hopes that Mr. Mulcahy and the EDC learned a lesson from that experience. This shows the importance of having certified sites. Commissioner Cavin believes the Airport Authority is extremely important to Chaves County and the City of Roswell. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill after all the hard work it took to get it to her desk. Sometimes while we are trying to solve problems we run into brick walls that we have to overcome. Commissioner Cavin suggested we leave the \$48,750 in the budget and hold the EDC accountable and that the new Executive Committee address the prior concerns of the Commission. Chairman Corn asked for input from the other Commissioners.

Commissioner Bilberry stated he respects both sides of the debate. There must be accountability. He stated he did like the idea from Commissioner Ezzell that they should present projects. Commissioner Duffey stated he also sees both sides and feels that we need to assist these volunteers to help them succeed. It should not be difficult to attract business, but it really is tough. Some people believe we are not business friendly and I am getting sick of hearing it. We need to give good people the resources that they need to make our community better. Commissioner Corn said he has heard those same comments. When we brought the solar business in they were amazed at how easy it was to get the job done in Chaves County. They are looking at starting the third phase and now even talking about a fourth. Commissioner Corn felt like the consensus might be to assist with creating certified sites. Commissioner Ezzell asked Joe Sedillo if it is possible to budget an amount and not give them the money unless there was an MOU? Mr. Sedillo stated it would be complicated. Mr. Riggs stated that every year we do a MOU with them and it could include some limiting language. Commissioner Bilberry asked if there was any communication with them and felt that if we let them know our intention it would just be common courtesy on their part to report back to us. Commissioner Cavin stated he would like to see the County stay at this level of funding and if they are not meeting our requirements perhaps we could cut back at midyear. We should require at least a quarterly report and John Mulcahy needs to be here if they want funding. Commissioner Ezzell agreed to the funding amount and stated we should encourage them to talk to us. Commissioner Duffey agreed we should get a quarterly report from them. If this requirement is not met then we consider making changes to the following year. Commissioner Bilberry agreed.

Commissioner Ezzell stated it was important to remind the Commissioners that we do not know how much will be requested from us on the minimum revenue guarantee for the flight to Phoenix. Chairman Corn agreed this was a big concern.

BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

Stan Riggs stated the budget for them is set at zero right now. He said as you know they had a major "Governments change". They did meet with a representative from there who has been there since March. The Executive Director for the Boys & Girls Club was unable to be present. He stated the

Sierra Blanca Boys and Girls Club controls Lincoln County and Chaves County and possibly Otero County as well. The decision was to leave at zero and gather more information from the Executive Director. It is Chairman Corn's understanding that when agencies get into financial difficulty Chaves County backs out until they get their affairs back in order. Joe Sedillo asked that they provide financial statements and they have complied. Commissioner Ezzell agreed and then added that it does not mean that they can't revisit this issue later. It was a real eye-opening experience at the meeting with their representative. They have a long road ahead of them to see if they can get it back together. The City of Roswell was caught by surprise.

ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURES

Commissioner Cavin asked if the 4H and FFA were being increased \$12,500. Mr. Riggs stated that last year the County gave \$37,500 but they asked for their usual amount of \$25,000. Mr. Riggs also stated we were raising Dexter, Hagerman and Lake Arthur to \$17,500. They were cut last year to \$15,000. Chairman Corn stated USDA was being increase a little because they are adding an employee in our area that should be a big help to the Farmers and Ranchers. They thanked the Finance Committee for all their hard work.

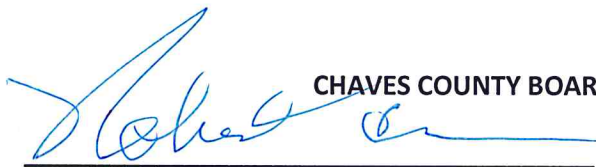
REVENUE

Chairman Corn stated PILT is tied to SRS and we received a letter stating we would be fully funded. Commissioner Cavin stated it was good news but what about next year? Chairman Corn stated that Mr. Widener is working on a more permanent solution. A permanent solution is desperately needed. Mr. Widener feels he has the solution.

Mr. Riggs stated the Commission would be voting on the budget on May 21st. This could be a very long meeting. There are 4 or 5 Public Hearings scheduled. If we can get a quorum we will need to hold a special meeting June 8th for the 2018 Primary Canvas. The Canvas was set for June 8th at 2:00 pm. The next scheduled regular meeting on June 21st is during the NMAC Conference so it was agreed to move it to Monday, June 25th at 9:00 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:04 am.

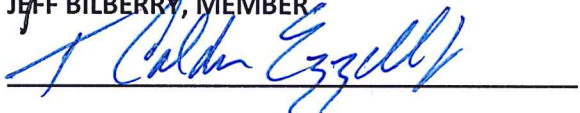
CHAVES COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



ROBERT CORN, CHAIRMAN



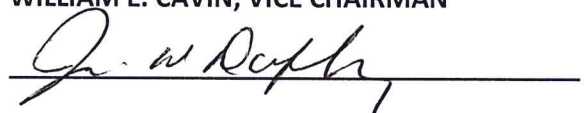
JEFF BILBERRY, MEMBER



T. CALDER EZZELL JR., MEMBER



WILLIAM E. CAVIN, VICE CHAIRMAN



JAMES DUFFEY, MEMBER

ATTEST: 

DAVE KUNKO, COUNTY CLERK

