

MAY 9, 2019

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 Cavin called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Those present were Commissioners Dana, Ezzell, Corn and Cavin. Commissioner Bilberry joined the meeting by phone. Commissioner Corn led the pledge of allegiance. Commissioner Dana led in prayer. Also present were County Manager Stan Riggs, Public Services Director Bill Williams, Finance Director Joe Sedillo, Sheriff Mike Herrington, Treasurer Charlotte Andrade, County Clerk Dave Kunko, staff, media and guests.

BUDGET OVERVIEW

Stan Riggs stated this year the County will pay off a couple of debts. He mentioned this budget includes a 2% COLA for employees, a 5% COLA for the Road Department, a 5% increase in insurance cost, a 2.5% County cost increase to PERA, 1 new position for the Sheriff's Office, upgrades to the records clerk positions in the Road Department, CCDC and Facility Maintenance, custodian changes due to the minimum wage increase and an increase in software cost. Joe Sedillo stated the long-term goals are to decrease debt, have fiscal restraint, and balance the budget without using reserves. Mr. Riggs also mentioned agency funds.

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS

Joe West explained the Road Department Budget and stated most of the Road Budget has not changed. He stated their cameras are obsolete and approximately 15 years old. They also need to replace some old computers. Joe West and Bill Williams looked at a used reclaimer in Amarillo. The used one is listed at \$259,000 while brand new they are \$681,000. They have gone with a new company for their rock and saved money. Commissioner Corn asked if their Vacuum for cattleguards was being used. Mr. West stated they have had the vacuum for a few weeks but are waiting for training on the use of the equipment. He mentioned that he has sent 7 pickups to auction and none have been replaced yet. Pickups are needed to get employees to the job sites. The Road Department is down a loader and a water truck. They are looking at an 8 mile project and with the current equipment it will take 32 days to complete and with the reclaimer the same job can be done in 8 days which saves \$30,000 in salaries. Dairy and oil trucks have been very hard on our roads. Mr. Riggs stated one water truck may have been located to purchase this year. Mr. West stated he wishes to switch to stainless steel tanks because they last much longer. Commissioner Corn stated Joe West has done an outstanding job and he appreciated him sticking to the plan.

Clay Corn stated it was National Correction Officers Week. He stated his meal cost will be the same and is currently at \$1.99 per meal. Mental Health is a concern and expense. They spend a lot of money on toilet paper and latex gloves. In Capital Outlay he is asking for 1 SUV 4X4. Commissioner Bilberry thanked Clay for all the hard work. Commissioner Corn stated Clay Corn has lasted a long time in this position and we are the only county jail to be accredited 3 times and added the great job Clay Corn was doing. Mr. Corn stated he has a great staff and appreciated all the support from the Commissioners. There was some discussion about the Juvenile Detention Facility. Mr. Corn stated we currently have 9 juveniles all from Chaves County and these truly needed to be in the facility.

Sheriff Herrington explained the Sheriff's Office Budget. He thanked Joe Sedillo, Anabel Barraza, Janet Gomez and Sandra Rodriguez for all their help on the budget. He said this was his first budget but he is very familiar with the Department. His office competes against the oil field for employees. The County Benefits and overtime help in attracting employees. He currently has 4 deputies per shift. This does not include coverage of the valley. Chairman Cavin asked if there were problems with the Union and overtime. The Sheriff said there had been no issues with the Union and he has good employees that want to work. He has to be careful and monitor hours because it can be dangerous to work with very little rest. He stated the department is down 6 vehicles and he has no spares when vehicles breakdown or are in the shop. Senator Pirtle was able to get the Sheriff \$100,000 from the legislature but the Sheriff was hoping the County could give him the usual 6 vehicles. If an officer has no vehicle he cannot answer calls. There was discussion about wrecked vehicles, insurance, and the cost of a new vehicle completely outfitted. Mr. Riggs stated Purchasing was working with the Sheriff to get 1 or 2 more

vehicles. The Sheriff stated he would like to have 6 more deputies so that he can create another shift and properly cover the valley and the Dunken area. He stated highway 82 was a drug corridor. He asked if it would be possible to drop the radios from his budget in order to get more of what they need right now. He believes they can obtain grant money for the radios. Mr. Riggs mentioned new lapel cameras. This system is very good and even sends out a distress signal when a gun is fired. Commissioner Corn mentioned that the department currently has 6 Deputy positions open and they went over the timeline of filling those positions. Mr. Riggs also mentioned that 2 Deputies would be retiring in the next 6 months. Commissioner Corn mentioned the possibility of looking at this situation at mid-year. Commissioner Corn brought up the need for vehicles and asked what the Sheriff needed more the Evidence Clerk or a vehicle. Commissioner Corn moved to remove the Evidence Clerk and add a truck to the Sheriff's budget. Commissioner Ezzell seconded the motion. There was more discussion and the Sheriff said having the custodian position would free up a deputy currently doing this work. The Sheriff stated he needed vehicles before more Deputies start work. Commissioner Corn withdrew his motion and Commissioner Ezzell withdrew his second. It was mentioned by Chairman Cavin that Sheriff Cage in Eddy County has some vehicles they are removing from their inventory that may be good for backup vehicles. Sheriff Herrington stated he would contact Eddy County as soon as the meeting was over. Commissioner Corn stated he understood the needs of the department and they really want to help but it is a building process. Chairman Cavin thanked the Sheriff for all the hard work.

SPECIAL PROJECTS

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

John Mulcahy and Bud Kunkel spoke on behalf of the Economic Development Corporation (EDC). Bud Kunkel thanked the staff for their presentations, cooperation and team work. It is easier to follow these 3 large departments because we are not requesting a lot. He believes the EDC offers a value-added service. He mentioned Code 3 Service that was mentioned during the Sheriff's presentation and stated John Mulcahy from the EDC brought them to Chaves County. Bud Kunkel mentioned the economic out-look, economic opportunity zones, technical training and support provided to local businesses as positive factors for Chaves County. He stated they are asking for \$75,000, which is the same amount they asked for last year. Chairman Cavin asked Mr. Riggs what amount was put in for the EDC this year. Mr. Riggs stated it was \$25,000. Commissioner Corn mentioned a tight budget and stated the Commission likes to have direct participation in providing support. They want viable projects presented to them and if money is available they plan to help. Commissioner Ezzell pointed out the County gave EDC \$48,750 last year but added an additional \$25,000 for the project for USA Beef. Mr. Kunkel stated he was disappointed that this amount was 50% less than last year. The EDC does benefit Chaves County. He encouraged the Commission to at least equal the figure from last year. Chairman Cavin thought the amount was going to be \$48,750. He asked what we have designated to the Chamber of Commerce. He was told that amount was \$57,500. He stated it was not in our best interest to keep cutting them when they are doing a great job. Mr. Kunkel stated if the amount is \$25,000 they will have to make some cuts. He thanked the Commission for the opportunity to make a presentation.

UNSCHEDULED COMMUNICATIONS

Rita Kane-Doerhoefer stated she believed since the County had been maintaining a road for 40 years they should do the right thing for this County resident. It is not the owner's fault.

COUNTY MANAGER COMMUNICATIONS

Mr. Riggs stated he received an email from the Governor's Office confirming Tim Jennings as the Chaves County Flood Commissioner. The next regular meeting will be May 23rd and the Commission will vote on road applications at that time. He is moving the June meeting to June 27th if it works for everyone because the regular date would be during the NMC Annual Conference in Clovis. The New BLM State Director will be in Roswell on Tuesday, May 21st. He thanked everyone for their work on the budget. We have a good budget team. We received 5% less SRS money and PILT funds should arrive in June.

COMMISSIONERS COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Bilberry thanked everyone for the hard work and a tremendous job. At times the process can be frustrating. He thanked everyone for their patience since he called in to the meeting.

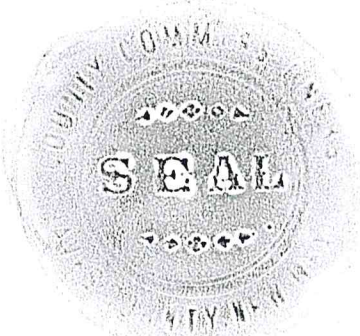
Commissioner Ezzell said thank you.

Commissioner Dana thanked everyone and stated this was an interesting process. It is tough to say no.

Commissioner Corn stated it was a tough process. He thanked Commissioner Ezzell for his time on the Budget Committee. He thanked God for the Chaves County staff. He thanked the Department Heads. There is a light at the end of the tunnel as we work toward no debt. We must keep our focus down the road. Budgets are a constant battle. We have addressed the issues and must keep moving in the right direction.

Chairman Cavin stated this process is never easy. He thanked Joe Sedillo and Anabel Barraza. Working together makes us great. He is looking forward to the WIR Conference in Spokane next week. New Secretary of the Interior David Burnhardt will be there. He thanked everyone and said God Bless America.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 am.



BOARD OF CHAVES COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

William E. Cavin

William E. Cavin, Chairman

Jeff Bilberry

Jeff Bilberry, Vice-Chairman

Dara Dana

Dara Dana, Member

T. Calder Ezzell Jr.

T. Calder Ezzell Jr, Member

Robert Corn

Robert Corn, Member

ATTEST:

Dave Kunko

Dave Kunko
County Clerk