

COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – JULY 25, 2000

The meeting was called to order by President, Daniel Dennis.

ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Charles Littleton, Keith Wright, Edgar Zehr, Charles Canary, Pam Young, and Richard Mason.

NEW BUSINESS

The Johnson County Health Department requested the approval of an hourly rate of \$14.00 per hour to pay their office manager to work part-time. The employee is on an unpaid leave of absence.

Mr. Mason moved to table the request to the August 14, 2000 Council meeting. Mr. Canary seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Brenda Jones-Matthews, County Clerk, commented she would like to see the Council eliminate the salary pay schedule. There are employees who have five years with the County making the same pay as employees that have 10, 15, 20 years, etc. The steps give employees a 5% salary increase and individuals over 5 years receive 2% based on the 2001 budget guidelines. She felt that now the county has job descriptions for all jobs any reviews should be done by the Personnel Committee not the consultant.

2001 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Discussion Topics

1. REVENUE

- a. Petition Legislature for permanent levy for jail operations (increase property tax burden) OR:
 1. Lower bridge rate \$.10, adopt EDIT to replace bridge funds.
 2. Adopt innkeepers tax to help fund parks and fairground expenses
 3. Replace CAGIT with COIT income tax
- b. Increase operating balance within debt funds: State Tax Board new Debt Service worksheet:
“Debt Service levy will not be increased to accommodate 2002 payments”
This is a new policy that will not allow an operating balance for the debt service funds.
- c. Equipment purchases: Need a determination on Cumulative Capital Development expenditures – Goes to ordinance
- d. Divert interest from other funds to General Fund – (Amount will depend on which funds are designated & also depends on balances & interests rates-some funds ordinances would need to be changed to allow interest to go to General; E-911 and Inspection & Testing Fund)

2. OPERATING BALANCE:

County government cannot operate without a sufficient operating balance. We must plan to budget an amount that will provide for a cash flow throughout the year and support for revenue shortfalls and *additional appropriations (October 1999 General Fund went negative over \$1 million dollars) Projections for \$700,000 and \$1,000,000 have been calculated.

3. ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR 2001:

*Historically, \$500,000 has been ‘budgeted’ for additional appropriations, although it has been consistently more the last 4 years, due to appropriating GIS funding, court computer system, salary adjustments. Additional appropriations are an important part of the budget process. Budgets should be funded to meet needs for the entire year, even to the point of allowing some transfers for flexibility. Projections have been made for \$300,000 & \$500,000 additional for the remainder of 2000.

4. DEFICIT SPENDING:

The 2001 budget will come in at \$2 million over revenues before any cuts are made. If additional revenue is not forthcoming the budget will, at some point, need to be frozen until revenue ‘catches up’. The hospital revenue will be gone within the next budget year, unless cuts of at least \$1 million - \$1.5 are made, or additional revenue is generated.

The Council reviewed estimated levy and proposed rate sheets to allow an operating balance of \$700,000 for 2001 and additional appropriations of \$500,000 for the remainder of 2000.

Discussion was held concerning the salary schedule. Some of the members were in favor of removing the salary pay schedule for all employees and have only a hire-in salary amount.

There being no further business, Mr. Mason moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Wright seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

