

COUNTY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING – MAY 23, 2001

The meeting was called to order by President Richard Mason.

I. ROLL CALL

The following members were present: Richard Mason, Pam Young, Keith Wright, Charles Canary, Daniel Dennis, Ron West, and Brent Waltz.

II. JOHNSON COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT COUNTY ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME TAX (CAGIT)

Pat Sherman, Controller for the Solid Waste Management District, appeared thanking the council for rehearing their request for the CAGIT distribution. Mr. Sherman asked if there were any specific information that the council needed to determine their decision.

Mr. West asked if the CAGIT were funded as requested, what would the plan be for next year. Would programs be enhanced or could recycling generate revenue, or would you cut back services?

Mr. Sherman stated he would suggest to the board that if they get the CAGIT for this current request, that representatives from his board and the county council get together to determine exactly what the county wanted. For example, on Spring Clean-Up Day the charge for the disposal of tires could be increased. He also noted that on the downside of that was that there are a lot of tires throughout the county, in ditches or along streams, so it is beneficial for the county for them to have service. He also suggested talking with other county agencies to help with solid waste related problems. Mr. Sherman hoped that the county would be willing to work with the Solid Waste District to do what was in the best interest for the county.

Mr. Wright asked what would happen if they did not receive the funds. Mr. Sherman answered that the services and programs would need to be looked immediately to determine what kind of impact they would have.

Mr. Mason asked if any of the programs generate money back to their budget. Mr. Sherman responded that some programs do; however it is very little. He also noted that it was the direction of the board to keep costs low to encourage people to take advantage of the services. Mr. Sherman stated he would be glad to share the number of participants that utilize the various programs or how many items they have collected to dispose of.

Mr. Mason then asked if their main source of funding was the CAGIT money received from the county and the tax revenue. Mr. Sherman replied yes.

Mr. West stated that he would hate to see an increase in property taxes for this purpose; CAGIT is a better solution to help fund these services. If the council wants to consider cutting funding through denial of CAGIT, then discussion needs to be held on the merits of Solid Waste's programs.

Mr. Canary shared how these services have benefited him. He lives in the country and there are several items dumped along the roadside and he has to dispose of them.

Again, Mr. Sherman stressed the fact that these programs help out the environment by properly disposing of items. Each year the number of users increase and the amount of items being recycled increases.

Mr. Dennis stated that when this program began, part of the CAGIT was needed to help start it. Once the office was up and running, then the tax rate would be used to fund the programs. Since then the budget has increased two or three times. Mr. Dennis went on to state that CAGIT is also needed to help fund police and fire.

Mr. Sherman stated that CAGIT distribution is not based on whether or not someone needs the money. It has to do with the budget and the dilution of the amount of money that would not be received by the Solid Waste District Management.

Mr. West stated that he felt that too much money is used for the criminal justice system and not used for other services that would benefit the taxpayers.

Mr. Sherman stated that if the funds are taken away all at once it creates a harsh situation, where if the funds were depleted over a period of time, it would be easier to supplement.

Mr. Canary stated that with the redistribution of the funds, if the fire districts, for example got some money it would only amount to under \$1,000.00 each, not really a whole lot of money to do much with. He feels the money is better used if it goes to Solid Waste.

Mr. Dennis said that the amounts may be small, but most fire districts have small budgets because they are volunteer fire departments. He also noted that he had not calculated how much everyone would receive.

Mrs. Young stated that a cost analysis should be done. If the CAGIT money is not approved for the Solid Waste District, we know what the citizens of Johnson County are going to lose.

Mr. Wright asked if the Solid Waste District has discussed the possibility of weaning themselves from the CAGIT distribution by increasing fees. Mr. Sherman stated that to the best of his knowledge there was never any indication that there would be a time they would not receive CAGIT. If they would have known that they could have done some things a little differently.

Mr. Mason stated that he remembered that when the distribution started the board was asked how long would they would need the CAGIT money and the general statement was a few years.

June Wood, representing the Johnson County Farm Bureau, appeared commending the Solid Wastes Programs that are currently in place and hoped that the Council would approve the CAGIT distribution. She suggested that the Council review the possibility of establishing a local option tax to help offset the increased costs of county government.

Mrs. Young moved to approve the 2002 CAGIT distribution for the Solid Waste Management District. Mr. West seconded the motion that failed by a vote of three to four; Mr. Waltz, Mr. Wright, Mr. Mason, and Mr. Dennis voted nay.

III. DISCUSSION OF PERSONNEL & 2002 BUDGET GUIDELINES

Mr. Waltz moved to pursue a new personnel system and to disband the current personnel job classification system contingent upon finding a better solution to the problem. Mr. Wright seconded the motion.

Mr. Canary and Mr. West commented they would prefer to keep the current system in place and make amendments to it instead of suspending the whole system first.

The motion carried four to three, Mrs. Young, Mr. Canary, and Mr. West voted nay.

Mr. Dennis moved to maintain the job descriptions. Mr. Waltz seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Mrs. Young and Mr. Wright distributed to the Council members their suggestions on the personnel issues for 2002.

Discussion was held on establishing pay ranges by classifications and giving the Elected Officials and Department Heads the flexibility for a hire-in range.

Mr. Dennis moved to have the four different types of classifications, COMOT (Clerical, Office Machine Operation, Technicians), PAT (Professional, Administrative, Technological), LTC (Labor, Trades, Crafts) and POLE (Protective Occupations, Law Enforcement) and eliminating the grades, steps, and the six month increase. The new hire-in ranges and maximum salaries are as follows for 2002. The hire-in amounts would be based upon the available funds in the budget.

COMOT – Hire-In \$16,933 to \$23,189.00 – Maximum - \$28,183.00
PAT – Hire-In \$21,043.00 to \$39,377.00 – Maximum - \$47,862.00
LTC – Hire-In \$18,758.00 to \$26,586.00 – Maximum - \$32,312.00
POLE – Hire-In \$17,788.00 to \$35,378.00 – Maximum - \$43,003.00

Mr. Waltz seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mrs. Young voted nay.

Discussion was held concerning the pay of Elected Officials and First Deputies, there was no decision made.

Mr. Wright moved to approve the following 2002 budget guidelines.

2002 BUDGET GUIDELINES

100 SERIES - SALARIES & WAGES

- X A two percent (2%) increase based upon the current 2001 salaries for full-time employees. The Elected Official or Department Head may allocate the funds to the employees however they choose within the attached chart. (see above amounts)
- \$ No new employees
- \$ Zero percent (0%) increase in part-time line items
- \$ Zero percent (0%) increase in overtime

200 SERIES - SUPPLIES

300 SERIES - OTHER SERVICES & CHARGES

- X Zero percent (0%) increase except for line items with documented increases (i.e., utilities, insurance, maintenance contracts, postage, etc.).

400 SERIES - CAPITAL OUTLAYS

- X Zero percent (0%) increase.

Mr. Dennis seconded the motion that carried six to one, Mrs. Young voted nay.

Mr. West commented the Council needs to explore different resources for alternative revenue.

Mrs. Young made a motion for the President of the Council, Richard Mason to contact the Jail Management Committee for an estimate of the jail population for 2002 and report to the Council. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Deborah Shutta, County Auditor, recommended that the mileage and part-time rates be increased.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the part-time rates as follows and mileage to be paid at \$.30 per mile for 2002. Mr. West seconded the motion that carried unanimously.

Clerical: \$ 7.50 per hour
 \$ 7.75 per hour after six months
 \$ 8.00 per hour after two years

Outside: \$ 8.00 per hour
 \$ 8.25 per hour after six months
 \$ 8.50 per hour after two years

John Bonsett, Health Director, appeared stating that he did not feel the public was given a fair opportunity to make public comments on the CAGIT distribution for Solid Waste Management District.

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