

COUNTY COUNCIL AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL JOINT MEETING, April 11, 2005

The meeting was called to order by Council President, Ronald West, with the following Council members present: Charles Canary, John Price, Josh McCarty, Paul Reed, and Steve Hollenbeck and Richard Mason. The following Board of Commissioners members were present: R. J. McConnell, and Mitch Ripley. James Rhoades was not present. John P. Wilson, Council's attorney was present.

Mr. Canary moved to approve the Special Joint Meeting Minutes from March 21, 2005. Mr. Price seconded the motion that carried with six votes. Mr. Mason, Mr. McConnell and Mr. Ripley arrived later.

Personnel & Budgetary Issues

Mr. Ripley commented the Commissioners asked to have this meeting to discuss a possible hiring freeze and establishing an employee pool.

Mr. West asked if any Elected Officials or Department Heads would like to comment on either issue.

Terry McLaughlin, Sheriff, appeared to explain that he is not in favor of having a hiring freeze for his department. He cannot run his department without a full staff and he does have a large turnover in Correctional Officers.

Mr. McConnell remarked that they were trying to find a to downsize the budget and pursue some additional revenue sources. He noted the county would not be able to use reassessment money next year and the Board of Commissioners plan on reestablishing the Cumulative Bridge Fund in 2006. The county will be facing a more serious situation at budget time than they have in the past. He feels an administrative floater pool would allow individuals to be moved from various offices to help during a department's busy time.

Brenda Jones-Matthews, Auditor, noted that departments have the right to replace individuals if someone leaves because the funds have already been appropriated for 2005. The only time the Council could eliminate positions would be at budget time.

Richard Pfifer, Chief Adult Probation Officer, appeared noting his department along with Juvenile Probation are currently understaffed and they could not function without a full staff. They should have a minimum of twenty-six probation officers and they have eleven. The other portions of the salaries are paid from county general. About 70% of their salaries are supplemented by probation user fees, which the judicial system feels that percentage is too high.

Mr. McConnell noted a hiring freeze would not make sense without the cooperation of the office holders and department heads. However, he would like to establish an administrative pool for the offices. He suggested if an employee would resign in an

office he would like to take those funds and use them to form the employee pool. The individual could go to various offices when extra help is needed.

Discussion was held on the administrative floater pool. Some of the issues discussed was the amount of money an individual would be paid and whether they would be full or part-time employees. Also, they discussed whom would the individuals report too. They also discussed what types of resources are available to increase revenue for the county and the various taxes such as gasoline and sales tax.

Suzanne Miller, Chief Juvenile Probation Officer, appeared commenting for the past few years departments have been told do not increase your budget and no new employees. That has been very difficult for the departments. She is concerned about the proposed floating employee pool and suggested a task force be formed to come up with different ideas.

Susan Segó Wayman, White River Township Assessor, appeared commenting if a floating pool were established the job that she could have them perform would be answering their phones or access information on the mainframe computer. They would not have the time to train someone. She also suggested the county review the option of implementing an impact fee on building permits to increase revenue.

There were no decisions made at this meeting.

Mr. Reed moved to adjourn the meeting. McCarty seconded the meeting that carried unanimously.

Special Joint Meeting – Commissioners and Council – April 11, 2005

County Commissioner

County Commissioner

County Commissioner

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Council Member

Attest:

Johnson County Auditor