

LANE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE – MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, May 14, 2019

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

BCC Conference Room

Budget Committee Chair Herb Vloedman presided with Budget Committee members present: Commissioners Peter Sorenson, Jay Bozievich, Joe Berney, Heather Buch and Pat Farr; as well as Citizen Committee Members Larry Abel; Budget Committee Vice Chair, Timothy Morris, Dale Stoneburg and Kamala Shugar.

In addition, County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky and Financial Planning Manager Christine Moody were present. Jill Allen and Joseph Szelesta from the Budget Office were also present.

Presenting were:

For Board of County Commissioners: Steve Mokrohisky, County Administrator; Casey Crear, PhD, Performance Auditor

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Herb Vloedman called the meeting to order.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Chair Herb Vloedman opened revisions and recommendations to meeting minutes for May 2nd, 7th, and 8th 2019 Budget Committee meetings.

- Christine Moody, Kamala Shugar, Dale Stoneburg, and Steve Mokrohisky noted corrections.

Dale Stoneburg questioned the utility of textual transcription if video recordings of meetings exist.

- Christine Moody clarified that a basic transcription was a legal requirement, and that specific questions should be referred to the video recordings of the meetings. She also noted that more detail written transcriptions, rather than attendance and what decisions were made, while not a requirement by budget law, was a request by the committee.

Timothy Morriss moved to approve minutes with modifications. Heather Buch seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously.

III. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS / PERFORMANCE AUDITOR

Casey Crear, PhD, Performance Auditor, presented the following slides and discussions:
Overview

- FY 19-20 Budget by Fund Type
- FY 19-20 Budget Details: 19-20 Resources

- FY 19-20 Budget Details: 19-20 Expenditures
 - FTE: 1, Proposed FY 19-20 Expenses: \$172,361
- Highlights of FY 18-19 Outcomes
- Lane County Strategic Plan
 - Lane County FY 2012-18 Workforce Demographics Dashboards Walkthrough: Application & Retention Report
- Future Challenges & Opportunities

QUESTIONS were opened for Casey Crear and his department.

Pat Farr asked to expand on the extra help he had with the past year's audit, the \$7,800 in the budget set aside for department extra help, and audits ahead.

- Casey Crear confirmed that his intern Kaylee Peterman, who he met during 'County Day,' cut down much of the work, and that a risk assessment audit will be undertaken, that then will help prioritize projects.

Pat Farr mentioned he will propose a motion to bump in Performance Audit budget from \$7,800 to \$15,000 at the appropriate time.

Peter Sorenson asks what the department would do with more money.

- Casey Crear responded that the money would go towards a total of 2 extra help employees.

IV. FY 19-20 INITIATIVES

County Administrator Steve Mokrohisky introduced the following slides and discussions:

- Overview
 - Update on FY 18-19 Initiatives, Employee Engagement & Equity, Behavioral Crisis Center, Dawn to Dawn Shelter, Homeless Systems Transformation
- FY 18-19 Initiatives Update
 - PERS Side Account Proposal, Policy Lab, Housing Improvement Plan
- Highlights of FY 18-19 Outcomes
- Faces of Lane County
- Employee Engagement & Equity

Alana Holmes, Human Resources Director, introduced the following slide and discussions:

- The Faces of Lane County
- Employee Engagement & Equity
 - Career Development, Mentorship, New Employee Orientation, Stay Interviews, Frontline Supervisor Training, Foundation of Equity at Lane County, Equity Partnerships, Diversity Trends in Hiring, New Equity Projects

QUESTIONS were opened for Alana Holmes.

Kamala Shugar ask if Equity and Education training was available to all departments.

- Alana Holmes responded that it was.

Joe Berney asked about the current Employee Orientation practices and whether Alana Holmes thought they were effective. And followed with a question on whether we were still doing exit interviews.

- Alana Holmes responded that in light of the message of the strategic plan, an orientation that was more welcoming and engaging to the new employee should be a new focus. She also mentioned that exit interviews are still regular procedure.

Joe Berney asked what the goals of the Equity Summits are.

- Alana Holmes responded that as stewards for our community we are obligated to create a welcoming environment for all employees, so that employees in turn reflect the communities we serve.

Peter Sorenson asked how minority populations, such as the hearing impaired are being served.

- Alana Holmes mentioned that there are many 'sub-communities' such as the hearing impaired, those with cognitive deficiencies are difficult to gain data on.

Steve Mokrohisky introduced Sheriff Cliff Harrold's department and the jail-diversion Crisis Center project.

Health & Human Services director Karen Gaffney mentioned that while there is talk about the Behavioral Crisis Center Project and Housing and Homelessness projects, that all these initiatives are inter-related and impact one another, and how we can leverage \$1 million in one-time money to create the largest impact. She presented the following slides and discussion:

- Overview of Behavioral Crisis Center

Sheriff Cliff Harrold reiterated from his own presentation that his officers, in response to common misdemeanors like trespassing and disorderly conduct, only have the jail as an option, and that in many cases, such as behavioral issues, mental health issues and substance abuse, jail is not a solution that solves the underlying problem.

Kamala Shugar asked about the eligibility of more serious incarcerated cases for permanent supportive housing.

- Sheriff Cliff Harrold replied that yes, if the individuals stabilized and working with probation, the transition can occur.

Timothy Morris asked how many staff members the Crisis Center will likely require.

- Karen Gaffney responded that that analysis has not yet been undertaken, but nonprofits will likely staff, and that it will be designed to be Medicaid-eligible, and potentially partnered with hospitals if its efficacy can be proven.

Chair Herb Vloedman wondered how an initiative like this scales out to more rural County areas.

- Karen Gaffney answered that she is developing a mobile crisis service would be the goal.

Joe Berney asked whether the \$1 million ask has a budget yet.

- Karen Gaffney answered no, not yet, but the results of the Mental Health Summit will likely determine priorities, and that commitment could catalyze partnerships and allocate resources later on. Steve Mokrohisky clarified that this set aside the money in the budget, but ultimately the Board would approve any proposals for how specifically the funds would be used and would give final permission to spend.

Bozievich asked whether there is information about what Eugene or Springfield is doing to leverage their piece of the Comcast settlement and if a conversation has been started directing them to the same Crisis Center purpose.

- Steve Mokrohisky said he isn't sure, but has heard that Eugene has set aside money for the \$1.9 million for a public shelter, and Karen Gaffney said that Eugene participates in the Mental Health summit and conversations with partners (including the CCO) are ongoing.

Pat Farr noted his appreciation for the interdepartment commitment towards this project.

Karen Gaffney distributed an informational handout to Commissioners and Citizen Committee Members concerning a proposal of ten recommendations for Community Housing, and presented the following slides and discussions:

- Dawn to Dawn Shelter
- Homeless Systems Transformation

QUESTIONS were opened for Karen Gaffney and the related departments.

Heather Buch declared her conflict of interest in regards to her father being director of St. Vincent de Paul.

Jay Bozievich asked about the 3 FTE accounted for in the Eugene-Lane County partnership plan, and then the TAC report recommendation of 6 FTE in Year One.

- Steve Manela responded that positions had been identified that nonprofits could contribute to, and that in six months there will likely be a better financial plan. Karen Gaffney added that there is urgency to get started, and this will be a multiphase effort.

Jay Bozievich asked about the potential operational costs for 350 units of permanent supportive housing, and how it will be covered if not by Section 8 vouchers.

- Steve Manela responded that a plan for funding is in the process of being formulated. Karen Gaffney responded that it should not be assumed these costs would come from County general funds.

Kamala Shugar asked how long an individual is expected to stay in the housing and how the decision to move an individual along would be achieved.

- Pauline Martin responded that this would depend on licensure, and that unique needs will need to be evaluated. Steve Manela mentioned that people normally stay in emergency housing for 90 days while people stay in permanent supportive housing as long as they need

Kamala Shugar asked about other entry points to this Crisis Center.

- Pauline Martin answered that there aren't limits to entry, and there would be a method of prioritization based on highest need.

Larry Abel asked for confirmation that the Homeless and Supportive Housing Manager of Strategic Initiatives position will be recruited nationally, and when it will occur.

- Steve Mokrohisky said that those discussions are ongoing with the City Manager, but the recruitment will be as broad as possible. Karen Gaffney added that after the position is funded, and a MOU is established with the city, we will recruit as soon as possible, hopefully this summer.

Larry Abel asked whether the public will have an opportunity to be apprised of this process, and how.

- Steve Mokrohisky responded yes, input from those with lived experience will be sought from the community and our partners, but he didn't know how at this time.

Larry Abel asked how much money is set aside for Dawn to Dawn.

- Christine Moody said \$350,000 has been earmarked in the budget for Dusk to Dawn and \$170K for the Homeless System Transformation.

Timothy Morris noted that, in response to Kamala Shugar's concerns about scarcity of housing, an uptick in homeless traveling to Eugene has not been registered since the City of Eugene began other homeless assistance programs, and who supervises the 3.0 proposed FTE if City and County both pay their budget.

- Steve Mokrohisky said the final details are being worked through, but the Coordinated Entry Coordinator and Community Service Worker would be housed in Human Services. The Homeless and Supportive Housing Manager of Strategic Initiatives would report to the City Council and LC Board of Commissioners at the policy level, but to the City Manager and County Administrator at the strategic level.

Timothy Morris asked whether there is a safeguard for legal status reporting in this system.

- Steve Manela said this is not typically a question asked during intake, but federally-funded programs would have to follow specific requirements.

Joe Berney noted that institutional and bureaucratic barriers that require “busting” will be difficult to satisfy in a position, and requested Board of Commissioners input for the hiring process.

- Karen Gaffney responded she will be taking recommendations into consideration when the time comes.

Dale Stoneburg asked whether landlord partnerships were private sector, and what changes have been observed in the related legislation, and if there are any losses in partnerships.

- Steve Manela responded affirmatively, and that more people have been evicted because of procedural specifics, though this could be due to transitional pains, and that partnerships thus far have not been extensive enough to evaluate private sector reception to similar programs.

Peter Sorenson asked whether more taxes might be necessary to support this proposal.

- Steve Mokrohisky responded he didn't know.

Peter Sorenson asked if there is a role for Commissioners to reach out to potential partners.

- Steve Mokrohisky answered yes, bringing as many partners to the table is encouraged.

Jay Bozievich noted, as response to Timothy Morris, that the Human Services Commission division supplies a model for positions with dual responsibility to City and County.

Joe Berney asked what happens hypothetically if the best site for this permanent housing is determined to be in Springfield (given the City of Eugene will be a key partner).

- Steve Manela said that every available site will be evaluated, that there are many ways that communities can participate, and that the needs of clients would dictate the site location or where services would be available.

V. COMMITTEE BUSINESS / PRE-DELIBERATION DISCUSSION

Chair Vloedman and Christine Moody introduced the procedures for pre-deliberation, and distributed a handout outlining the process for deliberating amendments to the proposed budget.

Peter Sorenson mentioned that the Budget Committee approves the tax rates. Christine Moody clarified that the Board of Commissioners can only reduce the tax rate approved by the Budget Committee, but cannot increase. Also, the Board cannot change a fund's budget by more than 10% or \$5,000 (whichever is greater) without publishing another

Financial Summary. She also mentioned that if the Courthouse bond is approved by voters, she will have to publish another Financial Summary.

Heather Buch asked about which budgets are on the table to discuss.

- Christine Moody clarified that there are three legal budgets to consider: the proposed, the approved, and the adopted, but there isn't a legal requirement to make changes to the budget, and can't approve two different budgets at once.
- Peter Sorenson further clarified that there are four stages: proposed budget, approved budget, adopted budget, supplemented budgets. Reaching the end of the second stage, the approval of proposed budget, is what the next meeting would be about.

Kamala Shugar asked about the role of the Budget Committee towards anticipated loss of funding for DA's office.

- Christine Moody responded that without further information, comments by committee members would only provide input for further actions.
- Chair Vloedman mentioned that this could be raised as a deliberation topic.
- Dale Stoneburg confirmed that a preemptive conversation could be had about moving funds from other places.
- Pat Farr offered that Boards have been reconvened the Budget Committee in the past, and this would be a way forward. One time was when the levy was approved.
- Steve Mokrohisky encouraged the Committee to use their limited time well, use the best information available the Committee has right now to make decisions.
- Jay Bozievich confirmed that this understanding of information from the PSCC, 1.2 FTE will be lost from DA's office, and noted that the 416 program that was funded by a federal grant that will not be renewed, and that he has written a proposal to move funding from Road fund to the Sheriff's Department, and Sheriff's Department to the DA's office as funding for the 3.2 FTE currently in jeopardy.

Larry Abel asked about the Association of Oregon County dues.

- Christine Moody said the AOC is currently funded in the proposed budget.

Kamala Shugar asked whether there would be an impact on parole and probation if the loss of funding for 3.2 FTE occurs.

- Greg Rikhoff responded that in two years there would likely be a visible impact, that a decrease in 416 dollars would mean a decrease in intensive supervision, and state and federal funding could decrease.

Heather Buch asked about the technical order of making an amendment to fill the potential budgetary hole in the DA's office.

- Christine Moody responded that it is up to the Committee to determine the best procedure based on their time.

Timothy Morris said he plans on making a motion regarding the AOCC dues, and asked for further clarification about the 416 program.

- Jay Bozievich explained that recidivism reduction is clear, but currently PSCC controls funding.
- Dale Stoneburg noted proactive appropriation of funds would help the DA's office sense of job security.

Joe Berney stated his intention to propose an \$8,000 bump for discretionary spending for Commissioners, and asked what would happen if they chose not to approve the AOCC dues.

- Christine Moody responded they comprise far less than the 10% of the general fund budget.

Chair Vloedman asked if anyone objects to the proposed process.

- Peter Sorenson stated the reasons for his approval of the deliberation process including the '4 votes to discuss' rule.

Peter Sorenson asked Christine Moody to number the printed proposed amendments for Committee members.

- Christine Moody responded that yes, the amendments will be organized, and outstanding questions will be answered by Thursday.

Chair Vloedman noted the Public Comment as required by budget law will occur on Thursday.

Peter Sorenson questioned the timing of food being delivered to the Committee.

VI. ADJOURN

Chair Herb Vloedman Adjourned the meeting.

Note: A webcast (the "official" record of the meeting's events) is available at:
https://lanecounty.org/how_do_i/view/webcasts