

INFORMAL MINUTES

January 3, 2011 2:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Kathy George, Mary P. Stern, and Leslie Lewis.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, Christian Boenisch, Chuck Vesper, Jack Crabtree, Tim Loewen, and Roy Panschow.

Guests: Hannah Hoffman and Jaffy Xiao, News-Register.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Kathy called the meeting to order.

* Personnel - Pat presented personnel requests from various departments. See agenda for details.

Department Updates

Juvenile Department: Tim stated that the statistics presented previously show that his department is doing quite well in dealing with crime, relative to other counties in the state. He provided an update on the wood program and on Community Partners, a multi-disciplinary group that meets every other Monday to discuss placement options for youth who have exhausted other community resources. Kathy suggested that the group go to the legislature and explain the need for wrap-around funding so that youth don't have to be moved from place to place as a result of funding restrictions. Tim agreed to follow up on that suggestion. Chuck recognized Tim for his efforts in getting the Community Partners group put together.

Public Works: Roy reported that work has been started on the contract overlay list. He said that the crew has been taking videos of the roads and will try to post them on the county's website for the Road Improvement Advisory Committee and others to watch. He added that Randy Webb has been working to make work requests available online as well. He stated that Russ Heath has obtained 10,000 empty sandbags and will distribute some to the cities for high water events. Chuck noted that he had authorized a 50-50 split of the cost between Emergency Management and Public Works. Roy stated that the road crew has been putting in many hours over the last month to deal with things such as high water, sanding and de-icing, bridge work, pot holes, and downed trees.

Minutes - Mary moved approval of the following informal session minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

B. O. 11-01 - November 29, 2010

B. O. 11-02 - December 6, 2010

* Contracts - See agenda for details.

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Laura stated that she had failed to request that the Board approve the extension of provisions of the 2010-13 Teamsters collective bargaining agreement to Teamsters-related non-bargaining employees. She said that Accounting has already processed the raises for the entire unit, although that could be reversed if the Board decides not to approve it. Jack stated that if he doesn't keep some separation between the wages of deputies and sergeants, the county will either lose quality employees or have to make a wage adjustment. He said that the expense for the cost of living increase would be less than the benefit the county gets back from these employees, and it is important to look out for employees not represented by unions.

Chuck presented a proposal for asbestos mitigation in the former Accounting office area of the courthouse. He stated that if the Board wants to get the surrounding areas of the courthouse done at the same time, he'll need to go out for bids since the cost would be over \$5000. The Board agreed to have Chuck do a request for bids.

* Committees - Appoint Shannon Carefoot as chair of the Commission on Children & Families.

* Areas of Responsibility - Consideration of approval of the 2011 Areas of Responsibility for the Board of Commissioners.

Fees - Mary stated that the county does not have a clear policy about charging fees for documents sent via e-mail, which has created some confusion. She said that Mike Brandt is looking into it with his staff and with Murray Paolo, and they will look at what other counties are doing so a consistent policy can be adopted.

2011-12 Budget - Leslie stated that she had not been satisfied with the figures discussed at the November 30 budget work session. She presented several alternate scenarios that would result in a higher base allocation of discretionary resources to departments. She stated that, given the minimal increase in assessed property value this year, moving all of the video lottery allocations onto the general fund in one year is too much to handle. She recommended moving half in 2011-12 and half in 2012-13.

Kathy stated that the decision to allocate video lottery funds to certain departments was done with a lot of thought, and all of the allocated uses have a viable economic development impact on the community. She said that taking that away isn't very smart right now, and she is also concerned about what the legislature will do. She said that she doesn't mind putting together a small contingency fund of video lottery dollars, but there doesn't seem to be enough to be of any real economic development assistance.

Mary stated that the allocated uses are related economically, but are not economic development. Leslie explained that the thought behind creating a contingency fund was to let it grow until there is enough to do something with.

After further discussion, the consensus of the Board was to budget 2% growth in assessed value and restore half of the video lottery allocations to departments for 2011-13, with the

understanding that adjustments may be made as the budget gets closer to adoption.

Leslie stated that the Board should reconsider the budgeted PERS rate. She said that the PERS reserve fund had been established to help departments out during future rate increases, and the rate will be going up in 2011-12, although departments will see significant savings in the other two rates. Laura stated that John Krawczyk only budgeted a 1% increase in payroll contributions, and the PERS rate is expected to continue increasing in subsequent years.

Leslie said that she thinks John's estimates for medical premium increases are too high for the second year. She pointed out that the Budget Committee wants the budget to be closer to actual figures. Laura suggested keeping the budget as is for next Tuesday's budget instructions and asking John for his thoughts on PERS and asking him to recalculate the medical figures. She said that he may have used something in his calculations that he hasn't shared with the group. Kathy agreed, stating that John has a great deal of experience making these calculations and she would like to hear his reasoning before the Board makes any changes.

After some discussion about the budget instructions, Laura agreed to rework the introduction and send it to the Board for review.

Laura stated that the current IRS VEBA rules don't allow employees to pass on their VEBA savings accounts to non-dependent children, but there is a move at the congressional level to try to change that rule. She said that Pat Anderson would like the Board to submit a letter of support for the change. The Board agreed to have Laura write a draft letter for consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 3:58 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary