

INFORMAL MINUTES

December 15, 2008

1:00 p.m.

Oval Office

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

Staff: Laura Tschabold, John Krawczyk, Pat. Anderson, Stephanie Armstrong, and Murray Paolo.

Guests: David Bates, News-Register; Steve Wick, Mary Wilson, Sam Sweeney, Lee Schrepel, and David Cruickshank, LNG Committee; and Steve Sechrist, Natural Resource Group.

* indicates item forwarded to formal agenda

Mary called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

2009-10 Budget - John K reviewed the preliminary projection for a 1.5% increase in discretionary revenue allocations, emphasizing the need to build up a reserve in the PERS account. He said that the PERS reserve will be about \$400,000 at the end of this year, but he would like to get it up to \$1.5 million. He stated that the PERS rate will decrease for 2009-10 and the Board could elect to pass that savings on to the departments, but he would recommend putting at least some of it into the reserve account.

Leslie stated that she likes to be conservative, but the increase in payroll costs for departments will exceed the 1.5% increase in discretionary revenue. The Board agreed to leave the projected resources as they are for now, with the understanding that they may be adjusted later depending on what happens with the interest rates. John K reviewed an e-mail message about O&C funding and recommended budgeting a 3% cost of living increase across all bargaining units.

Helicopter - The Board agreed to schedule a work session with Murray Paolo to discuss the value of the county's assets, grant requirements, and options for use of the equipment.

Room Tax - Mary stated that she is very concerned about the District Attorney's Office and Juvenile Department and raised the possibility of postponing the Board's funding commitment to the Sheriff's Office to help them. After some discussion about the idea of a room tax, John K suggested budgeting \$1 for now and conducting a public poll to get input.

LNG Pipeline - Mary stated that the Board had agreed to hold a public hearing in January and to invite representatives from Northwest Natural, Palomar, Trans-Canada, and any other companies involved to be there to answer the Board's questions. Steve Wick reviewed the draft resolution forwarded to the Board by the LNG Advisory Committee. He stated that the big pipelines being proposed aren't made to be tapped into for local use, so they won't provide any local benefit. He explained that the existing pipeline network could be used locally by bringing in one new line.

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The Board tentatively scheduled a public hearing for 6:00 p.m. on February 3, 2009, in Room 32 of the courthouse. Mary suggested asking all rural fire districts in the county to provide input and giving notice of the hearing to all affected property owners.

* Budget - Approve a transfer of funds and appropriation authority for consulting fees for Phase 1 of the Radio Communications Project:

From	10-92-950.01	Contingency	\$31,537
To	10-39-611.02	Contract Services	\$31,537

Murray explained that the project did not go over budget, but no funds were allocated for this fiscal year and the balance remaining from last year got allocated to other budgets.

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

* Minutes - Approve the following formal session minutes:

- a. October 8, 2008;
- b. October 22, 2008.

Ms. Lewis moved approval of the following informal session minutes. The motion passed, Mary, Leslie, and Kathy voting aye.

B. O. 08-809 - October 6, 2008;

B. O. 08-810 - October 20, 2008;

B. O. 08-811 - October 27, 2008.

* Contracts/Grants - See agenda for details.

Discretionary Spending - Mary declared a \$250 expenditure from her discretionary account to Thugz Off Drugz for a Bowl-a-thon.

Letters to Santa - The commissioners agreed to share the \$35 cost to sponsor drawings and letters to Santa in the Newberg Graphic.

After a brief discussion of the winter storm, the meeting adjourned at 3:47 p.m.

Anne Britt
Secretary