

**STOREY COUNTY COMMISSION MEETING
MONDAY, APRIL 06, 2009 9:00 A.M.**

DISTRICT COURTROOM
26 SOUTH B STREET, VIRGINIA CITY, NEVADA

MINUTES

GREG "BUM" HESS
CHAIRMAN

HAROLD SWAFFORD
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

BOB KERSHAW
VICE-CHAIRMAN

JAMES G. MILLER
SHERIFF

JOHN FLANAGAN
COMMISSIONER

VANESSA DIXON
CLERK-TREASURER

Roll Call.

Present: Administrative Officer Marilou Walling, Administrative Officer Holly Kiechler, Assessor Kathy Weeks, Clerk-Treasurer Vanessa Dixon, Commissioner John Flanagan, Comptroller Hugh Gallagher, County Manager Pat Whitten, Director Community Development Dean Haymore, Director of Public Works Mike Nevin, District Attorney Harold Swafford, Emergency Management Director Joe Curtis, Fire Chief Gary Hames, Recorder Sarah Jensen, Sheriff James Miller, Undersheriff Chris Parsons, Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw, James Deane, Senior Center Director April Enloe, Library Director Lucy Bouldin Library.

Absent: Chairman Greg Hess

CALL TO ORDER AT 9:00 A.M.

The meeting was called to order by the Vice-Chair at 9:00 A.M.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Vice-Chair led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

CONSENT AGENDA

(All matters listed under the consent agenda are considered routine, and may be acted upon by the Board of County Commissioners with one action, and without an extensive hearing. Any member of the Board or any citizen may request that in item be taken from the consent agenda, discussed, and acted upon separately during this meeting.)

Approval of Agenda for April 6, 2009

Correspondence- None

END OF CONSENT AGENDA

Motion: Approve Consent Agenda, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner Flanagan, **Seconded by** Vice-Chairman Kershaw

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

DISCUSSION/ACTION: Tentative Budget Hearings

County Manager Whitten explained that this years budget has been one of the most difficult to set. Each department head was asked to come in to as close to zero growth as possible due to declining revenues. Mr. Whitten thanked all department heads for their remarkable efforts to meet this goal as well as Administrative Assistant Cindy Wiley for compiling all the information. Mr. Whitten mentioned that next year this huge task will have to be taken on without the direct involvement of Administrative Officer Marilou Walling as she is retiring in a few months.

The County takes a conservative approach with the revenues from the Ad Valorem projections. Licenses and permits have been reduced. Sales taxes, SCCRT's, BCCRT's, liquor tax and fuel tax are all "in the tank". Charges for Service have also reduced, the only revenues that are up are the Assessor fees. Garbage is down due to people buying less and producing less waste along with recycling. Miscellaneous Revenues look bright due to monies coming out of escrow from surplus properties that were sold in the past.

Under AB 489 tax cap provisions, the abated amount increased which gives us a slight cushion if property values continue to decline. The only change is a .0002 increase in youth services which is State mandated. The combined County rate is 2.3960 and 3.4607 when adding in schools and state, depending on what happens on the state side. Essentially, revenue growth is flat at a 2% maximum growth.

GENERAL FUND

Revenues: 12,120,760

EXPENDITURES

Community Support:

River District Senior Center increases slightly to cover Salaries and Benefits for the two workers.

VCCTA presented a reduced budget from last year at \$115,000. An extra \$20,000 was committed last year to help fund the upcoming Sesquicentennial Celebration. Major event cost tracking was provided at a total of \$65,935.

Virginia City Senior Center will stay the same with repairs being provided through Building & Grounds budget.

RSVP has increased to \$8,000 as they are now supporting not only the Virginia City Senior Center but the Lockwood Senior Center as well.

Youth Activities budget of \$100,000 fulfills Community Chest's request at zero growth.

Lockwood Community Senior Center will be provided a budget of \$25,000 for meal programs. We are in the process of creating a citizens board for the Center to function similarly to the Virginia City Center.

Piper's Opera House has not requested any funding for this year.

St. Mary's Art Center is holding at a no growth budget of \$30,000. They recently received a significant restoration grant.

4th Ward School is also holding at a no growth with a budget of \$80,000.

Jeep Posse has increase to \$10,000 due to the Verizon cell phone tower on the property.

Community Support Grants remain at \$3500 to be limited to \$500 per request at a maximum of two years successively.

Regional Transportation Commission

This commission was recently reformed to address transportation demands in the Virginia City, Gold Hill and TRI areas. We are also working with Carson City for further transportation needs. Tentative budget includes \$10,000 for possible bus service from Virginia City/Gold Hill to Carson City.

Clerk/Treasurer

A 2% increase granted for critical electronic archive needs on the grounds of security and space issues. Provisions for elections will remain at a reduced rate.

District Court

Overall increase of 2.6% due to juvenile detention needs.

Recorder

A decrease of .5% was presented which will cover increased time for a part-time employee working on the State mandated records redaction. Also included was a request for \$10,000 to continue work on the "Official Map of Virginia City".

Technology

This fund assists the Recorder, Clerk and Assessor offices for technology needs of advanced computer systems.

Assessor

Increase of 27.6% for one additional full time position. The DMV hours have increased and there is a need for further certification of senior assessor.

Building Department

Decrease of 11.5% due to a pending position that has not been needed and will be eliminated.

Planning Department

An increase of 27.3% is directly attributed to the transfer of the GIS function to this department.

District Attorney

The increase of 7.8% is for salary adjustments for Deputy District Attorney and Paralegal.

Justice of the Peace

An increase of 2.42% is attributed to equipment for the Bailiff.

Justice Court

This fund is comprised of administrative assessment fees from fines.

Library

Increase of 3.5% to cover PERS increases and benefits.

IT

The decrease of 14.9% is primarily from the transfer of GIS function to Planning. We are in dire need of a new accounting server (AS400 system) at an estimated cost of \$30,000. We need a general server as well.

Communications

Presented budget is at a 3.4% increase. This department is staffed 24/7/365 for needs such as answering the 911 calls. This covers alarm monitoring systems for all County buildings and the new sprinkler system at the Courthouse and McCarran Center. The Communications System (Radio and 911) provides safe emergency services to our citizens and public.

Fire District (NDF)

The overall increase of 7.9% will cover seasonal staff, reimbursement to Fire Department Fund for station occupancy and communications program enhancements and repairs.

Service

The increase of less than 1% assists with the costs associated with daily use bulk items and labor as well as the purchase of specialized equipment for the County Mechanic Shop.

Building & Grounds

The overall increase of 10% is greatly attributed to the restoration of the Courthouse. A small portion is for part-time seasonal support on projects such as interior work at McCarran Center, the Public Works Garage and the Comstock Historic District Office.

Pools & Parks

Presented increase of 9.6%. The fund revenues have dramatically decreased due to the slowdown of new permitted residences.

Roads

An increase of 16% is greatly attributed to road improvements and paving for increased road inventory and responsibility at TRI. There are also provisions for up to four seasonal employees working part time without benefits.

Water

Overall reduction of 6.8%. Rent of \$12,000 to Community Development will not change. A rate increase of \$2.50 per month per subscriber is being considered to help with the costs of improving the aging system with \$1.60 of the increase covering inflation.

Sewer

Overall reduction of 5%. The Gold Hill septic/leach system has constant problems and there is need to increase the size and improve the technology at the Virginia City Plant.

Emergency Management

Decrease of 11.8% was presented. An EMPG Grant provides for reimbursement of some expenses.

BREAK

The Vice-Chair called for a tentative recess at 10:00 A.M

CONTINUED

The meeting was reconvened by the call of the Chair at 10:20 A.M.

Emergency Mitigation

This fund was established 2 years prior to set aside funding for unanticipated emergencies such as floods or other non-fire disasters. Given the lagging revenue projections, no additional funds are to be provided for the fund this year.

Fire

Overall increase of 8.1%. There is no change in the Fire Tax Rate of .4346. Our fire budget covers more than just "fire", it covers all the medical calls for ambulance service

which is another 24/7/365 function. The call volume responded to by the Fire Department is 80% ambulance needs. The addition of our fifth station has raised annual staffing costs along with the State mandated increases. Mr. Whitten commended Chief Hames for being an excellent fund manager.

Equipment Acquisition

The County takes a conservative approach with these projections also. Funding is included for four brush trucks and equipment for volunteers. OSHA has required that gear be destroyed after 10 years of the manufacture date, regardless of usage, creating a major expense. This fund has historically been used for Fire Department needs but we would like to expand it for use to Roads and other agency needs.

Fire Emergency Fund

This fund started three cycles ago and is funded by unanticipated revenues generated from reimbursement from outside agencies for equipment assistance on large fires. This fund is intended to provide for unanticipated catastrophic fires.

Sheriff

Presented an increase of 1.25%. Overtime costs have been significantly reduced despite the need to staff two deputies for Virginia City/Highlands/Gold Hill/Mark Twain areas as well as two deputies at the River District. Savings have been found by leasing instead of purchasing computers, vehicles and in-car video systems.

Jail

Reported decrease of 11.3% excluding Capital Outlay of \$539,000 which is needed to improve and expand the existing jail facility.

Comptroller

A decrease of 14% is attributed to an audit position that is not to be filled at this time.

Commissioners

A decrease of 2% is due to a member of senior staff retiring.

Administrative

Retiree Insurance Subsidy is rising due to some of our long-time workforce retiring. Operational Expenses are shared department expenses such as postage and bank fees. Other specific classifications are equipment maintenance on copiers, servers and elevator. Rents and Leases on modulars and communication towers, Records Management Service, Professional Services, Technical IT Services, Web design, NACO -WNDD dues, legal printing and audit expenses.

Youth Services provides for juvenile detention costs.

Bridge costs associated with the Mustang/Hafed temporary bridge.
Miscellaneous such as coffee, water, copy paper, etc.
Transfers to Emergency Mitigation, Capital Projects and TRI Payback.

General Health

Annual billing for Home Health nursing care.

Indigent Medical

This is a State mandated fund for medical costs of inmates in jail. We are able to follow the Department of Taxation's recommendation of maintaining the reduced tax rate of .03.

Capital Projects

Anticipated projects include improvements at McCarran Center, rehab of Comstock Historic District Office, the Lockwood facility and a portion of Jail Expansion and Justice Complex needs. The fund has been cut from \$600,000 to \$200,000.

Infrastructure

Funds are from a ¼% tax override. Any uses of this fund will be presented through the Resolution process in the future after the Legislative session concludes.

Stabilization

This fund provides for stability and continued operations in the event of fiscal hardships. This may only be used by following strict rules in regards to the status of other funds.

Gold Hill

Minimal budget and services proved, mostly just streetlights .

Virginia

Majority of services here are utility billings for the street and "gas" lights.

Indigent Accident

This is a State mandated fund. NRS limits our overall liability to a minor portion of potential overall costs.

TRI Payback

Pending the final results of independent audits, payback per the terms of the developer agreement need to begin. Currently \$800,000 is reserved and we hope to add to it with unanticipated revenues and other resources.

Motion: Approve Tentative Budget, **Action:** Approve, **Moved by** Commissioner John Flanagan, **Seconded by** Vice-Chairman Bob Kershaw .

Vote: Motion carried by unanimous vote (**summary:** Yes = 2).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

BOARD COMMENT

Vice-Chairman Kershaw complimented all on their hard work.

ADJOURNMENT 11:19 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned by the call of the Chair at 11:19 A.M.

Respectfully submitted by:

Jessie Fain
Storey County Deputy Clerk-Treasurer