

MEETING MINUTES
GRAND COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET HEARINGS

October 4, 2018

Present: Commissioner Richard D. Cimino, Commissioner District 1
Commissioner Merrit S. Linke, Commissioner District 2 – Chair
Commissioner Kristen Manguso, Commissioner District 3

Also Present: County Clerk and Recorder Sara Rosene
County Manager Lee Staab
County Attorney Robert Franek
Assistant County Attorney Maxine

Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Staab presented the additions to the budget:

1. \$1,000 for CCAT
2. \$5,600 for AGNC
3. \$60,000 for Transit
4. \$100,000 for Cliffview
5. \$15,000 for Public Health
6. \$27,500 for Bear Cloud

Budget discussion items:

1. Transit
2. HTA
3. County Road 522
4. Maintenance equipment
5. Speed trailer
6. Fire mitigation incentive program
7. Rollins Pass Study

Mr. Staab presented salary increases for nine of the department heads. These positions are all below mean. Mr. Staab stated that when the salary adjustments were provided across the entire county, all the elected officials received a 20 percent increase in 2019. All the employees in the county received an increase with the exception of the nine department heads and some hourly employees.

Senior Nutrition

The Board discussed Senior Nutrition. Public Health Nurse Brene Belew-LaDue stated that if the Board wants to say “no” to Older American’s Act money, the County has more leeway with what can be done with home delivered meals.

Ms. Belew-LaDue stated that the discussion around changing Senior Nutrition needs to be with the clients. Out of respect and health equity for the seniors, Ms. Belew-LaDue stated that she and the Board need to speak with the clients of the program.

Commissioner Cimino suggested keeping the funding as is and work on a financially viable solution by July 1, 2019. Commissioner Cimino stated that he would like to see a problem like this continue, but at a lower cost.

Ms. Belew-LaDue stated that Grand County has a five-year contract with NWCCOG for the Older American’s Act money.

Mr. Moyer suggested that the Board be strategic about this solution. There are Grand County FTEs attached to the program. The seniors need to be given information on any decisions the Board is considering.

Mr. Moyer suggested that the direction to the Department Head be very specific. There are a lot of internal strategies that need to take place.

The Board wants to assure that the program continues but is looking for a more creative way to pay for and administer the program.

Commissioner Cimino stated that the budget being proposed will be approved. The Board will not cut off the program in July 2019. July 1, 2019 is the deadline to find a solution that can be implemented in 2020.

Home Care

Ms. Belew-LaDue stated that the cost to Grand County for clients in Home Care is approximately \$52.93 per hour per client. These are non-medical quality of life services. This service keeps people out of the nursing homes.

Private pay for Home Care is \$30 per hour and \$16.50 per hour from Medicaid.

Ms. Belew-LaDue stated that because this is a vulnerable population, a license is required to provide the services. Ms. Belew-LaDue stated that her staff is trained to deal with medical issues of the clients.

The Board supports this program for 2019. There needs to be efficiencies worked toward in 2020.

Commissioner Cimino stated that he would like the Noxious Weed Program (Vegetation Management) go as asked in 2019. Commissioner Cimino would like to see some alternatives for 2020.

The Board will consider the charge for burn permit fees at the fee hearings.

County Manager Staab stated that the Sheriff requested two additional personnel for patrol and one person for dispatch.

The Commissioners agreed that Road and Bridge need to hire two additional personnel.

Information Technology Director Kirk Magnusson would like to hire a Tech 1 Level and then move the other employees up to a higher level. Making this change will help spread the work load across the different positions.

Commissioner Linke is in support of this request.

Mr. Magnusson stated that he does not have a lot of overtime pay in his office. He allows his team to use compensation time to offset overtime.

Mr. Magnusson is the CISO (Chief Information Security Officer) of the County. He has the responsibility to assure that the County is HIPPA compliant.

Manager Staab stated that the position that was authorized last year was to help getting the message of the Strategic Plan to the public. Mr. Staab stated that he does not have the time to manage the person that can do the messaging for the County. Mr. Staab would like the person put under the IT Department and that person can fill the position of web imaging and they can do PIO work.

Commissioner Cimino is in support of the positions in the IT Department.

The Board supports the additional .5 FTE increase in the Housing Authority Office.

The Board supports two additional FTEs in EMS as long as the Department Budget stays within the 2 mills.

The Board supports taking the half time person in the Manager's Office to full time.

The Board supports adding .6 FTE to the Maintenance Department.

The Board supports adding .75 FTE in the Community Development Department.

For the 2019 Budget, Mr. Staab put \$500,000 in hire lag. Hire lag to the middle of September 2018 is \$745,000. Mr. Staab is raising the hire lag in 2019 to \$600,000.

The Board agreed to \$40,000 in 2019 for transit. There will also be an incentive of up to 20 percent of the cost of any new service that goes through unincorporated Grand County up to a maximum \$20,000.

Mr. Moyer stated that there can be a line item for the transit and a line item for the incentive.

Commissioner Cimino stated that it is not his intention to continually dip into the General Fund to fund a transit system that the voters have not voted on.

Commissioner Linke noted that our system of representative government puts the Commissioners in the seats of decision. The Board is charged with making the decisions of what General Fund money is to be spent on what activity. It is a philosophical decision on whether to go to the voters every time a decision is made.

Commissioner Cimino stated that the County has put money into the fairgrounds, Flying Heels Arena, and to the Airports from the General Fund. There are very few of these activities that touch Commissioner District 1.

Commissioner Cimino asked that the Board look at what makes policy sense for the entire County. The County needs to look at the mission for the funds that are allocated by mill levy.

Commissioner Cimino stated that the first year of 1A was 2018. That was all new project money and if a request is submitted properly, it can be used for administrative purposes. Commissioner Cimino would like zero dollars given to HTA from the General Fund. The mission of the block grants does not include the mission of HTA. HTA should be able to get a healthy amount of the administrative costs covered from 1A.

The Board agreed not to fund HTA as a General Fund line item in 2019. It also agreed to remove the \$40,000 earmark in the Grand Foundation grant for HTA. It is the understanding of the Board that HTA will apply for 1A funds for which it is qualified.

EMS Chief Ray Jennings stated that EMS should receive 2 mills of the PILT money.

Commissioner Cimino stated that the PILT money is for all land. With that said, Commissioner Cimino believes that the EMS portion of PILT would likely be \$10,000.

Commissioner Cimino stated that if EMS receives the PILT money, he would like to see it forego the \$250,000 loan at the beginning each year.

The Board agreed to put \$50,000 in the EMS Budget instead of the \$100,000 PILT request. The \$50,000 is a short term Gallagher band aid, it is not PILT money. It is an acknowledgement that the budget included the \$100,000 in expenses.

The Board agreed to provide the \$250,000 loan in 2019.

Block Grants

Commissioner Cimino would like to lower the amount of the Block Grants because HTA will be requesting funds from the 1A funds.

Commissioner Linke would like to leave the Block Grant amount at \$225,000. The mission of the Donor Advised Fund is for Health and Human Services and Education and he would like to see it remain that way for 2019.

Commissioner Linke stated that if the County is changing the mission of the Donor Advised Fund, that decision needs to be made early in the year. Commissioners Cimino and Manguso agreed with \$220,000 for Block Grants. Commissioner Linke stated that he would like the amount to be \$225,000.

Commissioner Manguso would like to get snow removal equipment for the County Maintenance Department.

Commissioner Cimino stated that he would like the County to consider a speed trailer. Commissioner Cimino acknowledged that the Sheriff has not requested the speed trailer.

Commissioner Linke would prefer that the Sheriff ask for the equipment. County Manager Staab suggested that the Sheriff ask for the equipment. Nothing will be put in the budget but the Board will entertain the conversation if the Sheriff makes a request for a speed trailer.

Commissioner Cimino would like the Grand County Wildfire Council queried to find out if it believes a fire mitigation incentive program would be helpful. The program could make funds available to towns or to areas of unincorporated Grand County.

The Board agreed to put a \$3,000 placeholder for an educational program for the Grand County Wildfire Council.

Commissioner Cimino proposed additional Road and Bridge work for improvements on the Grand County side of Rollins Pass. Mr. Moyer stated that Grand County met with the Forest Service and used a GPS to identify all the drainage improvements that need to be completed from the bottom to the top to the County line. Mr. Moyer

stated that the intent was to address drainage issues annually in house. There are areas of the road where there are railroad ties and the County cannot improve those section of the road. There are limitations on what can be done on the historic route.

Mr. Moyer reported that there had been a discussion of putting a crusher in the old barrow pit area that the Forest Service has. Under the Special Use Permit for the County's authority to maintain Forest Service Road/County Road 81, Grand County has to get approval from the Forest Service.

Mr. Moyer stated that the next step in the process is to get the legislature back on point for the initiative. There is a need to put pressure on the Forest Service to initiate NEPA for the project. The entire thing needs to go through a NEPA process, environmental assessment of the best alternative, and then funding needs to be identified.

Commissioner Cimino would like money put into the budget for this.

The Board will put \$20,000 in a Commissioner's Budget with a line item to be Rollins Pass Improvements.

Mr. Moyer suggested that nothing be put into the budget for County Road 522. Grand County is waiting for a programmatic agreement and extension of Corps permit. If Road and Bridge can work on it this year, it can provide some in-kind service in the areas that are not part of the wetlands.

Commissioner Cimino would like to put money in the five-year plan for County Road 522. The other commissioners agree with that request.

Commissioner Cimino stated that the Economic Development Department has done a very good job. At some point, the Board needs to determine if it wants to continue this department because it is not something that is identified as part of County government. Commissioner Cimino believes that the voters may need to determine if this department is to be funded.

Commissioner Cimino is for funding the Economic Development Department for 2019. Commissioner Cimino would like to see Grand Enterprise being part of Economic Development Department. Commissioners Linke and Manguso do not want to make Grand Enterprise to be part of the Economic Development Department.

The Board will leave the Economic Development Department approved as asked for 2019.

Commissioners Cimino and Linke agreed to the raises for the nine department heads as presented.

Mr. Staab stated that the Board needs to consider when it should have an end date for the cost of living consideration. Commissioner Cimino stated that he believes the Board agrees that annual evaluations need to be done in the summer.

If the County uses July 1, 2017 to June 30, 2018 for the cost of living, the cost of living increase was 3.1 percent. The County uses a 2.5 percent block so the total cost to the 2019 budget would be \$350,000.

If the County measures from January 2018 through June of 2019, it would be an 18-month measurement and it could be a 5 percent cost of living in 2020.

Commissioner Cimino suggested that the hire lag proposal be \$800,000 and the sales tax revenue increase projection to 7 percent.

The Board agreed to change Rollins Pass budget line item to \$5,000. Grand County will provide in-kind work performed by the Road and Bridge Department.

The Board agreed to provide a 2.5 percent cost of living raise for employees effective the first pay period in 2019.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 2:48 p.m. The minutes were prepared by Clerk and Recorder Sara L. Rosene. Approved this ____ day of October 2018.

Merrit Linke, Chair

Attest:

Sara L. Rosene, Clerk and Recorder