

WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE MEETING

FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

9:00 A.M.

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT: Commissioners Blake Mulder, Terrance Augustine, Joe Brehler, Brian Droscha, Brian Lautzenheiser, Jim Mott and Jeanne Pearl-Wright.

ALSO PRESENT: Commissioner Barbara Rogers; Doug Lloyd, Tom Reich, Tim Vandermark, Amy Etzel, Jeff Parshall, Melissa Ballard, Patrick Fenlon, Heidi Kirchen, John Fuentes and Connie Sobie.

The July 16, 2021, regular meeting of the Ways and Means Committee was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chairman Mulder.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given by all.

Mr. Fuentes introduced the Patrick Fenlon, Accountant, and Heidi Kirchen, Executive Assistant, who recently joined the Controller's Office.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2021, and June 16, 2021, Ways and Means Committee meeting. Commissioner Brehler seconded. Motion carried.

The closed session meeting minutes from April 16, 2021, May 14, 2021, June 11, 2021, and June 18, 2021, were distributed and reviewed. Commissioner Brehler moved to approve the closed session minutes of the April, May and June, Ways and Means Committee meeting. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried.

There was no Limited Public Comment.

Equalization Director, Tim Vandermark, presented an update of the 2021 Captured Value and provided a summary of the report. The total County revenues captured, including extra voted millages is \$539,236.75. Discussion held.

An update of the position vacancies was presented and discussed (attached). Commissioner Augustine moved to refill the position vacancies as presented. Commissioner Mott seconded. Motion carried.

The May Health Insurance Expenditure report was presented (attached). The report indicates an unfavorable variance of (\$290,330) compared to the budget projection for both the County and Health Department. The County's portion is an unfavorable variance of (\$311,330). The County's active employees' unfavorable variance is (\$238,329) and the retirees' unfavorable variance is (\$73,001).

An update of the Child Care Fund was presented and discussed (attached). Based on the updated projection of revenues and expenditures the estimated fund balance at September 30, 2021 is \$532,565. Mr. Fuentes provided an update regarding the status of the Raise the Age grant program. Melissa Ballard provided an update on the placements outside of the Youth Facility. Discussion held.

Mr. Fuentes provided an update to the Public Improvement project expense and status of the projects (attached).

A proposed resolution to Approve Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Applications for the child support enforcement in the Friend of the Court and Prosecuting Attorney's Office was presented (attached). Commissioner Augustine moved to recommend approval of the Resolution to Approve Title IV-D Cooperative Reimbursement Applications as presented, to the Board of Commissioners. Commissioner Lautzenheiser seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the payment of the claims against the County in the amount of \$1,008,496.14 and immediate claims in the amount of \$16,066,231.67 to the Board of Commissioners, as presented. Commissioner Pearl-Wright seconded. Motion carried.

The budget amendments were presented and discussed (attached). Commissioner Brehler moved to recommend approval of the 2020/21 budget amendments. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried.

The 2021/2022 position requests were presented, including a breakdown of the cost of each position.

Sheriff Reich was present to discuss the requests for his office. He provided a description of the proposed cadet program and description of the multiple responsibilities that would be assigned. The program is intended to provide law enforcement work experience while cadets attend college with a goal of retaining the individual upon completion of educational requirements. The cadets would do ride-a-longs, side by side training in the jail, answering calls, taking reports. Sheriff Reich discussed the request for FOIA Coordinator. Currently, a records clerk responds to FOIA requests. It has become difficult to perform the records clerk responsibilities and also be able to respond to FOIA requests, especially due to time sensitivity and the detail response. The Sheriff discussed the two sergeant positions eliminated from the budget in prior years from County and Delta patrol. There are many times that there may not be coverage for out-county. At times, the Delta sergeant must respond to County road or the County sergeant may need to respond to Delta. Sheriff Reich explained the console operator would be a civilian position responsible for maintaining the console operations and would have no contact with inmates. That position would require a new classification within the collective bargaining agreement. There is also a request for a corrections utility officer and a County road patrol deputy. Discussion held.

Jeff Parshall was present to discuss the request for two Field Support Specialists. Mr. Parshall provided a detailed explanation of the current staffing level and the increase in the departmental support and number of technology devices throughout the County. The department is supporting more than seven hundred users and more than two thousand devices. Mr. Parshall listed several upcoming large projects throughout the County offices. He also spoke about cyber security and the complexity of the network. There are also many integrations between systems that are directly supported by his department. Discussion held.

Amy Etzel, Trial Court Administrator, was present to discuss the Court's request for a District Court Clerk and a Pre-trial Services Caseworker. A District Court Clerk position was previously eliminated from the budget. The position is needed due to an increase in the workload. The Pre-trial Services Caseworker would monitor individuals placed on bond prior to trial in both District and Circuit Courts. Currently, the District

Court probation officers provide monitoring for cases not bound over to Circuit Court. The number of pre-trial cases has increased. Ms. Etzel also spoke in support of the request from Technology Services based on the technology needs within the Trial Courts. Discussion held.

Prosecutor Lloyd was present to discuss the request for two attorneys and a legal assistant. Mr. Lloyd discussed the need for the attorneys is due to multiple reasons with a primary reason being the increase in violent crime, including death, domestic and felonious assaults, drug cases and juvenile cases. Homicides have totaled twenty-eight since 2010, with fifteen in the last three years and five being this year. Mr. Lloyd spoke in support of the positions requested by Sheriff Reich based on the increase in criminal activity throughout the County. He spoke about the Sheriff's request for a FOIA Coordinator and understands the necessity given the responsibility for transparency and requests have increased for the Sheriff as well as the Prosecutor's Office. Mr. Lloyd supports the position requests of the Trial Court given the increase in the number of cases. There is an increase in the number of individuals placed on bond per the conditions set by the Court. It is important for the Court to have an employee to monitor those individuals. He also spoke in support for the Technology Services positions recognizing the need exists throughout the County for technology services and provided examples of the need. Discussion held.

There was no Limited Public Comment.

Chairman Mulder recessed the meeting at 10:25 a.m. for a ten minute break.

Chairman Mulder reconvened the meeting at 10:34 a.m.

Mr. Fuentes recommended closed session to discuss upcoming labor contract negotiations. Commissioner Lautzenheiser moved to enter into closed session at 10:34 a.m. pursuant to Section 15.268 Sec 8. (a) of the Open Meetings Act, to discuss negotiation related to upcoming labor contract negotiation strategy. Commissioner Droscha seconded. Motion carried by unanimous roll call vote.

The Committee resumed the open meeting at 11:14 a.m.

No action needed.

Mr. Fuentes reviewed the currently proposed budget, indicating the budget does not include any of the requested positions. A review of the ARPA revenue loss calculation was provided. Discussion held. Mr. Fuentes discussed the current Barry County contract for equalization services provided by Tim Vandermark. The current contract expires on December 31, 2021 and Mr. Vandermark has indicated he does not want to continue providing the services. Discussion held.

There was discussion regarding the position requests.

There was discussion regarding the ARPA revenue loss calculation. Mr. Fuentes provided an explanation of the Department of Treasury's calculation tool. There was discussion about parks and use of the funds. Mr. Fuentes discussed the allowable expenses under the interim final rules.

Chairman Mulder indicated the need to finalize the budget in August and would recommend a second meeting August 20th, if necessary.

The Committee requested calculations on various budget proposals, specifically calculations adding two Technology Field Support Specialists, one Corrections Utility Officer, one Pre-Trial Services Case Worker and one Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

The Controller's Office will provide budget scenarios at the August meeting to incorporate the pay increases and the positions for the budget workshop.

Mr. Fuentes indicated he included an appropriation from the General Fund to the Resource Recovery for an increase in the health insurance expenses. The appropriation is to cover that cost without reducing the Resource Recovery programs.

Commissioner Mott discussed a funding request from the Historical Commission to reinstate the appropriation for the meeting per diems of the commission, which would total \$1,320. Mr. Fuentes suggested adding an appropriation to the 2021-2022 budget in the amount of \$2,000. Discussion held. The appropriation will be added to the budget.

Commissioner Pearl-Wright discussed a Business Loan Program

Mr. Fuentes also discussed projects for energy and infrastructure improvements, a solar project and ventilation system improvements being considered as a possible use for the ARAP funds.

Chairperson Mulder adjourned the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

The next regular meeting of the Way and Means Committee will be held Friday, August 13, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.



Chairman Blake Mulder