

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

March 02, 2010

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, March 02, 2010, at 5:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Wozniak, Wolf, Brown, Moore, Allen, Stephenson
Absent: Douglas

Others Present: JP Shirley Sandlin, JP Frank Winscott, Comptroller Richard McComas, Grants Administrator Kathy Bannister, Director of Public Safety Greg Hines

Tabatha Hunter – Benton County Daily Record

JP Moore called the meeting to order

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

Grants Administrator Report

Grants Administrator Kathy Bannister reported there were no requests or changes this month. She added that the SAMSHA Drug Court Grant had just been submitted.

JP Stephenson questioned the status on Reverse 9-1-1. Comptroller Richard McComas stated that an account has not been set up in the budget yet, and because of changes in the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management's approval procedures, the budget submitted last October has still not been approved.

Ordinance for ADECP Septic Grant

Richard McComas stated that this is an appropriation ordinance for funds that were not spent in 2009 which need to be moved forward to the 2010 Budget.

JP Wozniak made motion to forward to the March 9, 2010 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Wolf

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

Ordinance for 2009 Budget Adjustment to Close Out 2009

Richard McComas stated that this is the clean up ordinance to close out all of the accounts for 2009, and that none of this is new money.

JP Stephenson made motion to approve and forward to the March 9, 2001 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Wozniak.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

Sales Tax Numbers

Richard McComas stated that compared to December of 2009, there was a 3% increase in sales tax revenue, for the first increase in over a year. He added that the lottery may be affecting our sales tax receipts, as more and more people are spending their disposable income on lottery tickets rather than taxable merchandise.

Jail Collections

Richard McComas stated that jail collections are down, the state still owes the county over \$200,000 for January and February, and that they will catch up with their payments.

Fuel Summary

Richard McComas reported an increase in fuel expense compared with last year when we were only paying \$1.42 per gallon for unleaded. He stated that this year fuel is \$2.36 per gallon for unleaded, which is a 66% increase in cost. He said that diesel fuel has increased from \$1.61 to \$2.13 per gallon, or 32%. He added that fuel is budgeted in the 2010 budget at \$3.20 per gallon.

Monthly Expenditure Report

Richard McComas stated that for the first two months that the departments are between 16% and 17%, which is where it should be, and that all categories are in good shape. He added that the Benton County Fire Service budget is high because of annual equipment purchases, and that amount has been encumbered. He added that Department 01, County Judge, is high because of the lawsuit settlement amount for the ice storm clean up.

Other Business:

Richard McComas stated that an appropriation ordinance for the Sheriff's Department is needed to appropriate \$30,675 received from the insurance company on four wrecked vehicle claims.

JP Wolf made motion to approve and forward to the March 9, 2010 Committee of Thirteen agenda, seconded by JP Stephenson.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

Richard McComas commented on the Benton County Road Department 2009 Budget Carryover worksheet provided by Director of Public Safety Greg Hines. He stated that two projects were not completed last year and that the money was brought forward from the 2009 Budget to the 2010 Budget.

Greg Hines reported that the total carryover of \$282,200 in the Road Department budget was from 2009 asphalt and striping projects that were not completed last quarter because of weather conditions, and listed the breakdown as follows:

- 1) \$128,000 - Rivercliff Subdivision asphalt overlay
- 2) \$127,000 - Cloverdale Road asphalt project
- 3) \$27,200 - Time Striping, Inc. (2009 striping program)

Richard McComas stated that this is not an ordinance request, that this is just an estimate of what the numbers will be and that the appropriation ordinance will be brought forth in April. Greg Hines stated that he hoped that the work would be finished by then.

Greg Hines stated that the Manhattan Bridge Company has started the work on the Logan Road Bridge, and it will take approximately a year to a year and half to complete the project. He added that the bridge has been closed for the repairs and that alternate routes have been established. He added that the Arkansas State Highway Department will be overseeing the project.

Further discussion was held on the Fisher Ford and War Eagle Bridge projects. Kathy Bannister reported that the Arkansas Highway Transportation Department has requested that additional plans without the approach replacement be sent in for approval for the War Eagle Bridge project, along with a right-of-way certificate. She added that the Engineer is now requesting approval from the Federal Highway Department.

JP Wozniak asked if there will there be an appropriation for this. Richard McComas stated that the money is allocated in the 2010 Budget from the 2009 carryover, and that the appropriation for the reimbursement will be requested in April when the actual figures come in. Greg Hines stated that both the Rivercliff and striping projects are bid prices, but that the cost of the Cloverdale project could vary slightly either way. He added that they just wanted to make the court aware that this appropriation request will be made.

JP Moore announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be Tuesday April 6, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.