

Finance Committee Report

May 06, 2014

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, May 06, 2014, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas

Committee Members Present: Allen, J. Harrison, Jones, Chiocco, Curry, Moore, Moehring

Others Present: JPs Anglin, McKenzie, Meyers, County Judge Bob Clinard, Assessor Glenn "Bear" Chaney, Administrator of Public Safety Marshal Watson, Administrator of General Services John Sudduth, Accounting Manager Mike Crandall, Emergency Management Director Robert McGowen, Chief Deputy Sheriff Rob Holly

Media: Tom Sissom

Chair JP Allen called the meeting to order.

Public Comment

1. Grants Administrator Report

Accounting Manager Mike Crandall reported that; 1) the application for the Courthouse Security Grant has been submitted and requires no county match; 2) the 2015- Highway Safety Funding for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) grant to reimburse deputies' overtime salaries for increased traffic enforcement (DUI & Seatbelt) has been submitted and that the grant requires a 50% in-kind match from the county. He added that the grant has been awarded since 1997.

Accounting Manager Mike Crandall stated that he is requesting approval to apply for the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) grant, for funding to enhance the Adult Drug Courts treatment for substance-abusing adults. He added that the county will satisfy the 25% match requirement with in-kind services by utilizing the county's probation services directly related to Drug Court.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve the resolution request for the grant application and forward to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Appropriation Ordinance Retest – Dept. 0100. Historical Commission

Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$8,000 to move the Old Glades Post Office. He added that the building will become the Glades Community Museum.

JP J. Harrison made motion to approve and forward to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

3. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0500, Emergency Services, Fund 3607

Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to create a new fund to be named Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) Grant Fund, in Dept. 0500, Emergency Services, Fund 3607, in the 2014 Benton County Budget for the purpose of receiving \$33,750 in grant funds.

JP Curry made motion to approve and forward to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

4. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0400, Sheriff, Fund 3029

Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$2,500 received from Wal-Mart for the purchase of child safety car seats.

JP Moehring made motion to approve and forward to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

5. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0403, Circuit Court Div. 4, Fund 3703

Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is necessary to appropriate grant revenue received for the Alternative Dispute Resolution Grant extension.

JP Curry made motion to approve and forward to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

6. Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0108, Maintenance/Buildings & Grounds, Fund 4000

Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to appropriate \$10,400 for the Sheriff's Administration Building microbial growth removal bid documents.

Administrator of General Services John Sudduth stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to hire Hight-Jackson Associates, PA to prepare the specifications and drawings to waterproof the exterior of the Sheriff's Department. He stated that they also want to hire Robert Roberson (SEI) for investigation and design for remediation of the suspected microbial growth in the Sheriff's Administration Building.

Lengthy discussion was held on the extensive work that will be needed to remove and eliminate the microbial growth in the Sheriff's Administration Building.

JP Curry made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the May 13, Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

7. EMS Funding Discussion - moved to end of agenda

8. Sales Tax Numbers

Mike Crandall reported that sales tax receipts were down 2.07% for the month, and year-to-date are down 9.65%. He reported that they are down \$194,944 compared to the end of April 2013.

9. Jail Collections

Mike Crandall reported that Jail Collections were \$54,744 for April and \$463,045 for the year. He stated that \$1.5 million was projected for 2014.

10. Fuel Analysis

Mike Crandall reported that the Road Department is at 25% of their fuel budget, while the Sheriff's Department is at 34% of their budget. He stated that average unleaded fuel costs have decreased 4.0% to \$3.10, and that diesel has decreased 7.5% to \$3.16 per gallon. He stated that year-to-date, \$36,818 has been transferred back to the Road Department.

11. Monthly Fund Summary

Mike Crandall reported that funds should be at 33% and that the General Fund is at 32.63% and the overall budget is at 29.80%.

a. Overtime Analysis

Mike Crandall reported the Overtime Analysis through April 30, 2014 and stated that the Coroner's budget is over but that 23 calls which occurred in 2013 were paid this year.

B. Personnel Services Available

Mike Crandall reported that \$105,000 is available to go toward Emergency Medical Services (EMS) from the savings coming from the first personnel pay period.

7. EMS Funding Discussion

JP Allen stated that this discussion is for the possible funding for EMS Service. He stated that the county needs to progress on the ambulance service issue and that the Quorum Court needs a proposal ready for its May meeting to meet the deadline for getting anything on the November ballot. He stated that he is asking for a recommendation from the Finance Committee for financing options for funding ambulance service. He stated that there is an option for a millage increase or a revised plan for a household fee. He said that another option is a sales tax increase, but stated that he is not in favor of increasing sales tax. He added that the options can go forward for further discussion to the Committee of the Whole and then the Quorum Court.

Lengthy discussion was held on proposing two options for funding Emergency Medical Services (EMS); (1) a millage increase on county residents to pay for rural ambulance services, or (2) a revised plan for an annual per household fee for the unincorporated areas of Benton County, reduced from \$85 to \$40.

JP Allen stated that all of this has been good discussion, but we need to do something quickly. He stated that there needs to be a cap on how high we can raise the fee and how often.

JP Jones stated that any millage increase would have to go to a vote.

After further discussion was held on increasing the millage rate or proposing an annual per household fee to those living in the unincorporated areas of Benton County to pay for Emergency Medical Services (EMS), JP Allen proposed forwarding both options to the Committee of the Whole and then the Quorum Court so that the requirement of three readings can be met. He added that nothing is going to be finalized until it is passed on third reading and that period of time would allow for public input.

Kara Funk, Chairman of NEBCO, stated that NEBCO would like to have the option of participating in a “partnership” with the county, depending on the details of the proposal.

JP McKenzie stated if both of the proposals are put on the ballot, there is a chance that neither one will pass.

JP Allen made motion to forward a proposal for a millage increase for an Emergency Medical Services District to be created for the unincorporated areas of Benton County, excluding the NEBCO service area, for further discussion to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

JP Allen made motion to forward discussion for a \$40 to \$50 per-household fee to the residents of the unincorporated areas of Benton County to pay for rural ambulance service to the May 13, 2014 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Further discussion was held imposing a \$40 per-household fee for the residents in the unincorporated areas of Benton County to pay for ambulance service.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

JP Allen called for a straw vote to indicate that it is the intent and recommendation of this committee to the Quorum Court that only one of the proposed options be placed on the November ballot for a vote of the people.

Other Business

JP Allen announced that the Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Tuesday, May 13, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

JP Chiocco announced that a Grievance hearing will be held Thursday May 15, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.