

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 08, 2015

A Finance Committee meeting was held Thursday, January 08, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Easley, Allen, Jones, Chiocco, Curry, Moore, Moehring

Others Present: JPs Adams, Shadlow, Anglin, Sandlin, J. Harrison, Assessor Glen "Bear" Chaney

Media: Tracy Neal

Chair JP Allen called the meeting to order.

Public Comments

None

Grants Administrator Report

Accounting Manager Mike Crandall reported that the 2015 Arkansas Administrative Offices of the Courts-Alternative Dispute Resolution Grant was awarded for \$5,000 and will be used to implement an Alternative Dispute Resolution program for Domestic Relations and Probate Court.

Sales Tax Numbers

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that October sales tax receipts were up 5.89% over last year, for a year-to-date increase of 2.50%. She added that overall, we are up \$182,311 for the same period last year. She stated that \$7.3 million had been budgeted for the year.

Jail Collections

Brenda Guenther reported that Jail Collections were \$34,880 for December and \$1,535,554 for the year. She stated that \$1.5 million was budgeted for 2014.

Lengthy discussion was held on the cost to the county to house State and Federal inmates in the Benton County Jail.

JP Allen stated that he talked with a state legislator about the jails inmate population and that the legislators are considering housing some of the state's prisoners in a Louisiana prison. He said that the move would mean that the counties would get less money for holding state prisoners, and that we need to keep watching what happens with the Legislature to see how it impacts us.

JP Moehring stated that he had discussed the issue with a state legislator and that Arkansas prisoners would be held in a privately owned Louisiana prison which would cost the facility \$25 to \$28 per day.

Fuel Analysis

Mike Crandall reported that the Road Department is at 87% of their fuel budget, while the Sheriff's Department is at 101% of their budget. He stated that average unleaded fuel costs have decreased 27.5% to \$1.79 per gallon and diesel decreased 34.9% to \$2.00 per gallon, and that \$88,247 has been transferred back to the Road Department.

Overtime Analysis

Brenda Guenther reported that overtime usage for the General Fund is at 64.02%, and all other funds were 25.84% for the year 2014.

Brenda Guenther stated that the Coroner's office had gone over its overtime budget, and that they received 650 calls and budgeted for 600.

Fund Summary

Brenda Guenther reported on the Monthly Fund Summary, stating that 99% is the target and that the General Fund is at 90.01%, all other funds are at 87.06%, and the overall budget is at 90.08%.

Revenue and Expense Summary

Brenda Guenther reported that actual revenue for 2014 came in at \$49.7 up from \$43.3 million a year ago. She stated this is an increase of \$2,399,948 to reserves. She stated that \$50,143,928 has been projected for 2015.

JP Allen stated that he wanted the committee to be mindful of the money in reserve and capital reserve funds. He stated that they are going to have to come up with a way to pay for the courts facility, but he also wanted to be able to put money toward the cost of the project, which would reduce the amount needed if the money came from a tax increase or the project was financed.

JP Sandlin stated that she wanted to remind the court that Springdale is going to stop providing EMS service to the rural area and that will be an issue that they will have to deal with.

Appropriation Ordinance Request - Budget Clean Up

Mike Crandall stated this appropriation ordinance request to transfer monies between categories and line items and the additional appropriations in various departments and funds and is necessary to cover expenses for 2014.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward to the Tuesday, January 13, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Moehring.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands.

Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0400, Sheriff’s Office, Fund 1000

Mike Crandall stated this appropriation ordinance request is to replace a 2012 Chevrolet Tahoe that was totaled in an automobile accident. He stated that the insurance proceeds received will be used toward the purchase of one replacement vehicle.

JP Moehring made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the Tuesday, January 13, 2015 Committee of the Whole, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business

JP Jones announced that a Public Safety/Justice Facility meeting will be held Tuesday, January 27, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

JP Moore announced that a Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. and a Special Committee of the Whole meeting to tour the courts facility will be held Thursday, January 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.