

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

May 07, 2015

A Finance Committee meeting was held Thursday, May 07, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court Meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

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

Others Present: County Judge Bob Clinard, Sheriff Kelly Craddock, Assessor Linda Hambrick, Public Defender Jay Saxton, JPs Anglin, J. Harrison, K. Harrison, Adams, Meyers, Juvenile Director Denise Collins, Comptroller Brenda Guenther, Accounting Manager Mike Crandall, Administrator of Public Services Marshal Watson, Major Holloway, Captain Gyll, Chief Deputy Conner, Lieutenant Gage, Historical Preservation Commission Chair Glen Jones

Media: Tom Sissom

Public Comments

None

JP Allen stated that the Historical Preservation Commission request needs to be moved to the beginning of the agenda.

Appropriation Ordinance Request - Dept, 0100, County Judge, Fund 3480

Historical Preservation Commission Chair Glen Jones stated that this appropriation request is to appropriate \$10,000 to move the Highfill Historical School House and \$5,000 to move the Old Glades Post Office from the Historical Commission funds.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the May 12, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Presentation

Sheriff Craddock presented a report detailing his office's activities through 2014 and his goals for 2015. He stated that changes in the jail operation's has been a major accomplishment.. He reported that by Friday they will have 32 extra beds that will be reserved for misdemeanor cases only, and it will only take one day to fill those extra beds.

Sheriff Craddock reported that the addition of hot meals has decreased disciplinary problems with inmates in the jail, and that there has been a dramatic reduction in threats towards the guards because of the hot meals.

Major Shawn Holloway presented a power-point presentation showing the trends in different categories of activity in the Sheriff's Office. He stated that calls for service were down, but arrests were up in many categories.

Some discussion was held on the gang activity in the county.

Major Holloway reported that the gang database system that the Sheriff's Office has implemented has helped the office track and monitor gang activity and that much of the gang related activity has moved out of the county as a result.

Appropriation Ordinance Request - Dept. 0417, Public Defender, Fund 3024

Public Defender Jay Saxton stated that they would like to go paperless in their office to save on the costs of paper and toner. He stated this appropriation ordinance request is to purchase four 10.5 inch tablets to replace the Dell computers that they have now currently. He stated they will use these as a pilot program for the rest of the year, and if approved they will put another eight in the budget for 2016.

JP Moehring made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the May 12, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Presentation - Courthouse Facilities Bond Financing

Crews and Associates Senior Managing Director Bob White presented a power-point presentation on a range of funding methods to choose from, if a decision is made to continue with the new courts facility. He presented information of revenue from a range of sales tax rates, property tax millage, and court fines.

Lengthy discussion was held on the various funding options available and what would be the best option for the county.

JP Allen stated that they will continue reviewing options while awaiting a decision on where the project will be located.

JP Allen called for a 5 minute break.

Meeting reconvened.

Comptroller Report

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported on the 2015 budget recapitulation, and stated that she had prepared a report on all the other funds showing their beginning cash balance and their forecasted expenditures. She reported that they are all looking good.

Fund Summary

Accounting Manager Mike Crandall reported on the Monthly Fund Summary, stating that 33.3% is the target and that the General Fund is at 32.53 %, other funds are at 30.84%, and the overall budget is at 34.53%.

Overtime & Premium Pay Analysis

Mike Crandall reported that the overtime and premium pay analysis is through April 17, 2015 and that the target is 30.77% and overall 31.89%. He stated that this is for six out of the 26 pay periods, which includes the STEP grant overtime, comp-time, vacation payout, and Coroner calls.

Brenda Guenther reported that \$32,517.13 will be reimbursed by the 2015 S.T.E.P. grant.

Grants Administrator Report

Mike Crandall reported that the application for the Arkansas Administration Office of the Courts Security and Emergency Preparedness 2015 Security Grant had been submitted and requires no county match. He stated that the funds will be used for: Siloam Springs District Court – security upgrades; 6 security cameras for the courthouse, 6 ballistic clipboards for bailiffs,, and 2 ballistic shields for courthouse security deputies.

Mike stated that he is requesting approval to apply for the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Justice Programs (OJP), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Program grant. He stated this grant will be used to develop a demonstration project which establishes a “zero tolerance” culture for sexual assault in the Benton County Juvenile Correctional Facility. Mike stated that it is a 50% in-kind match.

JP Moore made motion to approve the resolution request for the grant application and forward to the May 09, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Fuel Analysis

Mike Crandall reported that the target is 33%, and that the Road Department is at 15.97% of their fuel budget, while the Sheriff’s Department is at 16.34% of their budget. He stated that average unleaded fuel costs have decreased 34.84% to \$2.02 per gallon and diesel has decreased 29.11% to \$2.24 per gallon, and that \$16,120 has been transferred back to the Road Department to date.

Sales Tax Numbers

Brenda Guenther reported that March sales tax receipts were up 7.95% over last year. She added that overall, they are up .05%, or \$191,714, for the same period last year. She stated that \$7.3 million had been budgeted for the year.

Jail Collections

Brenda Guenther reported that the total billing for housing prisoners is \$696,064, jail collections are at \$702,302 year-to-date, and \$1.5 million was the budget estimate for 2015.

Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0480, Juvenile Probation, Fund 3702

Mike Crandall stated that this appropriation ordinance request is to transfer the Juvenile Accountability Block Grant revenue and expenses budget to the General Fund.

JP Allen stated that he had concerns of transferring the fund from the Juvenile Probation Fund.

After lengthy discussion was held not to transfer the funds in Dept. 0480 Juvenile Probation, Fund 3702 to the County General Fund, no action was taken.

Appropriation Ordinance Request – Dept. 0502 Benton County Fire Services, Fund 1000

Mike Crandall stated this appropriation ordinance request is to transfer funds within the department to purchase extracting equipment (Jaws of Life) for the Gallatin and Piney Point Fire Departments.

JP Jones made motion to approve and forward the appropriation ordinance request to the May 12, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Administrator of Public Safety Marshal Watson stated this equipment is badly needed and a good investment for the county.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Ordinance Request - Amend Section 2-367 of the Code of Ordinances of Benton County.

Brenda Guenther stated this ordinance request is necessary to update and clarify that Section 2-367 regarding the system of inventory of property and equipment owned in the county.

JP Moehring made motion to approve and forward the ordinance request to the May 12, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Chiocco.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Ordinance Request - Amend Section 2-368 of the Code of Ordinances of Benton County.

Brenda Guenther stated this ordinance request is to update Act 98 of 2015. She stated that this provides that counties are authorized to exchange or transfer properties, real or personal, with other counties, municipalities, community colleges or institutions of higher education. She stated that an exchange or transfer under this section shall be approved by ordinances of the Quorum Court.

JP Moore made motion to approve and forward the ordinance request to the May 12, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Moehring.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Other Business

JP Jones announced that a Public Safety/Justice Facility meeting will be held Monday, May 11, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

JP K. Harrison announced that a Legislative meeting will be held Thursday, May 19, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.