FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

April 02, 2015

A Finance Committee meeting was held Thursday, April 02, 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, Assessor Linda Hambrick, Prosecuting Attorney Nathan Smith, JPs Anglin, Sandlin, J. Harrison, K. Harrison, Leadabrand, Meyers, Juvenile Director Denise Collins, Comptroller Brenda Guenther, Accounting Manager Mike Crandall, Administrator of General Services John Sudduth, OEC Director Michael DeRose, Chief Deputy Conner, Major Holloway, Captain Guyll, Lutenientent Gage

Media: Tom Sissom

Public Comments
None

Comptroller Report
Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that revenues for the first quarter of the Health Care Fund is better than last year at this time by $72,569. She reported that expenses are better by $109,152 and that the balance has a net change of $181,721, compared to the first quarter of 2014. She also reported that revenues for the General and Road Funds for the first quarter are $7,307,814, with a net change of ($1,455,836). She noted in 2014, $1,638,546 had been received from FEMA for disaster relief.

Fund Summary
Accounting Manager Mike Crandall reported on the Monthly Fund Summary, stating that 25% is the target and that the General Fund is at 26.97%, other funds are at 23.06%, and the overall budget is at 24.84%.

Brenda Guenther reported that comparing the 2015 versus 2014 Fund Summary Report for March that Personnel services is at 1.43%, and that the Other Services fund increase is due to capital purchases.

Overtime & Premium Pay Analysis
Mike Crandall reported that the overtime and premium pay analysis is through March 31, 2015 and that the target is 23.08% and overall 36.77%. He stated that this is for six out of the 26 pay periods, which included six holidays paid out and the storm damages.

Grants Administrator Report
Mike Crandall reported that the application for the Arkansas Community & Economic Development Programs (ACEDP) had been submitted and requires no county match. He stated that the funds will be used to assist in Community Development Planning activities which shall lead to the identification and prioritization of community development and housing needs. He stated that the grant will be administered with the Arkansas State Health Department and Northwest Arkansas Economic Development District

Mike stated that he is requesting approval to apply for the 2016 Highway Safety Funding for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grant. He stated this grant will be used to reimburse the deputies overtime salaries for increased traffic enforcement (DUI and Seatbelt). Mike stated that it is a 50% in-kind match for 2 existing deputies and that the grant has been awarded since 1997.

JP Jones made motion to approve the resolution request for the grant application and forward to the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Curry.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Fuel Analysis

Mike Crandall reported that the target is 25%, and that the Road Department is at 12.38% of their fuel budget, while the Sheriff's Department is at 12.59% of their budget. He stated that average unleaded fuel costs have decreased 35.87% to $2.02 per gallon and diesel has decreased 43.53% to $1.79 per gallon, and that $14,937 has been transferred back to the Road Department to date.

Sales Tax Numbers

Comptroller Brenda Guenther reported that March sales tax receipts were up 10.61% over last year. She added that overall, they are up 17.01%, or $191,435, 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 $508,894, jail collections are at $331,494 year-to-date, and $1.5 million was the budget estimate for 2015.

Discussion was held on the increasing number of inmates and medical costs.

Sheriff and Jail Other Funds Analysis

Mike Crandall reported on the revenue source for each of the Sheriff, Jail, and Beaver Lake Park Patrol funds.

Jail Costs per Inmate

Brenda Guenther reported that the FY 2014 total costs for jail operations and jail inmate cost per day was $47.91. She stated that the State Inmate Cost reported by Legislative Audit through the Arkansas Association of Counties for November 2014 was $49.35. She said that the State at that time was reimbursing counties only $28 and we currently receive $40 per day.

Ordinance Request – Dept. 0418, Jail, Fund 1000

Brenda Guenther stated that this ordinance is to increase the daily fee charged to municipalities to $50 for housing prisoners in the County Jail.

Lengthy discussion was held to decrease the daily fee charged to municipalities to $45 for housing prisoners in the county jail and that the ordinance would become effective January 01, 2016.

JP Jones made motion to approve the ordinance request and forward to the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Curry

JP Jones then made motion to amend his motion to change the amount charged to municipalities for housing prisoners in the County Jail to $45 and add an effective date of January 1, 2016, seconded by JP Moehring.

Motion passed by show of hands vote.

Jail Expansion

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that two or three months ago discussion was started on how to resolve the misdemeanor prisoner issue in the county jail. He stated that the jail's F-pod was designed and built to hold misdemeanor inmates, but it is not being used for that purpose. He stated that currently in that area is laundry facilities, an exercise and workout area, and other administrative offices. He stated that those will be moved into a new building designed for administrative uses. He stated that they have estimated that the county would have additional space for 30 misdemeanor inmates, after the initial 60-day project is completed. He stated that the work will cost about $30,000 and that money is already in the budget. He added that this initial conversion is part of a larger project. Judge Clinard stated that completing F-pod for misdemeanor inmates will give the county about 90 spaces when the work is done and another short-term expansion will give the jail another 12 cells for female inmates. He stated that he would like to put out a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an architect to design the major jail expansion. He said that the initial expansion and the major construction project could cost between $1.8 million and $1.9 million. He added that he would also ask the architect to provide a design for another jail pod for felon inmates that would add space for another 150-200 inmates.

JP Moore asked how much additional staff the expansion will require. Captain Guyll responded that short term, he could get by without adding additional staff, but with the other expansion they would need an additional 10 positions.

After further discussion was held on the expansion to be done at the county jail, JP Allen asked for a show of hands to allow Judge Clinard to seek requests for qualifications for an architect to design the major jail expansion.

Approval to allow Judge Clinard to seek RFQ's, passed by a show of hands vote.

Benton County Rogers Office Parking Lot Land Purchase and Construction

County Judge Bob Clinard stated that the three county offices – assessor, county clerk and collector – that share the Benton County Rogers Offices (BCRO) building have all reported an increase in customer traffic over the former office site at Third and Poplar streets in Rogers. He stated that the revenue office figures show about 1,800 more people use the office each month compared to the old location and that the Assessor and Collector are up around 2,000 each month. He stated that the increase in business has brought some problems to light.

Judge Clinard reported that a part of the improvements is that the small office space used by the Public Defender's Office will be moved to the Center of Non-profits in Rogers and that he is in the middle of negations to buy the vacant land just east of the office at 15th and Walnut streets. Judge Clinard stated that the parking lot will be connected and a new paved parking lot built on the additional land. He stated that the original site has about 63 parking spaces and the project will add about 40 spaces.

Further lengthy discussion was held on the increase in business and purchasing adjacent land for additional parking but no action was taken.

Courthouse Financing Options

Brenda Guenther reported the courthouse construction funding options:

Option 1- Sales & Use Tax
Option II - Property Tax Increase
Option III - Court Fine and Restitution
Option IV - General Obligation Bonds

Lengthy discussion was held on the different options available for the construction funding.

Resolution Request – Federal-Aid Transportation Alternatives Program Funds – War Eagle Bridge Project

Brenda Guenther stated this Resolution request is to apply for the Federal-Aid Transportation Alternatives Program Funds available at 80% federal and 20% local match to develop or improve the War Eagle Bridge Project.

JP Moehring made motion to approve and forward to the April 14, 2015 Committee of the Whole agenda, seconded by JP Jones.

Motion passed by unanimous show of hands vote.

Other Business

JP K. Harrison announced that a Legislative meeting will be held Thursday, April 09, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

JP Jones announced that a Public Safety/Justice Facility meeting will be held Tuesday, April 07, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.