

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET HEARING 2016  
MILLARD COUNTY THE 1st DAY OF DECEMBER 2015  
AT THE COURTHOUSE, FILLMORE, UTAH

PRESENT: James I. Withers . . . . . Chairperson  
Alan M. Roper . . . . . Commissioner  
Dean Draper . . . . . Commissioner  
  
Pat Finlinson . . . . . County Attorney  
Marki Rowley . . . . . County Clerk  
Lesli Shields . . . . . Deputy County Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Connie Hansen . . . . . County Recorder  
Brandy Grace . . . . . County Auditor  
Lynette Madsen . . . . . Deputy County Auditor  
Robert Dekker . . . . . County Sheriff  
Forest Roper, Richard Jacobson & Morris Burton . . . . . County Sheriff's Office  
Sheri Dearden . . . . . County Treasurer  
Deb Arnold . . . . . Deputy County Treasurer  
Amanda Allen . . . . . Chronicle Progress  
Robert Reidhead . . . . . Zions Bank  
Aliese Withers, Steve Maxfield, Ted Recupero & Todd Macfarlane . . . . . Citizens

Note: This meeting in its entirety was recorded and is available for review in the Clerk's Office.

PURSUANT TO AN AGENDA WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO each member of the governing body, posted at the principal office of the Millard County Commission, posted on the Utah Public Notice Website, and provided to the Millard County Chronicle Progress, a newspaper of general circulation within Millard County, Utah, as required by law, the following proceedings were had:

Commissioner Withers welcomed the public and thanked the audience for their attendance. He expressed his appreciation to the men and women in the United States Armed Forces serving our Country, especially those from Millard County. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Withers then turned the time over to Auditor Grace.

Auditor Grace covered information relative to the adoption of the budget. The 2016 Tentative Budget was adopted on October 20, 2015. Public notices were run in the Chronicle Progress on November 11, 2015, and November 18, 2015, indicating that the tentative budget had been adopted, and that it was available for inspection at both the County Courthouse in Fillmore and

the County Offices in Delta, as well as the county website. It also indicated that the 2016 Budget Hearing would be held today.

Auditor Grace said that the spreadsheets handed out reflect the full detail tentative budget. One handout shows prior year activity, current year budget and activity, as well as the 2016 tentative, which shows all of the departments by line item. The summary form summarizes the budget by funds and departments.

Auditor Grace said that the County has continued to work on the budget since the adoption of the tentative budget. Various meetings have been held with elected officials and department supervisors as they worked through the budget process.

Auditor Grace said that there is funding budgeted for consideration of a 3% cost of living adjustment for 2016, and pay increases in accordance with the County's step and grade policy.

Auditor Grace explained that renewal for health insurance costs for County employees was a 17.5% increase over last year. Renewal for dental insurance was a 4% increase. County employees contribute 15% towards their premium of health and dental coverage.

Auditor Grace said that there is funding to reflect a few new full-time positions: two new Sheriff Deputy positions, one new jailer position, one new IT Specialist and increasing one part-time position in the Auditor's Office to a full-time position.

Auditor Grace said that Millard County will not increase taxes to cover these additional expenses. In 2015, there was approximately \$1.1 million in additional revenue from property taxes generated from new growth. There has also been an increase in Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding and Sales & Use Tax revenue.

Auditor Grace said that this is a summary of the significant changes to the budget that are being considered. The final adoption of the 2016 Budget will take place at the regular scheduled commission meeting on December 15, 2015.

Commissioner Withers then opened the floor to the public for comments.

Steve Maxfield asked for clarification on the \$1.1 million in additional revenue that was generated.

Auditor Grace said that the \$1.1 million generated was from property taxes generated from new growth, a change in valuation from 2014 to 2015, which was centrally assessed property.

Todd Macfarlane asked for an outline of where the new economic tax-based growth is coming from, besides the wind farms, solar farms and expansion of Magnum Gas, which were discussed at last years budget hearing.

Commissioner Roper said that there is a mining company mining on the Utah/Nevada border,

that will be transporting its materials to Fillmore to manufacture and ship that material. He said that Magnum has been a big part of the growth. He said that there has also been growth related to transportation and there are several new businesses that are in the process of finding property in Millard County.

Mr. Macfarlane made comments regarding economic development in the County.

Commissioner Roper expressed his appreciation to Mr. MacFarlane for reminding the Commission of the importance of economic development. He said that the new Economic Development Director, Scott Barney, has applied and received a Business Expansion & Retention (BEAR) grant for \$47,000.00 from the State. He is in the process of visiting businesses to give them the opportunity to apply for a \$50,000.00 grant.

Auditor Grace added that although the overall Economic Development budget looks like there is not much fluctuation from 2015 to 2016, there has actually been a decrease in wages and an increase in funding.

Mr. Macfarlane asked for an explanation regarding the significant increase in the public defender's budget.

Commissioner Withers said that \$25,000.00 of the increase is for Mr. Bennett to have an office in Fillmore, along with a secretary to answer phones, to better serve the defendants he represents.

Attorney Finlinson explained the legal reasons for additional funds in the public defender's budget. He said that there will also be a separate contract for appellate work.

Mr. Macfarlane expressed his appreciation to the Commission for their diligence.

Mr. Maxfield made comments on the rise in his property taxes.

Mr. Maxfield stated that on average, all line items have gone up by 5%. He asked for clarification on line 4151, Computer Center, and why it went up \$126,770.00.

Auditor Grace said that part of that is for a full-time IT Specialist she referred to at the beginning of the meeting. There have also been requests for equipment upgrades for a back-up server in the amount of \$40,800.00.

Attorney Finlinson explained that the new IT Specialist position will help with the specialized software required in the Attorney's Office and the Clerk's Office by the State.

Mr. Macfarlane and Mr. Maxfield made comments on the Sunset View Golf Course and the new Golf Pro.

Commissioner Roper explained the plans for the Sunset View Golf Course Club House. He said that the funds for the club house have been rolled into next year's budget.

Auditor Grace said that the salary for the new Golf Pro is \$52,005.73 plus benefits. She said that the 2016 revenue is budgeted at \$200,000.00. The year to date budget is at \$185,663.00. There has been an increase for the pro shop, so the revenue was increased.

Mr. Macfarlane made comments on the Class B Road fund increase and asked for an explanation.

Commissioner Withers said that starting in January 2016, there will be State money from the new tax. He said that the State also changed the way roads are paved and there will be more income from the road miles because of that. He then explained some of Brandon Winget's, Road Supervisor, plans for the next few years.

Mr. Macfarlane expressed his appreciation to the Road Department for the great work they do in the County.

Commissioner Roper stated that the County tries to be as conservative as possible with respect to the budget. He expressed his appreciation to the department heads for their diligence and to the public for their comments tonight. He discussed some of the challenges the County has faced this year.

Mr. Macfarlane made comments on the increased budget for the Planning Commission and asked what the County's plans were with respect to Bruce Parker.

Auditor Grace stated that Sheryl Dekker, County Planner, requested an increase for software in the amount of \$18,725.00. She said that the line item that Mr. Parker is paid out of, Professional and Technical, went down \$5,000.00 from last year.

Commissioner Withers briefly explained the Professional and Technical line item.

Mr. Macfarlane made comments on the mandated Resource Management Plan (RMP) and asked for an explanation of such.

Auditor Grace stated that the cost for the RMP is allocated in the Public Lands budget for \$20,000.00.

Commissioner Draper briefly explained House Bill 323 (HB323) regarding the mandated County RMP. He said that the deadline for the RMP is June 30, 2016. He explained the reimbursement procedures for the State and Legislature allocated money.

Commissioner Draper explained that the County has contracted with Mark Ward to help prepare the RMP.

Commissioner Draper said that until the RMP is officially adopted by the County, the draft copies of the RMP are considered private and not subject to GRAMA. He said that there will be public hearings held prior to the adoption.

Amanda Allen, Chronicle Progress, asked for an explanation of the decrease in the Ambulance budget since the County is lacking in ambulance services resources.

Auditor Grace said that there will be a reduction in equipment in anticipation of increasing compensation to the EMT's.

Commissioners Draper and Roper made comments on the current situation with regards to ambulance services in Millard County.

There were no other comments made.

Commissioner Roper made a motion to go out of the public hearing.

Commissioner Draper SECONDED the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion carried. The public hearing closed at 7:42 p.m..

WHERE UPON THE MEETING ADJOURNED

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_