

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION  
BUDGET HEARING 2012  
MILLARD COUNTY THE 6th DAY OF DECEMBER 2011  
AT THE COURTHOUSE, FILLMORE, UTAH

PRESENT: Bart A. Whatcott. . . . . Chairperson  
Daron P. Smith. . . . . Commissioner  
James I. Withers. . . . . Commissioner  
  
Richard Waddingham . . . . . County Attorney  
Marki Rowley. . . . . Deputy County Clerk  
Brandy Grace. . . . . County Auditor

ALSO PRESENT: Jason Bullock . . . . . Millard Baseball/Recreation  
Jeremy K. Teeples . . . . . Recreation/High School  
Forrest Roper . . . . . EMS & Sheriff's Office  
Jim Masner . . . . . American Legion Post 61  
UnaRae Taylor, Vance Beckstead, Tana Knight,  
Chasie Greathouse, Bev Crafts, Cindy Staples,  
Jerry Knudsen, Jane Rasmussen, Wendy Brunson and  
Bill & Heather Justesen . . . . . EMS  
Robert Dekker . . . . . County Sheriff  
Morris Burton. . . . . Sheriff's Office  
Shane Brunson. . . . . Sheriff's Office  
John Orullian. . . . . Maintenance  
Norma Brunson . . . . . County Clerk  
Ed Phillips, Eric Jenson, Lynn Wall, Alison Robison,  
Josh McBride. . . . . Citizens  
Connie Hansen . . . . . County Recorder  
Dean Draper . . . . . Chronicle Progress  
Bonnie Gehre . . . . . Auditor's Office  
Curtis D. Shields. . . . . UHP  
Sheri Dearden . . . . . Treasurer's Office  
John Hansen . . . . . County Treasurer  
Wayne Jackson . . . . . American Legion

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, as required by law, the following proceedings were had:

Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Withers made a motion to enter into the budget hearing to take public comment about the 2012 proposed budget.

Commissioner Smith SECONDED the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion carried.

Commissioner Whatcott called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the budget hearing. He then turned the time over to Auditor Brandy Grace for comments.

Auditor Grace covered information relative to the adoption of the budget. The tentative budget was adopted on November 1, 2011. Public notices were run in the Chronicle Progress on November 9, and November 16, announcing that the budget had been adopted and was available for inspection at the County Courthouse in Fillmore, the county office building in Delta and on the County's website.

Spreadsheets handed out summarized the comparison of the 2011 budget the county is currently operating on, and the 2012 budget. Auditor Grace said that since adopting the tentative budget the commission has continued to work on the budget and make changes to the budget through meetings with the elected officials and department supervisors.

Auditor Grace said that the reports handed out represent the tentative budget as it was adopted. She explained the line items on the spreadsheet. There were some changes that needed to be made to the budget, including a request to increase the extended care facility budget from \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00. The budget for the Equestrian Park and Recreation Fund, where no figures were included, should have been \$20,400.00.

The tentative budget that was adopted included \$540,000 in general fund expenditures for fund balance increases. As changes are made to the General Fund that amount will be increased or decreased depending on the final changes made to the budget. There is no anticipation that the overall budget will change.

The largest portion of revenue from the General Fund comes from taxes. There was an increase of about a half million dollars due to new growth being received from centrally assessed property. There is not an anticipated increase in property taxes.

Auditor Grace explained that at this time a cost of living adjustment (COLA) to the county pay plan, is not being considered for county employees for next year. However, it is anticipated to fund the pay increases on the step and grade. There has also been discussion on additional funding for the EMTs.

Health benefit costs for county employees have increased about 7 ½%. In the past the county provided a benefit to county employees which was 85% for the health care premium and the county had fully funded the dental benefit for next year. The decision has been made to keep

the health insurance benefit at 85% and to fund the dental benefit at 85% and have the county employees participate in the increase.

There were also decisions made to change the insurance carriers for dental, life and long term disability in an effort to save on costs.

The county will continue to work toward a final budget which is scheduled to be adopted on December 20, 2011.

Commissioner Whatcott asked that all comments be limited to three minutes.

Jim Masner explained to the commissioners that the American Legion Post 61 will be hosting the State American Legion Convention on June 15, 16 & 17 of next year. They were wondering if the commissioners would be willing to make some funds available to help with the cost of hosting this convention. A few businesses from around town are willing to help as well.

Commissioner Whatcott said that the county does have a fund set up for maintenance for the veterans wall to the tune of \$1,500.00. There is also funds available for advertising through the Chamber of Commerce. He encouraged Mr. Masner to attend a Chamber of Commerce meeting and to fill out the necessary paperwork to receive funds that way.

Mr. Masner said that there is a mortuary in Spanish Fork who has agreed to do the announcements at no cost.

Ed Phillips said that he is not a tax complainer even though his property taxes has doubled in the last 10 years. He would like to know where the tax money goes. He said that the last couple of years it has been mentioned to get more clarification in the budgets particularly on what is being spent for recreation. He said that he reviewed information he received from Auditor Grace and from the Chronicle Progress. He said with that information and the handout tonight it still does not make much sense to him.

Mr. Phillips questioned line items in the Recreation Budget; namely, Maintenance II, and Buildings and Grounds. He also questioned how the budget was prepared, and how the money is spent.

He questioned the justification for having three different salaries for the commissioners.

Commissioner Withers said that in the private sector the new guy who comes to work is at a salary based on experience. The comparison is that he, as the freshmen commissioner, is still learning the ropes of the position.

Mr. Phillips said that the way he sees it, the difference in pay is a career path and he thinks that the salary of Commissioner Withers is a fair enough salary for a part-time position.

Commissioner Whatcott explained how the commission came to the decision of different salaries which will not continue to increase and will be capped off at the highest salary.

Forrest Roper said that he would like to see the salaries boosted back up a little on the proposed ambulance budget. The 110 line item will cover the two full-time employees, based historically on what they have to have and to fund the step and grade for next year. The 120 line item has a \$20,000.00 cut from what was proposed but will fund the slight increase for the volunteers who are on the front lines 24/7. He discussed the wage increase justifications, in his

opinion, for the ambulance volunteers. He said that a \$28,000 increase will help dramatically for retention and recruitment.

Jerry Knudsen went over some of the things that are required of the volunteer EMTs and some of the things that they do.

Mr. Knudsen said that the volunteers put a lot of time into being a volunteer EMT which takes a lot of time out of family activities and any other extra thing they may want to do.

They have a maintenance crew and try to save the county some money by doing light maintenance work on the ambulance. In order to go to the required trainings most of the time they have to take vacation time from their jobs or make up the absence at a later time just to attend the trainings.

The EMT volunteers get involved with the communities. They give the peace of mind that when someone needs help they will be there.

The EMTs spend a lot of time in the hospital after a run to fill out reports that may take an extra hour or more. A lot of them have had their clothes ruined by going on a run.

They are currently trying to recruit people but it is not easy. There are a lot of requirements and testing to become an EMT.

Bill Justesen said that he is an EMT and has to significantly cut back his service with the ambulance. He questioned the step and grade project. He read a letter given to him by Auditor Grace regarding the step and grade scale. He said that he thought that the county had some money set aside for the step and grade implementation.

Commissioner Smith said that the original amount was \$75,000.00 to implement the process for step and grade and to finish the project. He is unsure as to the total amount. He said that they will wait until the end of the year to see what the amount will be.

Mr. Justesen asked if there is a step and grade set up for EMTs or a separate schedule. Commissioner Smith said that the EMTs are in an enterprise fund with the ambulance, which operates as its own budget.

Auditor Grace explained that they added \$50,000.00 in the tentative budget which recognizes that there should be something done for the EMTs.

Vance Beckstead said that he is not on the ambulance for the money. He agrees what has been said tonight. He said that they have talked about not having enough people to man the ambulances in the county. This past week they had all the ambulances out twice in a 24 hour period. The second time there were only two EMTs on the ambulance because that is all that they had available and those two EMTs weren't even on call.

He asked what the \$50,000.00 increase in that fund will go toward. Commissioner Whatcott said that the commission has not had the chance to break it down line item by line item but wages is obviously one of the line items that it will go to. Commissioner Smith said that an increase has been discussed but they have not worked out the details yet.

Commissioner Whatcott asked if the wage would be increased whether it would have people busting down the door to become an EMT. Mr. Knudsen said that it would help for sure.

Commissioner Whatcott said that he appreciates the service the EMTs do for the county and they are working at trying to make things better for them.

Sheriff Dekker said that an increase would be a big positive for the future.

Dean Shields said that he has recently talked with Terry Cummings who is over the swimming pool. He said that he has been doing more of the recreation activities and has noticed that the Fillmore swimming pool is being underutilized. He presented some ideas to Ms. Cummings regarding a cut in summer family passes. He feels that if the cost is lower it has a higher potential of bringing in more people to buy the pass, thus making the county more money. He suggested allowing the current swimming pool pass holders to purchase additional passes at a half price rate for friends and family, which will also bring in more money for the county.

Commissioner Whatcott said that there have been some changes made in the management which has bettered recreation.

The commissioners confirmed that Ms. Cummings has the authority to drop the price of the passes to sell more passes.

Commissioner Whatcott said that the pool does a lot more than just swimming for recreation. It adds value to our community and is a great babysitter for a little kid.

Commissioner Whatcott read a letter he received from Chardine Cluff who purchases a yearly pass for the Fillmore swimming pool every year.

Commissioner Whatcott said that recreation provides a good value to our communities.

Jack McBride said that he thinks that the budget should be broken down more to help the patrons understand it better. He would like to see the revenue side of the budget. He would like to know the revenue of the jail.

Auditor Grace showed Mr. McBride the full tentative budget which shows the revenue sources broken down better.

Mr. McBride said that he feels that nothing in the county is working in the black. He said that he sympathizes with the EMTs who spend 24/7, but it is no different from a farmer having to do the same.

He said that the commission really needs to consider the taxpayers with all these requests because they are the ones paying the bills in this county.

Mr. Phillips said that he supports recreation but feels that it could be delineating more to the public as to how the revenue is being spent and what the projected income is for the upcoming year.

Commissioner Whatcott said that Todd Mullen is working on increasing revenue at the golf course by contracting with golfers from all over to come to Millard County to golf in the winter when they cannot golf in other areas.

Lynn Wall said that any of the county money that goes into the youth sports programs is money well spent. He attended a drug awareness class a couple weeks ago and one of the things said was that the young people are important and they need to be told that.

He said that there are kids that will play soccer all year long and we need to provide the opportunity for them to do that. He said that there are a lot of kids in the community who want to play sports but cannot afford to play some of the sports because of the cost.

He said that the soccer program offers an incentive for the parents who will coach; their kids will play for free. The soccer program covers all its own costs and all they are asking from the county is a place to play.

Recreation helps kids be active and to get out and do things to be healthy and stay out of trouble. He said that any help from the county for the soccer program would be very appreciated.

Commissioner Whatcott said that JerE Brinkerhoff was hired to coordinate and bring in events for the equestrian park, and that is what he has done.

Commissioner Whatcott said the biggest problem with the race track and the soccer field is planning. He is aware that he needs to be more involved with the planning process.

He said that a meeting is scheduled for January 6, 2012 to plan events and to better utilize the equestrian park, including the soccer field.

Mr. Wall said that the problem they have with the soccer field is that they cannot use the field on Saturday and cannot have soccer camps because of the commercial businesses that tie up the race tracks all year long. He suggested some options which he feels could better utilize the race track/soccer fields for soccer.

Jeremy Teeple said that the main reason he is here tonight is due to the concerns with the differences between the amount of money allocated for East Recreation and West Recreation. He said that for the last few years there has been a tremendous push towards trying to equalize the money between the two sides. He pointed out that it is appreciated and is not unnoticed. He said that they are trying to do a lot of things to help bring revenue into the east side for recreation and would appreciate anything the county would do to help them accomplish that.

Commissioner Whatcott said that the county has made some good strides and is getting better to be able to appropriate money here and there to make the facilities better. They will continue to improve the facilities for the recreation on the east side.

Mr. Teeple said that there is a lot of money to be had in the county with recreation. He gave examples of what other counties are doing to fund recreation.

Mr. Phillips questioned why there is an East and West Recreation and a Maintenance I and II and suggested to combine the positions for East and West Maintenance and Recreation.

Dean Draper asked if the county has a rainy day fund. Commissioner Smith responded that the county has a tax stability trust fund with approximately \$12,000,000.00. There is no additional money being put in the fund because it is at its maximum balance. These funds are not used for this year's budget.

Treasurer Hansen said that the principal amount of the tax stability trust fund cannot be used without a vote from the citizens of Millard County. The interest that it generates at this point in time is used for the general fund operating expenses. The interest rate today at the State Treasurer's Fund is .667 percent. The interest rate that it is invested at is 1.95 percent, bringing in approximately \$330,000.00 and is moved into the general fund revenue. Later in the meeting,

Treasurer Hansen corrected these figures. He said that the interest from the Tax Stability Trust Fund this coming year would be about \$240,000.00. The total interest income from that fund and other funds would be about \$330,000.00.

Mr. Draper asked if the proposed budget regarding the general fund is higher or lower than last year.

Auditor Grace referred him to the tentative budget summary and explained that the budget showing an \$80,000.00 decrease includes all funds.

She explained that the expected revenue of \$500,000.00 is from the centrally assessed property taxes. The county is not budgeting to spend the \$500,000.00 that is expected to come from new growth on centrally assessed property. It is budgeted for the fund balance increase.

Mr. Draper asked how Special Service District Number 8 figures into the budget. It was explained that Special Service District Number 8 is not part of the county general budget. It is an independent district and the money that comes into that district benefits the road department. Its boundaries are the unincorporated areas in the county. All the fund money for the district comes from State Mineral Lease money, State PILT money or Secure Rural Roads which are all state or federal payments.

Mr. Draper talked about the county buying Mag Chloride for the roads this year for approximately \$300,000.00. Mr. Draper explained that the Mag Chloride is eating the body of his car. The Mag Chloride has been applied to the roads for about 9 or 10 years. Mr. Draper said that he would much rather see the \$300,000.00 spent on something else to better advantage rather than Mag Chloride.

He said that he does not use the recreation facilities but he does use the roads.

Mr. Draper said that some things need more funding; some things need to use less funding. He said that he thinks the EMTs deserve more compensation. He discussed the swimming pool and lowering the cost to swim. He recommended that the county look at what things are wants and what things are needs. The EMTs are needed.

Mr. Draper said that money should be used in the direction of more important needs rather than the Mag Chloride which is eating up the body of his car.

Commissioner Whatcott said that he appreciates the comments made tonight. He said that everyone is a volunteer. He thanked Jeremy Teeples and Lynn Wall for their participation with the youth sports. He also thanked the EMTs and the Sheriff's Office for all that they do to keep this county safe and a better place to live. He said that he appreciates the comments and the commission will work for a good means toward an end.

Commissioner Withers said that he also appreciates all the comments made tonight. The commission does not have all the answers and the public input helps the commissioners learn. The volunteers make everything work.

WHERE UPON THE MEETING ADJOURNED

Commissioner Smith made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Withers SECONDED the motion. The voting was unanimous and the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m..

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

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