

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
BUDGET HEARING 2014
MILLARD COUNTY THE 3rd DAY OF DECEMBER 2013
AT THE COURTHOUSE, FILLMORE, UTAH

PRESENT: Daron P. Smith..... Chairperson
James I. Withers..... Commissioner
Alan M. Roper..... Commissioner

Richard Waddingham..... County Attorney
Marki Rowley..... Deputy County Clerk
Brandy Grace..... County Auditor

ALSO PRESENT: Robert A. Dekker..... County Sheriff
Forrest Roper and Richard Carter..... Sheriff's Office
Sheri Dearden..... Treasurer's Office
Connie Hansen..... County Recorder
Norma Brunson..... County Clerk
Dean Draper..... Chronicle Progress
Bonnie Gehre..... Auditor's Office
Kary & Susan Kesler..... Citizens
John Hansen..... County Treasurer

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:

Commissioner Smith welcomed the public. Everyone stood and said the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Commissioner Roper made a motion to enter into the budget hearing to take public comment on the 2014 proposed budget.

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

Commissioner Smith called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.. He said that the tentative budget was adopted on October 29, 2013 and is available for review in the auditor's office, as well as the Delta office. He then turned the time over to Auditor Grace.

Auditor Grace covered information relative to the adoption of the budget. The 2014

Tentative Budget was adopted on October 29, 2013. Public notices were run in the Chronicle Progress on November 13th and November 20th, 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's website. It also indicated that the 2014 Budget Hearing would be held today.

Auditor Grace said that the spreadsheet handed out reflects the full tentative budget, which summarizes the budget by funds, departments and the detail for capital projects.

Auditor Grace said that the most significant increase to the overall budget was in special projects. Millard County is acting as the fiscal agent for the Clay Springs Fire Recovery Project. The total project budget is about \$6,500,000.00. Federal funding will reimburse approximately \$5,000,000.00. A portion of this amount was included in the 2013 budget and the remainder is now included in the 2014 budget.

Auditor Grace said that there has been money budgeted that would allow for consideration of a cost of living adjustment (COLA) later on in the year. However, due to revenue uncertainty in a couple of areas, this will not be implemented at the first of the year. It is anticipated that there will be funding for pay increases in accordance with the County's Step and Grade Program.

Auditor Grace explained that renewal for health insurance costs for County employees was approximately a 3.5% increase over last year. Renewal for dental insurance was nearly a 4.5% increase. The decision was made to introduce a high deductible health plan to the benefit structure in hopes of better controlling future increases. The employees who choose the high deductible plan will be provided funding in a health savings account equivalent to the amount of savings from the traditional health plan. All County employees will still contribute 15% towards their coverage.

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. Some changes that are being considered that are of greater significance are:

- The decision to fund two full time employees, out of the Sheriff's Office budget, for school resource officers.
- An addition of \$80,000.00 to the Capital Projects budget for improvements at the courthouse which will include a generator and a new phone system.
- A new full-time position at the Sunset View Golf Course.

The final adoption of the 2014 Budget will take place at the regular scheduled Commission meeting on December 17, 2013.

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

Sheriff Dekker questioned whether Fund 55 contained the ambulance money. Auditor Grace explained that the spreadsheet handed out today reflects the tentative budget and has not been updated since the tentative budget was adopted. They have updated Fund 55 to reflect the ambulance money, it just does not show on the spreadsheet handed out tonight. She then referred to Fund 57 which shows an increase which is from a grant. She assured Sheriff Dekker that the money for the ambulance has been budgeted.

Commissioner Smith reminded everyone to please sign the attendance roll before leaving this evening.

Susan Kesler asked why the dramatic increase in the emergency telephone 911 system. Auditor Grace said that the grant she just referred to includes this system upgrade. Captain Forrest Roper explained that the current system the County has is expired. It only had a 5 year life span and it is 7 years old. He said that if there was anything to go wrong with the system there would be no way of replacing anything. It is a complete computer upgrade. The County will be spending the money up front but the funds spent on the system will be reimbursed by the grant that Auditor Grace referred to earlier.

Sheriff Dekker explained that it will show that obligation in another column.

Commissioner Smith said that there is one proposal in the tentative budget for the County to redo the plaques on the veterans memorial wall. The cost to redo the plaques is \$52,000.00. The plaques currently on the wall would be donated to Delta City where they will be displayed in doors, to protect them from the weather. This project was requested by legion members. The commissioners would like to hear comment on this project.

Kerri Kesler said that he and his family had a question regarding the proposed 2% increase in the County employee wages. Commissioner Smith said that it is in the budget but there are some issues with some funding that the County usually relies on, including Payment in Lieu of Taxes, which is a federal funding. He said that they do not want to give the 2% increase until they are sure that the funding revenues are more solid and that the County funds are in balance. This issue will be revisited at a later time.

Ms. Kesler said that she read on the internet that Millard County is the third highest County paying wages in the State of Utah. She said that her family is concerned with that. She said that for a small county this should not be the case.

Chief Deputy Auditor Bonnie Gehre said that she saw something similar but it was regarding the school district in Millard County, not the County employees.

Auditor Grace explained that when the step and grade was implemented in 2009, a survey was done comparing Millard County to nine counties that were considered to be fourth and fifth class counties. Millard County was about average with the fourth and fifth class counties, when the survey was done. Counties are classified by the population size and Millard County would not be compared with second and third class counties.

Commissioner Smith said that the employees of Millard County have not received a

COLA since before 2009. He said that if the County does not do a COLA once in a while to keep up when other counties give a COLA, the County will fall behind and will not be able to keep up with inflation. The County tries to plan and do what it can for its employees. The County would like to stay at an average rate; not too high and not too low, because of the good employees. The employees are the people we rely on to give the citizens good service.

Mr. and Ms. Kesler both agreed that Millard County has good and friendly employees.

Commissioner Roper said that as they were working on the budget they asked each department to try to cut back at least 5% on its budget. He said that they did not get the entire 5% but all the departments did cut back. He said that they certainly appreciate the department heads for their efforts. He said that as Commissioner Smith said earlier, the County does not know where it is at with the federal PILT payment and what will happen, so the County has to be pretty conservative.

Sheriff Dekker said that one big concern for the past several years has been safety in the schools. They have worked at it and have tried to do some things. This year the commissioners stepped up to the plate and have decided to have two resource officers placed in the schools at about a third of the cost as anywhere else. He thanked the commissioners for their efforts in that regard. He said that they are just waiting for the final approval to get that started. He said that this is a good place to say thank you publicly.

Commissioner Smith said that he has had several people express their support for the resource officers in each school. People are excited for the program.

There were no other comments made.

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

Commissioner Withers SECONDED the motion. The voting was unanimous and the motion carried. The public hearing closed at 7:22 p.m..

Commissioner Smith thanked everyone for coming to the public hearing.

WHERE UPON THE MEETING ADJOURNED

Attest: _____

Approved: _____

