

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' PROCEEDINGS

December 5, 2011

Present: Commissioner District 1 - Lynda Ring Erickson; Commissioner District 2 - Tim Sheldon; Commissioner District 3 - Steve Bloomfield.

1. Call to Order - The Chairperson called the special meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - Commissioner Bloomfield led the flag salute.
3. Public Hearing - 2012 Budget

Theresa Ehrich, Chief Finance Manager of the Auditor's Office, went over the changes to the preliminary budget that was submitted on September 6, 2011.

Questions for Staff

Mary Jean Hrbacek asked about the detail for the ER&R budget. She wanted to know the status of the replacement of Sheriff's vehicles.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson replied that the Public Works Director could provide the ER&R budget detail

Harris Haertel, Juvenile Probation, stated that he submitted a supplement request from Juvenile Court and he didn't see it captured in the budget recap. He wanted to know if the \$4,000 supplement was considered.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson responded that the budget change sheet was received and signed by the Board. It wasn't reflected because of the timing.

Ms. Ehrich noted that the only changes that weren't included in the detailed print out were the Risk Pool premiums, WSAC dues and the \$5,000 block grant for the WSU Extension.

There was no public testimony.

Cmmr. Sheldon was surprised that there were no comments from the elected officials or department heads. A letter was received from the Sheriff stating that he would not submit a revision to his preliminary budget and he wanted to know why. There was a summary of the budgets that were submitted. He tried to determine which departments submitted the changes that the Board requested, which was a 2.1% reduction. Some departments turned in reductions that didn't meet 2.1%. He wanted to know why those departments didn't turn in reductions and what they expected from the Board.

Pat Swartos, Clerk, responded that she didn't submit an additional reduction because it would cause her to lay off another person and they are currently struggling to survive with the employees they have. Staff is already accruing overtime. It is impossible for her to reduce her budget because there have been more court sessions added and they cannot close.

Cmmr. Bloomfield wasn't comfortable with cutting people because the County is already bare bones. Funding has remained fairly stable at the rate of the last couple of years.

Cmmr. Bloomfield moved to adopt the budget similar to last year's with the exception of the extra supplementals that have been added and also the road diversion adjustment that was signed by the Board.

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Cmmr. Ring Erickson clarified that the budget would be approved at the \$24,987,460 expenditure level. With the new the beginning and ending fund balance the amount would be \$31,887,460. The adjustment with the road diversion is \$30,680,687.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked of the \$4,000 for the Juvenile Detention was included in that number.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson replied that it was not included. It would have to be handled separately because it came in so late.

Cmmr. Sheldon asked if adopting the budget at that number would reduce the ending fund balance by 1.19 million.

Ms. Ehrich stated that was correct, which would leave the beginning and ending fund balance about the same as last year.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted there would be some supplemental requests to consider, which would be appropriate as the budget is refined to its final adoption. He was disappointed that there wasn't more of a presentation from the individual departments but he did receive some letters.

Cmmr. Sheldon seconded the motion.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson commented that on a yearly basis the departments have returned about 1 million dollars of authorized but unexpended funds at the end of the year. The spending pattern shows that the County is on target to again get about 1 million dollars back. Given that history, even though it is suggested that the County is \$1,197,773 short, realistically the County is almost exactly on target for the year. She doesn't want to see additional layoffs. The community isn't helped by not having a full service package. There is a good service package without fat in the budget presented.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson called the role. Motion carried unanimously. RE-aye; S-aye; B-aye. Resolution No. 84-11 (Exhibit A)

4. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MASON COUNTY, WASHINGTON


Lynda Ring Erickson, Chair


Tim Sheldon, Commissioner

ATTEST:


Shannon Goudy, Clerk of the Board


Steve Bloomfield, Commissioner