

## MINUTES

### BOARD OF BENTON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Special Board Meeting – Budget Workshop  
Thursday, October 27, 2022, 1:30 p.m.  
Benton County Administration Building

*Meeting provided by Video Live-Broadcast and Telephonically*

**Present:** Chairman Shon Small  
Commissioner Jerome Delvin  
Commissioner Will McKay  
County Administrator Jerrod MacPherson  
Clerk of the Board Cami McKenzie

**Benton County Employees Present During All or a Portion of the Meeting:** Deputy County Administrator Matt Rasmussen; IT Manager Robert Heard; Linda Ivey, Finance Manager; Clerk Josie Delvin; Elaine Osborne, Chief Deputy Clerk; Shyanne Palmus, Communications Coordinator; Cody Shelton, IT; Carlee Nave, HR Manager; District Court Judge Ziobro; Administrator Ela Selga; Probation Manager Amanda Watts; Coroner Bill Leach; Tiffany Runge, Superior Court Administrator; Superior Court Judge Joe Burrowes; Auditor Brenda Chilton; Undersheriff Jon Law; Lt. Clarke; Juvenile Court Administrator Dave Wheeler; Judge Jacqueline Stam; and Crystal Garcia, Juvenile.

#### Revenue & Expenditures

Linda Ivey highlighted the following:

- Revenues have not really changed since the last presentation
- Expenditures as of October 11, 2022
  - \$2.7 million above revenue
  - Included CBA contracts approved by the Board - increased expenditures by an additional \$4 million for a total of \$6.7 million over revenues
  - \$5.5 million in new requests – would be \$12.2 million in expenditures over revenue
  - Deputies have retro pay and the others were effective October 1 and they were looking for the money in their current budget for the remainder of the budget cycle

Mr. MacPherson said they would have a recommendation for the Board on November 1 after hearing the budget workshop requests.

## Coroner

Bill Leach presented his budget and reviewed the following:

- Positions for new forensic/support – tentatively budgeted through PST
- Part-time budget – working additional hours – looking for money from autopsies budget
- Chief Deputy – substantial increase – his position was left out during salary adjustment to Chief Deputies, but he should be at the same percentages as others
- On-call pay – increase for coverage
- Benefits – increase
- Supplies – increase – in anticipation of forensic pathologist
- Fuel – \$20,000 increase for next two years
- Minor equipment tools – washer and dryer – required
- Autopsies - \$60,000 increase – even if they get a pathologist, it may take a while and the autopsies would still be required prior to that time
- Indigent burials – increase to \$1,500
- Professional services – \$4,500 to \$9,000 for waste services accreditation and certifications
- Vehicle Purchase – capital budget

## Clerk

Clerk Josie Delvin presented the Clerk's budget and highlighted the following:

- Supervisor salaries –lowest paid in the county and what she previously asked for may not be enough based on salary survey for non-barg employees
- Increase in publication – dependency publications but they are required to pay for that; tried unsuccessfully six times to get it changed in the legislature, but they would keep trying
- Move to true filing (e-filing) with ARPA grants; will begin in 2023 – will help mostly with attorneys filing their documents
- Civil protection orders – dramatic increase in work for the Clerk's office
- Blake decision costs
- Covid backlog
- Superior Court decision to do away with court reporters – going to electronic recording, but it was Clerk's responsibility to handle cd requests
- Collection fee – no longer allowed to assess the Clerk collection fee – will completely dismantle the Collections Dept.
- Some funding through the State and Feds for child support collections
- Will pay jurors with debit cards starting in December
- Move to 2<sup>nd</sup> floor – looking forward to that and having the jury assembly room on the main floor
- Thanked the Accounting Department for its help with the new accounting software conversion

## **District Court/Probation Assessment**

District Court Judge John Ziorbro, Administrator Ela Selga, and Amanda Watts presented the District Court budget and reviewed the following:

- Appreciated the change in wages
- Lost many law enforcement officers, so arrests and revenues have been down
- Defendants on government assistance or disability – they are required to write off fines
- Can no longer suspend license if payments are not made in District Court
- Reallocating and doing more with less
- Historically no security; criminal defendants incarcerated no longer come to court so there is not a law enforcement presence; had onetime money for that but it is not a sustainable funding source
- \$108,000 for security contract – important to have the security presence
- Lost their interpreter and the need for interpreters has gone up, along with the cost – requesting an additional \$30,000

## **Juvenile Justice**

Juvenile Court Administrator Dave Wheeler, Judge Jacqueline Stam, and Crystal Garcia presented the Juvenile Budget and discussed the following:

- Very fortunate to be recognized as bi-county employees and staff and leadership were very appreciative of the increased pay; appreciate recognition for Juvenile Court facility to bring it up to date
- Trends – information and referrals are up about double; diversions; increase in Juvenile criminal activity. There was a decrease during covid, but they were turning up, however, were holding steady
- Requesting a staffing increase to the GAL secretary for the dependency case load from .6 FTE to .75 FTE
- Cost of services were going up, as well as contract.
- Asking for increase in Relief and OT budget since they are running a bare bones detention stuff
- Maintenance on current building - increase
- Fleet vehicles – working on getting into ER&R – at the rate of two vehicles per two years
- Asking for a work crew van – used in addition to or replacement of current one

## **Superior Court**

Superior Court Administrator Tiffany Deaton, and Judge Joe Burrowes, presented the Superior Court budget and discussed the following:

- Very much appreciated the support for the court system
- Appreciated the PST funding for two bailiffs and drug court materials
- Expressed appreciation for wage increase for employees

- Three positions requests:
  - 1 - Bailiff – FTE
  - 1 Judicial Assistant – (previously converted a position to a judicial assistant but in need of another to assist with getting out jury trials
  - 1 Minor Guardianship Case Manager
- Supplies and Services - \$26,636 – increase in products
- One-time costs – firearms for Bailiffs – need to get same firearm as currently used by Sheriff’s office; psychological and physical exams for new bailiffs; workstations and equipment

The Board briefly recessed, reconvening at 2:47 p.m.

**Sheriff**

Undersheriff John Law and Lt. Clarke presented the Sheriff’s budget and discussed the following:

- Challenges:
  - Violent crimes have skyrocketed
- Request of \$5,000 to adjust salary for administrative clerk – currently a grade 9, should be a grade 11
- Originally requested an accreditation manager and to correct the salary of the criminologist – total of \$150,000; reorganized the department and created a vacancy for the criminologist and working with HR and Finance to try and reclassify the criminologist and make it an accreditation manager – possibly a \$10,000 request
- Increase in OT budget – as salaries were adjusted, the OT budget needed adjustment – it had not increased in the last 10 years
- Ammunition increase

There being no further business before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

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Clerk of the Board

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Chairman