

**OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF BLAINE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE JULY 2019 SESSION**

Fifth Day

Wednesday, July 17, 2019

Pursuant to Statutory Provisions, the Board of Blaine County Commissioners (BCC) met this day at 9:30 a.m. Present were Chairman Jacob Greenberg; Vice Chair Angenie McCleary, and Commissioner Dick Fosbury; County Administrator Derek Voss; County Clerk JoLynn Drage; Chief Deputy Clerk Leslie Londos; County Administrative Services Manager Mandy Pomeroy; County Sheriff Steve Harkins, Chief Deputy Sheriff Will Fruehling and County Detention Captain Jay Davis; County Road and Bridge Manager Steve Thompson; County Prosecutor Jim Thomas; County Assessor Jim Williams and Chief Deputy Assessor Melissa Fry; County Chief Public Defender Justin McCarthy; County Facilities Manager Patrick Boyle; and Recording Secretary Sunny Grant.

Chairman Greenberg called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

Public comment:

- Kiki Tidwell expressed concern that the County is subsidizing operations by dipping into reserves. Receipts have increased by \$3 million, but expenses have increased by \$5 million, so the operating shortfall has grown every year.
- Tidwell is concerned that the County is going to contribute money to ARCH, which is a separate non-governmental agency with closed meetings and isn't responsive to the public.

FY2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET DELIBERATIONS, ACTION ITEM, CONTINUED

Budget Officer - JoLynn Drage

Drage distributed FY-2020 Budget documents, a list of Tentative Budget Assumptions, and a list of Possible Reductions and New Requests. The BCC reviewed individual items submitted by County department heads and community service organizations. Discussions in particular:

- Sheriff needs to replace four vehicles a year in order to keep patrol fleet in safe working order. Harkins volunteered to use Drug Forfeiture Trust funds for one new vehicle.
- The County has deferred road maintenance for several years, and is \$20 million behind on paving and bridges. Heavy equipment is aging and needs to be rotated.
- The Prosecuting Attorney requests an assistant to help with increased work demand.
- ARCH Community Housing Trust Executive Director Michelle Griffith requests \$500,000 to improve her application for 60 units of tax credit funded housing.
County Administrator Derek Voss suggested the County could take \$300,000 out of the Road and Bridge shop savings account to use immediately for the ARCH project.
 - Kiki Tidwell said there is so much philanthropic money in the community that could be used for housing. What does it say about ARCH if they can't raise private money.
- Facilities reduced their Recycling budget by \$12,600.
- Colorado Gulch Bridge access constructed with FEMA funds and given to the Land Trust to maintain instead of trying to build a bridge big enough for emergency vehicles.
- Basement remodel for Elections and Public Defense costing \$330,000 may be offset by Public Defense \$175,000 grant, but grant award is not certain.
- Public Defender needs a soundproof room; and many of his phone conversations are not low key or quiet.
- Are there alternatives for storage garage behind the McBride Building for Elections equipment?

BREAK

FY2020 TENTATIVE BUDGET DELIBERATIONS, CONTINUED

Budget Officer - JoLynn Drage

- Land Use and Assessor both request a new vehicle.
- Police K9 program requires additional funding for dog handlers to care for their dogs outside of the patrol environment.
- Mountain Rides wanted to expand to late night service for people who live in south valley and work late in Ketchum.

The BCC reviewed the Budget Officer's assumptions.

- A 2% market-rate for all employees.
- The BCC decided to offer a 1% Merit pool. Department heads can allocate the merit increase as they see fit. The BCC will take a 2% market rate increase, but not take a merit pool increase.

The BCC reviewed annual contributions to community service agencies.

Public comment:

- Kiki Tidwell asked about the audit showing \$16 million cash reserves.
Budget Officer explained that the accrual basis budget snapshot on September 30 of each year doesn't indicate how much actual cash is on hand.

ADJOURN

At the hour of 4:05 p.m., the BCC finding no more business before them adjourned.

Attest: _____ Approved _____
JoLynn Drage County Clerk Jacob Greenberg Chairman