

Gilliam County Budget Committee
May 9, 2018 Minutes

Present were Judge Steve Shaffer, Commissioner Michael Weimar, Commissioner Leslie Wetherell, Budget Officer Nathan Hammer, Budget Committee Chairman Brad Anderson, Committee Member Gray Miller, Court Administrator Sandy McKay and Recorder Mary Dyer. Committee member Paul Barnett was absent.

Brad Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

The following entities presented information regarding previously submitted budget requests:

Weed Department

Nathan Hammer explained that large differences in amounts were basically bookkeeping matters, cause primarily by delays in receiving payments.

Regarding a significant decrease in the cost of chemicals, Weed control officer Don Farrar explained that some chemicals used this year are less expensive, and that some are placed in the wrong line item.

Farrar also noted that a supplemental budget will be needed to reflect projects in the northeast end of the county, and that BLM has dropped out of that particular project. He said that matters regarding ODOT and BLM are difficult to track.

Road Department

Roadmaster Dewey Kennedy noted that changes in the beginning fund balanced are due to funding provided by the HB 2017 transportation bill, which weren't expected until July or later. Total of funds to be received were expected to be over \$1 million, but now appear to be between \$600,000 and \$700,000.

Regarding the Lonerock Bridge project, Kennedy explained that the Road Department will provide in-kind work, including building and maintenance of a new road, but no money will be coming out of the budget.

According to Kennedy, the only large change consists of patching asphalt and chip seal work. He noted that the crusher is working well but needs a lot of maintenance. He also discussed the possibility of paving Lonerock Grade.

Sheriff's Office

Nathan Hammer told the committee that he prepared budgets reflecting the addition of another officer and one without that expense. The committee discussed the City of Condon's request to contract with the Sheriff's Office for police protection, including how

that coverage would look and how much it might cost. Sheriff Bettencourt said the City hasn't yet presented a proposal.

Gary Miller asked if the amount budgeted for vehicle replacement was for one or two vehicles, and Sheriff Bettencourt responded that the amount is for two vehicles. He said he replaced no vehicles last year, and some have more than \$150,000 miles. He also said that due to price differences, he's switching from Chevy to Ford vehicles. Due to the change, certain equipment can't be easily transferred to new vehicles, which means the initial expense will be higher.

He also said that NORCOR plans to provide four to six workers rather than two or three.

OSU Extension

Gilliam County OSU Extension Agent Jordan Maley explained that his budget has decreased this year due to an effort to keep the budget in line with what actually needs to be done. He also said that some reserves have built up, primarily because there was no office specialist for three months, which also resulted in reduced travel costs.

Condon Child Care

Condon Child Care Director Jennifer Bold was present, along with board member Teddy Fennern. Bold reported that the new building is opening in June. The building is paid for and there are no payments and no mortgage. However, a new part-time position has been added to accommodate the increase in enrollment. She also said it appears that the \$750/month paid for space at the grade school will pay for fuel and other expenses at the new building.

Condon Schools

Present were Condon Schools Superintendent Michelle Geer and school board chairman Nicole Schott. Geer explained that the District is once again requesting funding for the General Fund and Early College Program. She said that goals are development of plan for a K-12 facility, staff development, building maintenance and a strong financial management plan. Technology continues to be updated, and new science curriculum is in place. Science curriculum has been updated. A levy that provides \$100,000 per year ends at the end of 2018, and a bond measure is being considered.

Port of Arlington

Port of Arlington Manager Peter Mitchell noted the Port is requesting \$350,000. Of that, \$100,000 would provide seed money, engineering, feasibility study, etc., for an agricultural irrigation project. Other projects include \$230,000 for replacement of restrooms at the Marina, and \$35,000 for continued small business assistance.

Gary Miller commented that a restroom was discussed last year. Peter Mitchell said it was discussed, but some cuts were necessary, and that some of the money for restrooms went towards the flex building. He also said that if the County doesn't provide funding, the projects won't be done, as the Port's contribution is staff time.

Summit Springs Village Corporation

SSV Director Cindy Hess was present, along with SSV Board Chairman Kathy Burres. Board member Jane Campbell was in the audience. The Board has again requested \$150,000 for general operating expenses needed to keep the doors open.

Condon Food Pantry

Food Pantry director Cindy Hess noted that the Pantry is requesting \$11,000 this year. She said that money provided from the County comprises 90 percent of the budget.

Arlington Public Schools

Arlington Public Schools Superintendent Kevin Hunking requested total funds in the amount of \$450,000, of which \$400,000 will be used to replace the roof at the high school. The remainder is to continue an early college program. Brad Anderson asked about funding received from the State, and Hunking indicated the amount varies, but is roughly \$7,000 per student. He also said it is an advantage to have the preschool located within the school, and that the school district provides use of copier, fax and office supplies.

South Gilliam Health District

Holly Winslow, South Gilliam Health District Administrator, reported that use of the wellness center consists of an average of 22.35 hours per day. The clinic is requesting the same amount, which comprises part of the operating budget. She said that last year's funding helped provide a generator that can power the entire clinic. Community Counseling Solutions' request for more office space has required addition of office space on the back of the building, but will generate \$550/month. The medical assistant has resigned and won't be replaced; however, a second medical provider has been hired. Plans for upgrade of the dentist's office is also a priority.

Approval of Budget Committee Minutes

Motion was made by Judge Shaffer second by Gary Miller, to approve Budget Committee Minutes of May 10, 2017. Anderson – Yes; Miller, Yes; Shaffer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes, **Motion Carried.**

Public Comment

No public comment was heard. However, Transportation Coordinator Marla Davies Senior Programs Coordinator Sabrina Wagenaar were present to answer any questions. Wagenaar noted that she is now in a different office, and that a joint budget makes it more difficult to track expenses. Nathan Hammer said he has created a separated budget for Senior Programs, which creates no change in value.

Hammer briefly discussed changes in the budget since the last meeting, including:

Sheriff: Estimated expenses for new officer. Final values hinge on LGPI's salary survey, which is still forthcoming. A supplemental budget may be necessary. Sheriff Bettencourt said \$20,000 for a scanner for NORCOR would be funded by the Police Equipment line item, and Hammer said it will be necessary to increase that line item by \$20,000 for next year. The beginning fund balance will be adjusted accordingly.

General Fund: Updated estimates for predator control program and program payment to OSU.

Debt Service: Consists primarily of lease payments from IBR, which will continue for nine more years. Hammer said the building loan was paid early using SIP fund. Judge Shaffer suggested that it might be time to discuss future uses for the fund.

Economic Development: Still looking at expansion of the rail yard, tied to decision on Metro Contract.

Budget Committee deliberation and discussions on funding requests ensued as follows:

Summit Springs Village Corporation: The Committee discussed the situation facing Summit Springs Village Corporation, and problems associated with obligations to the state and requirements for low-income residents. Judge Shaffer said he had been approached by the Columbia Hills Manor Board of Directors, which is going to disband. Their question was if the Summit Springs Board of Directors might be willing to take on oversight of both entities. More information will be forthcoming.

Request for funding approved.

Port of Arlington: Gilliam County Watermaster Ken Thiemann was asked to provide input regarding the Port's request for funding for an irrigation project. Ultimately, he advised that the County should fund the project only if it sees merit. He also noted that feasibility study grants are available from the State Water Department. Gary Miller commented that it's difficult to tell exactly where Port money is going, and all agreed that the Port should use some of its own money, speaking specifically of the

irrigation project. Ultimately, the Committee agreed to provide \$250,000 with no stipulations.

Condon Child Care: An increase in the budget is requested because the Board was relying on an expected grant that ultimately wasn't funded. Request was approved.

Condon and Arlington School Districts: After discussion, the Committee agreed that both schools should be funded equally, at \$400,000 each, although Condon Schools requested only \$350,000.

Housing/County Business Development: The Committee agreed that \$750,000 committed to the project will come from the Project Development Fund, thus leaving sufficient SIP funds to cover additional project requests that may be submitted throughout the year.

Motion was made by Judge Shaffer, second by Commissioner Wetherell, to continue the Homestead Rebate in FY 2018-19 at 100% of the tax bill, not to exceed a maximum of \$500 per qualifying homestead. Anderson – Yes; Miller – Yes; Shafer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Motion was made by Commissioner Wetherell, second by Gary Miller, to approve the 2018-19 budget in the amount of \$54,897,886 and certify the total ad valorem property tax in the amount of 3.8450 per thousand of the assessed value. Anderson – Yes; Miller – Yes; Shafer – Yes; Weimar – Yes; Wetherell – Yes; **Motion Carried.**

Brad Anderson adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Brad Anderson, Budget Committee Chair

Recorder: Mary Dyer