

**MINUTES
DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET HEARINGS
LANCASTER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING, ROOM 113
THURSDAY, MAY 22, 2008
1 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair
Bernie Heier, Vice Chair
Deb Schorr
Ray Stevens

Commissioners Absent: Larry Hudkins

Others Present: Kerry Eagan, Chief Administrative Officer
Dennis Meyer, Budget and Fiscal Officer
Gwen Thorpe, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Nolte, County Clerk
Melissa Koci, County Clerk's Office

The Chair opened the meeting at 1:02 p.m..

Human Services (837)

Present was Kit Boesch, Human Services Administrator.

Boesch distributed her *Budget Request for Fiscal Year 2008-2009* (Exhibit A) and indicated she could reduce the postage by \$1,000 and reduce her conferences by \$1,000. Boesch also noted the additional computer equipment requested could be put off for another year.

General Fund Health & Human Services (Joint Budget Committee) (JBC) (805)

Boesch indicated last year there were 31 agencies and this year there are 36. She said the majority of the agencies are asking for a 3% increase, however the Mayor is not interested in a large increase. She suggested not funding agencies that are not utilized very much by Lancaster County. Boesch said she would also like a current list of all the contracts.

Schorr suggested using some of the new agencies that have new and innovative ways to address problems.

Dennis Meyer said they would wait until the JBC meeting to find out what the Mayor is proposing.

Veterans Aid (120)/General Assistance (801)/Veterans Service (803)

Present was Gary Chalupa, Veterans Services Officer.

Veterans Aid (120)

Chalupa reported the \$15,000 that is budgeted can be decreased to \$10,000.

General Assistance (801)

Chalupa said it has been difficult to track the budget because of the lack of history and now they can project where the budget is and where it needs to be. He said they can return between \$600,000 to \$800,000 because the monthly breakdown is averaging around \$190,000. Chalupa said if they averaged around \$190,000 a month for general assistance client services the budget would be around \$2.2 million.

Meyer suggested a budget amount of \$2.4 million.

Chalupa noted revenues are up and they are anticipating another \$60,000 in revenue for the rest of the year. He noted there is \$349,000 outstanding is still owed to the County.

Schorr asked about the additional public health nurse through the Health Department which will assist the general assistance clients.

Chalupa said the health nurse would definitely help eliminate emergency room use.

Discussion took place regarding whether revenues should be increased. Chalupa stated he would feel comfortable increasing it from \$240,000 to \$500,000.

Veterans Affairs (803)

Chalupa said he could delay the computer purchases for a year.

The Board agreed to keep 4 of the 10 new computers in the budget for this year.

Community Corrections (676)

Present was Kim Etherton, Community Corrections Director.

Etherton said she would take \$55,000 from the electronic monitoring and remove the new hire that was approved if she had to make a reduction.

Meyer asked Etherton to explain her revenues.

Etherton explained she receives \$172,000 annually from the State and they collect \$41,000 from Drug Court participants. The miscellaneous fees are fees she collects from house arrest and pre-trial release participants. She said the latter of the revenues could probably be increased \$5,000 or \$10,000.

Workman entered at 2:00 p.m.

Etherton said they have 115 people on house arrest and they can accommodate 140 with the staff she has now.

Heier said he is not willing to cut the Community Corrections budget because he is willing to do anything to alleviate the jail population.

Lancaster Manor (061)

Present was Ron Fetters, Lancaster Manor Administrator.

Meyer indicated the Manor used to pay indirect costs which would be additional revenue coming back into the General Fund. Meyer said if Fetters was projecting a \$1.5 million profit, the County should look at the indirect costs being added back into the general fund, which would amount to \$600,000.

Meyer also said when paying off the bonds, the County will pay off the \$2.7 million that is outstanding and the remaining amount will be placed in the Manor's Renewal and Replacement Fund.

Fetters said he would like to get rid of paying the \$130,000 in interest every year. He also stated the number of FTE's has decreased, decreasing his budget.

Mental Health Center (676)

Present were Dean Settle, Community Mental Health Director; Judi Tannahill, Administrative Services Officer; and Travis Parker, Program Manager.

Settle distributed documentation regarding the Community Mental Health Center's 2009 Proposed Budget (Exhibit B) and highlighted the following points:

- The budget reflects an increase of 1 FTE, as a result of absorbing 3 FTE's from the State at the Heather and cutting 2 FTE's from last year's approved budget. The 3 Heather state transfer are totally paid for by the State/Region V.
- Revenue increase in State Behavioral Health Funding (4%) and an increase in Medicaid reimbursement (1½%) will add an additional \$210,000 to \$220,000 in new revenues.

- BryanLGH Hospitalization costs should be increased to \$100,000 instead of \$65,000.

Meyer said the revenues are increasing, however the expenditures are increasing by an additional \$212,000.

Settle indicated he has given up FTE's when they've needed them, they are without a deputy administrator and he can't possibly cut 5% from his budget and function. The decrease would also cut the revenue they take in.

Meyer asked about the Crisis Center's net change.

Settle said they are serving between 150-200 people less by diverting people from the Crisis Center to other programs. He said they have not been able to get full-time County employed nurses and they are using temporary employees more than they should.

Schorr asked about the 12 computers that need to be replaced.

Tannahill indicated they have put off getting new computers for several years and if they need to delay the purchase of new ones they will.

Parker said he was previously asked by the Board if an additional Case Manager were added to the jail diversion program if that individual would be filled up to capacity with work. He said since that time there has been a waiting list that has built up just for people to be screened because they are consistently at capacity with the 2 case managers.

Parker asked the Board to look at hiring another case manager at the Mental Health Center.

Stevens asked about the 30 chairs they are requesting.

Tannahill said the chairs have to be heavy enough so the clients can't throw them or they can't be dismantled in any way. She said they could purchase the ones that definitely need to be replaced and defer the other chairs for another time.

Youth Services Center/YAC (678)

Present were Michelle Schindler, Youth Services Center Director; and Melissa Hood, Administrative Aide II.

Schindler distributed documentation regarding her budget (Exhibit C) and gave an overview of the proposed budget reporting a decrease of \$43,000 from projected expenditures. She indicated the number of FTE's has decreased and the furniture and fixtures can be reduced by \$2,000 because of a duplication.

Schindler reported they are expecting a 23% decrease in projected revenues for FY08.

Heier asked what the cost would be per diem per day.

Schindler said based on the care days that are served, which averages out to be 55 youth per day, today the per diem rate would be \$246.57.

Schorr asked Schindler if the rates were going to be higher or lower than the \$246 per day fee.

Hood indicated she believes they would probably be lower, but it depends on the population.

Juvenile Court (623)

Present were Juvenile Court Judge Roger Heideman; and Theresa Emmert, Administrative Services Officer

Heideman and Emmert gave an overview of the budget request.

Heideman indicated they are doing their best to use the attorney contracts and the number of appointments outside those contracts is very few.

Meyer asked Emmert if Line 64125 would get up to \$400,000 this year.

Emmert indicated there are 5 contracts that are currently open and the rest are all full. She said there were no private appointments made from January to April and in May there were 8, so it just depends on the time of year. Emmert said she budgeted \$500,000 for the contracts and believes it won't decrease very much. She also noted she did not request another bailiff for the current year.

Schorr asked about the laptop.

Emmert indicated it is for the Family Drug Court sessions, however there is not any drug court money to purchase one.

Heideman noted the temporary salaries amount could be removed and Line 65670 could be decreased by \$1,000.

Juvenile Probation (673)

Present was Lori Griggs, Chief Probation Officer.

There were no significant changes in the budget.

Heier asked how many kids are involved in the juvenile justice system.

Griggs said there are 400 actively on probation and between 150 to 200 pending or on other alternatives.

Griggs indicated they have underspent the Independence Center contract and the State Probation contract and she believes the total of the two can be decreased by \$10,000.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: Schorr moved and Stevens seconded to adjourn the meeting at 4:02 p.m. Hudkins, Stevens, Heier and Schorr voted aye. Motion carried.

Dan Nolte
Lancaster County Clerk

NOTE: Documents referred to are included in Proposed Budget Fiscal Year 2008 (a copy is on file in the County Clerk's Office).