

LANE COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 10, 2017

2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

BCC Conference Room

Chair Denis Hijmans presided with Budget Committee members present: Commissioner Gary Williams, Herb Vloedman, Commissioner Jay Bozievich, Larry Abel, Commissioner Sid Leiken, Dale Stoneburg, Commissioner Pat Farr and Phil Carrasco. Commissioner Pete Sorenson was excused.

In addition, County Administrator, Steve Mokrohisky; Budget and Financial Planning Manager, Christine Moody; Health & Human Services Director, Alicia Hays; H&HS Assistant Director, Karen Gaffney; H&HS Assistant Director, Lisa Nichols; H&HS Administrative Services Manager, Lynise Kjolberg; H&HS Clinical Financial Services Manager, Mike Barnhart; H&HS Community Health Centers Manager, Ron Hjelm; H&HS Developmental Disabilities Manager, Andrea Muzikant; H&HS Public Health Epidemiologist, Brian Johnson; H&HS Trillium Behavior Health Manager, Bruce Abel; H&HS Youth Services Manager, Nathaline Frener; H&HS Chief Operating Officer, Laurie McKay; Public Works Director, Tim Elsea; Public Works Budget and Finance Manager, Tanya Heaton; Strategic Planning and Budget Supervisor, Judy Williams; Sue Herron and John Mosby from the Budget Office, were also present.

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Denis Hijmans called the meeting to order.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

A. Approve Lane County Budget Committee Minutes: May 9, 2017

Minutes from this meeting had not yet been prepared for approval. Chair Hijmans deferred the vote to the next meeting, to take place Wednesday, May 11, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Hijmans opened the room for any pending Committee business.

No further business to bring before the Committee.

III. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Health & Human Services Director, Alicia Hays, in conjunction with the additional Health & Human Services team members present, addressed the Committee with the Health & Human Services presentation (PowerPoint presentation available with meeting materials on the Lane County website).

The presentation overviewed the highlights of the last budget season, a breakdown of the Health & Human Services overall proposed budget for FY 17-18, proposed revenues, expenses, and changes/challenges for seven of nine divisions in FY 17-18 including: Administration, Clinical Financial Services, Community Health Centers, Developmental

Disabilities, Human Services, Public Health, and Trillium Behavioral Health. The presentation went on to address the department's strategic plan and community partnerships.

Chair Hijmans opened the room for questions.

Dale Stoneburg inquired about recruitment in Behavioral Health in light of the current audit and subsequent struggles. He specified an interest in changes that have been made to address the issue of attracting qualified staff to the division.

- Karen Gaffney noted this topic would be covered more in depth at the next day's meeting. She explained that Behavior Health has added a number of positions in the past year as they have transitioned to team-based care. The division has worked to streamline their process and remove barriers to attract applicants. The division has also limited the number of questions on the applications and offers a competitive salary.
- Alicia Hays noted the county's appointment of a recruitment coordinator as an additional factor of their recruitment changes.

Commissioner Pat Farr asked the team to comment about any difficulties in offering a competitive salary that supports the cost of housing in Lane County.

- Laurie McKay commented that while it does depend on where the applicant is coming from, her main struggle has been in connecting potential hires with property managers to find rentals, especially that will allow pets.
- Alicia Hays addressed Commissioner Farr, stating she did not believe they have the data to confidently address the question, but the department is aware of the difficulties in finding housing.
- Karen Gaffney commented that many of the potential hires might opt out of applying before they are aware of the issue.

Larry Abel asked the team where the 10 new hires for the past year were placed.

- Karen Gaffney responded that the hires were part of their FUSE Project, which allotted one-time money for the 10 hires. She was not sure of their exact locations, but vouchers were made available as part of the program.
- Lisa Nichols responded that the hires were placed in scattered site rentals through property management companies in the community as well as temporarily through ShelterCare.

Larry Abel asked for clarification as to whether the Materials and Services budget was down due to \$6 million less to other agencies.

- Lynise Kjolberg offered to provide exact numbers, but noted that they did "true up" the budget and payments to Trillium Behavioral Health dropped substantially.

Commissioner Pat Farr inquired about the future of FUSE, as it was funded with one-time money.

- Karen Gaffney replied the department is waiting on the completion of the State Budget, and there has been a request for additional funds via grants.

- Commissioner Farr commented that FUSE – frequent user system engagement – is very promising in terms of utilizing a diminishing budget to keep those in need of mental health services out of the judicial system.

Larry Abel asked for clarification on the Centene system in the Trillium Behavior Health division.

- Bruce Abel responded that Centene is a large national health plan that bought Trillium.

Chair Denis Hijmans inquired about the department’s projected ability to continue to provide services in the event of funding losses on the state and/or federal level/s.

- Ron Hjelm remarked that the department is committed to continuing to provide services and they have been preparing for uncertainties/transition by building contingency funds over the past years. There is also bi-partisan support of grant funding to community health centers. The biggest concern in the event of funding loss will be the continuity of care in specialty care.

Alicia Hays requested the Budget Staff to forward a link to the presentation so the committee members could access the budget details.

- Chair Hijmans assured the committee the meeting materials would be available on Dropbox the day after the meeting and discussed the usefulness of having access to presentations.

IV. PUBLIC WORKS

Public Works Director, Tim Elsea gave the Public Works presentation to the Committee (PowerPoint presentation available with meeting materials via the Lane County website).

The presentation overviewed the services of the Public Works Department and highlights from the previous year. The proposed FY 17-18 budget was broken down by the overall department budget as well as by individual division including: Parks & Animal Services, Land Management, Waste Management, Lane Events Center, Engineering & Construction Services, Road & Bridge Maintenance, and Administration. Also outlined were the Transportation Safety Action Plan, Strategic Plan, and community partnerships.

At the conclusion of the presentation, the room was opened for questions.

Dale Stoneburg requested clarification about the wait times on both commercial and residential building permits.

- Lydia McKinney could not provide an exact number of days, but the review takes between 3 and 6 weeks. Some planning permits are available over the counter, while others could take up to a year. The Building Permit Review meeting, in the past would take 6-8 weeks to schedule now could be scheduled as early as the following week.
- Tim Elsea commented about the importance of customer service and permit times. The proposed added Land Permit Technician would improve efficiencies.

Commissioner Sid Leiken inquired about Glenwood and the transfer of facilities in a direct route to Short Mountain, an analysis of truck traffic, what that will mean on the interchange, and if there are ramps both ways at that point.

- Dan Hurley replied that there are not ramps both ways at that location. The transfer takes about an additional 70 trucks per day, which will have an impact on the roadway.

Commissioner Leiken also inquired about the additional truck traffic in the event a deal is put together with Douglas County to take on a portion of their facilities.

- Dan Hurley replied there would be an approximate additional 10 trucks per day in that event. He commented about the benefit to having a southbound ramp there for the development of Goshen and hoped the Committee might take up the issue with the state. The current capacity of the landfill is over 100 years.
- Commissioner Leiken commented about the beginning stages of planning the Goshen ramp into an ODOT project following a conversation with Senator Wyden.

Phil Carrasco inquired about the numbers for traffic accidents in counties other than Lane, given Lane County has reported the highest number of traffic accidents in the state.

- Mr. Elsea did not have the numbers for the other Oregon counties.
- Commissioner Leiken remarked in 2015, Lane County reported 57 accidents with Clackamas County second with 34 accidents.
- Herb Vloedman asked if those numbers reflected county road miles or all accidents inside the county.
- Mr. Elsea replied the numbers reflect all fatal accidents inside the county, with 54% occurring on rural roads and including state highways.

Commissioner Gary Williams noted the probability of a flood of permit requests in the event the building market takes off to accommodate the need for housing in Lane County.

Dale Stoneburg inquired as to whether or not a staff position pays for itself over the course of a year through the approximately \$2 million in processing fees.

- Lydia McKinney replied, yes it does. The fees brought in by Building and Planning must be used for those services and must therefore be cost effective.

Mr. Stoneburg asked for clarification regarding the correlation between permit times and department staff retention.

- Ms. McKinney confirmed that staffing is the biggest hurdle for reducing permit times.

Phil Carrasco asked if becoming a certified agency for ODOT would open up opportunities for additional grant funding for which the county does not currently qualify or for any additional state revenue.

- Mr. Elsea replied, it would certainly allow the retention of more funds for federal projects for which the county applies. The department has seen a preference for local agencies with the ability to do the work “in-house”.

Commissioner Pat Farr acknowledged Mr. Elsea's commitment to customer service, and commented that he would be passing along a set of four questions related to the subject to Mr. Elsea.

Larry Abel inquired as to how Mr. Elsea plans to reduce the department fleets by 10% in FY 17-18.

- Mr. Elsea replied that the plan would minimize the fleet cost. This would require a more thorough auditing process of the fleet fund to make sure that reductions occur where possible, though this may not equate to the 10% goal.
- County Administrator, Steve Mokrohisky commented that this goal is part of the overall approach to look at internal expenses. There has been a decline in the number of employees providing services, which requires an assessment of the appropriate number of available vehicles.

V. BUDGET COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Chair Denis Hijmans opened the room for any pending Budget Committee Business. No items were brought before the Committee.

VI. ADJOURN

Chair Hijmans adjourned the meeting.