

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
September 20, 2013

The Board will conduct the 2014 preliminary budget hearings. The departments are scheduled as follows to discuss their requests:

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:05 Jim Covington – County Treasurer budget

9:15 Jeremiah Higgins – County Assessor budget

9:30 John DeWitt - Land Use & Emergency Management budgets

10:00 Sue Kelly – Public Health budget

10:30 Tom Nestor – Sheriff, Jail and Victims Assistance budgets

11:30 Travis Taylor – Extension Office budget and sections of the Fair budget

1:30 Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation budget

Other budgets that will be reviewed during the day as time allows include the following:

Administrator	Old Business
Administrative	New Business
Council of Governments	
Clerk & Recorder	
Elections	
Maintenance of Building & Plant	
Coroner	
Centennial Mental Health	
Health Inspector	
Developmentally Disabled	
County Fair	
Veterans Office	
Weed Control	
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	
Community Development Block Grant	
Transportation Enhancement Grant	
Road & Bridge	
Library Fund	
Contingent Fund	
Conservation Trust Fund	
E911 Fund	
Capital Projects Fund	
Landfill Fund	
Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund	

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 20, 2013, for the 2014 preliminary budget hearings. Those attending were Chairman Ted Lyons, Commissioners Greg King and Doug Stone, County Administrator Roxie Devers, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

Chairman Lyons called the meeting to order and asked County Assessor Jeremiah Higgins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance. County Treasurer Jim Covington was in attendance at the time as well to present his budget requests. When discussing the conversion to Tyler Technologies from CCI, which has filed bankruptcy, Mr. Covington said that they would like to begin the process as soon as possible, in order to get on the list. The company has already indicated that it will be either the second or third quarter of 2014 before they can begin conversion for the Assessor, and once it is complete the Treasurer's conversion will begin. Tyler wants \$24,500 up front when the contract is signed, and since neither official budgeted for it this year, Mr. Covington asked how it would be handled if the Board agreed they could proceed within this budget year. Ms. Devers said a supplemental appropriation will need to be done to the Assessor and Treasurer budgets for \$12,250 each. She asked if the contract was ready at this time or if they had shown it to Mr. Kimble, but Mr. Covington said he has an agreement that he will email to the attorney for him to review. They will try to have Tyler representative Glen Snider come out on September 30 to meet with the commissioners.

At 9:30 a.m., John DeWitt met with the Board to present his requests for the Land Use and Emergency Management budgets. First, he thanked the commissioners for the pay increase and then suggested that the Board may want to consider hiring a part-time employee to help out with Emergency Management sometime in the future. Due to numerous evening and weekend meetings and trainings, Mr. DeWitt has put in far more overtime than he can ever take off in comp time. After presenting his budget requests, Mr. DeWitt said he'd made two separate attempts to contact Jeff Wiepking about donating money to help pay for helmets for the bike rodeos, but had not gotten a response. He asked if he could pursue the Drive Smart grant if he cannot get in touch with Mr. Wiepking and the Board told him he could. Mr. Lyons also suggested he try to send Mr. Wiepking a letter.

Mr. DeWitt also said that he had a request from Wayne Ewing to build a temporary steel frame canvas structure for Buckos Feed, but setback requirements dictate 100 feet back from another residence. The neighboring landowner does not have a problem with the building being put up, but Mr. DeWitt wanted to know if it would be okay to issue the permit for it. Mr. Lyons said he would prefer that the neighbor sign a letter waiving the setback requirements, but added that he should ask Mr. Kimble before giving that advice. Mr. DeWitt added that if it is called a variance, then it will have to go through the Land Use Board of Adjustment, and Mr. King put in that if it were done that way, at least it would be on record as such in the event the property is ever sold.

At 10:00 a.m., Sue Kelly met with the Board to present the Public Health budget, stating that she wants to hire a full time RN, preferably with a Bachelor's degree, to help get her back to twenty-one hours a week, which she is having a hard time doing. She would then train the

person to take over for her in two or three years when she is ready to retire. If she cannot hire someone, Ms. Kelly said, she put in a rather large salary increase for herself. However, if another nurse is hired, her salary will decrease to \$28 per hour.

At 10:30 a.m., Sheriff Tom Nestor met with the Board to present budget requests for the Sheriff, Jail, and Victim Assistance budgets. The sheriff stated he is requesting another full time road deputy, due to number of road miles and increased calls in the county. He is also requesting one of the new Ford Interceptor Sport Utility Vehicles that he tested in Adams County. He commented that he is trying to move away from the Dodge Chargers, as they do not really need such high speed vehicles, but he also does not want an entire fleet of trucks, either. This new type of vehicle makes the most sense in regard to gas mileage and also has a higher clearance for more off-road activity.

When presenting the Jail budget, Sheriff Nestor was asked about the grinder for the sewer system and he explained that the quote he got back was for \$96,000. No one in Limon wants the job so Mr. Lyons told him he may have to find someone outside of the county. Mr. King mentioned Shane Johnson and the sheriff said he would check with him to see if it was something he felt he could do.

As for the Victim Assistance budget, Sheriff Nestor said that the position has always been 100% funded up until now, and they now require that the employee's health insurance be paid by the county. Ms. Devers put in that the position is mandated by state statute.

After the sheriff had gone, Ms. Devers presented the Administrator's budget and spoke briefly about the Administrative budget, which includes health and life insurance and numerous other miscellaneous items. She explained some of the changes that will take place due to Obama Care, and then stated that Ms. Lengel had requested the Administrative budget include funds to cover telephone problems due to power outages so that the individual departments don't have to pay the high mileage fees charged by Frontier Telephone. Ms. Devers suggested changing the IT line item to IT/Phone in order to satisfy that request.

At 11:30 a.m., Travis Taylor met with the Board to present the budget request for the Extension office and to discuss portions of the Fair budget. Mr. Taylor said they need a copier, as the one at the office can no longer be serviced due to the age, so he has included the price for a new one in his 2014 budget. He still feels that CSU owes Lincoln County an agent and said he believes he can prove that they are not sufficiently supporting the county. There has been some talk of providing an Extension agent in the area again and Mr. Taylor advised the Board that it may be time to consider what type of agent they would like to have.

Mr. Taylor briefly discussed the Queen's line item in the Fair budget, asking if it would remain the same as prior years, adding that the fair board would like to obtain a volunteer queen coordinator who would be a specific contact person for all fair royalty. He added that counties with good queen programs have someone in charge for several years and then train someone else to take over when they step down.

In the Fair budget, the Superintendent line item was reduced to \$3,800 and the Judges line item was increased to \$4,000.

Other budgets reviewed prior to the Economic Development Corporation appointment were Council of Governments, Centennial Mental Health, Health Inspector, Developmentally Disabled, Veterans Service Officer, RSVP, Community Development Block Grant, and the Transportation Enhancement Grant.

At 1:30 p.m., Troy McCue, Linda Hawthorne, Joe Kiely, and Patsie Smith met with the Board to discuss the Lincoln County Economic Development Corporation budget for 2014. Mr. McCue spoke, stating that the organization was formed in 2004 with a full time director, but later that changed due to lack of funding, and the position became part time. Typically, the county had given \$15,000, but had reduced their contribution when they felt Patricia Vice, the director at that time, was not producing enough results for the money being given. Mr. Lyons thought the county had given up to \$20,000 at one time. Mr. McCue said they are asking the county to give \$43,632 in 2014, which comes to \$8 per resident. They are asking \$15,040 from the town of Limon, \$5,840 from the town of Hugo, \$1,496 from the town of Genoa, and \$1,584 from the town of Arriba, as well as \$12,000 from private/corporate sponsorships for a total of \$79,592. However, anticipated funding uses come to \$109,100. Mr. McCue offered to allow the commissioners to sit in on interviews when the executive director is hired, adding that they did not want to end up in the same position as they had in the past. He went on to say that they had met with the Lodging/Tourism board the day before to propose sharing office space in a Welcome Center which they hope to build one day, and the group voted in favor of the plan. One of their main goals is that every business in Lincoln County will be contacted by Economic Development at a minimum of once a year, and Mr. McCue felt that creating a good, active business environment before actively seeking new businesses in the area should be their first priority.

Mr. Lyons asked if the budget request had been presented to any of the other entities on the list but Mr. McCue said that they have just begun the groundwork with the municipalities so the county was actually the first. Mr. Lyons first said he was not in favor of the county agreeing to such a large contribution, and Ms. Devers asked if the director would be a county employee with county benefits, and Mr. McCue said that other counties do it that way, and they have talked about it, but are not yet sure how they want to proceed.

Mr. King stated that he would like the county to provide the entire requested amount, but needs to see how the rest of the county budget comes out before he makes any commitments. Mr. Stone agreed. Mr. Lyons said that he supports Economic Development, but the taxpayers deserve to see a result, adding that he would support the full funding if the director was placed on a probationary period and held accountable for producing monthly reports of activity. Patsie Smith put in that she believes the corporation will have to reestablish its trust in the communities.

When the group left, County Clerk Corinne Lengel presented her Clerk and Election budgets. Ms. Lengel said her Clerk budget had actually decreased by over \$20,000 due to the changes in staff members, but the Election budget had increased because of the possibility of having to purchase new voting equipment. Ms. Lengel said that even with the passage of HB13-1303, which requires *all* future elections be held as mail ballot elections, the Secretary of State is intent on establishing a uniform voting system in the state, which may require the purchase of all new equipment. If Mr. Gessler does not achieve his goal, there is a possibility that Ms. Lengel will still need to purchase new equipment, as what they currently have is seven years old and will be reaching its useful life. Not only that, but Hart InterCivic will no longer warranty the scanners, so she may need to do something regardless of the secretary's plans.

Maintenance of Building and Plant and the District Attorney's budget requests were reviewed, and since County Coroner Jennifer Nestor was not present to discuss her budget requests, the Board went through it without her. The Operating Supplies line item was reduced to \$1,800, Professional Services to \$15,000, Education and Training to \$2,500, and the Travel and Transportation line item was increased to \$2,000. Ms. Nestor had requested an iPad and a new cell phone, and Mr. Stone said he would agree to the cell phone upgrade, but not the iPad. The others agreed. Since the budget request did not include prices for a cell phone, however, Mr. Stone said she would need to get them before they made a final decision.

The Fair budget was reviewed next and the Part Time line item was increased to \$7,500, Operating Supplies was increased to \$3,000, and the Race Purse and Fees line item was increased to \$1,700. Ms. Devers said that Chris Monks told her that they need a new mower at the fairgrounds, which will cost around \$3,000. She asked if they wanted to take the funds from the Conservation Trust Fund or the Capital Projects fund, but advised that if they intend to either fix the septic system or tie into the town sewer system, that money will be taken from the Conservation Trust Fund.

John DeWitt stopped in at that time to let the group know that there had been an oil spill at the Fisher well south of Genoa and he would keep them updated as he learned more details.

In the Library budget, the Gas, Fuel and Oil line item was reduced to \$2,000, and then the Contingency Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, and Capital Projects Fund budgets were reviewed.

Ms. Devers said the town of Hugo had given the playground equipment that was being removed from the Hugo School to the county, so they would need to decide where to put it; either at the annex park or the fairgrounds, and then Ms. Lengel asked what they had decided on the courthouse parking lot on Wednesday. Mr. Lyons said they will wait until next year, so Ms. Devers said she would move the \$225,000 in the 2013 budget to the 2014 budget.

Mr. DeWitt stopped back in to inform the Board that the oil spill was being taken care of and there was nothing to be concerned about.

The Board discussed painting and carpeting in the courthouse hallways and the commissioners room/lounge area, and then reviewed the 2014 Landfill budget. Mr. Lyons said they would definitely need to purchase a Conex container for storage of the recycled electronics, possibly even this year.

Lastly, the Lodging/Tourism Fund budget was reviewed.

There was no old business to discuss, but Mr. King said he had spoken with Sheriff Nestor about Andrew Johnson and the damage he had caused to a couple of the county roads in District Two, and there were two options. He could either have the D.A. file a claim that would result in a \$75 ticket, or he could involve the county attorney and try to get restitution. Mr. King said he didn't want to cost the county a lot of money, but he wants to send a message that this kind of behavior is not acceptable. He added that he figured Mr. Johnson has cost his district around \$10,000 in employee time, equipment usage, and materials. The others agreed he should contact County Attorney Stan Kimble and proceed with seeking restitution.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2013.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Ted Lyons, Chairman