

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
October 4, 2016

The Board will begin conducting 2017 preliminary budget requests. The following departments are scheduled as follows to discuss their requests:

9:00 Call to order and Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 Rick Ashcraft, Mark McHone and Chris Monks – Road and Bridge Budgets

10:00 Patricia Phillips – Department of Human Services Budget

11:00 Tom Nestor – Sheriff's Operations, Jail and Victim Assistance Budgets

11:45 Jeff Coonts – Land Use Budget

1:00 Andy Lorensen – County Coroner Budget

1:30 Sue Kelly – Public Health Budget

2:00 Corinne Lengel – County Clerk and Recorder and Elections Budgets

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

Commissioners
Administrator
Emergency Management
E911 Fund
Weed Control
Administrative
Maintenance of Buildings/Plant
Centennial Mental Health
Health Inspector
Fairgrounds
Veterans Office
Transportation Enhancement Grant
Library Fund
Contingent Fund
Conservation Trust Fund
Landfill Fund
Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund
East Central Council of Local Governments
Fire Control
Ambulance Service
Emergency Medical Service
E.M.S. Subsidy
Developmentally Disabled
Community Development Block Grant

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on October 4, 2016, for the annual budget hearings. Those attending were: Chairman Greg King, Commissioners Doug Stone and Ed Schiffers, County Administrator Gary Ensign, Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel, and Steve Burgess.

Chairman King called the meeting to order and asked Road District Three Foreman Rick Ashcraft to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

He, District One Foreman Chris Monks, and District Two Foreman Mark McHone then met with the Board to discuss the 2017 Road & Bridge budget requests.

Mr. Ensign prefaced the discussion with the comment that the county's assessed valuation has decreased a little over \$51 million, which is approximately a 24% loss of revenue derived from mill levies. He added that the four-mill tax relief the commissioners granted in 2016 may have to be reduced, based on other projected increases. He went on to say that all department budgets that were submitted included a one-step cost of living adjustment for employees, as requested by the Board. Since the commissioners approved the additional steps on the county pay scale, three or four Road & Bridge employees would be allowed that increase based on longevity.

When the group was finished reviewing the budget proposal, Mr. King asked if anyone knew exactly how long it would be before the county is required to replace all of its road signs with the new reflective design. Mr. Ensign commented that they need to be brought up to code as soon as possible, and Mr. Monks stated that they had priced it out at one time and the cost was astronomical. They have been replacing signs with the new design as needed. He also felt that the group should reduce the bridge maintenance line item to \$10,000 and increase the maintenance of oiled roads line item by that \$40,000. Mr. Monks also said he'd like to increase the outside repairs line item by \$6,000 or \$10,000, if possible.

Mr. King commented that Don Morrison with DJ Petroleum would like the opportunity to bid on the fuel contract this year.

Mr. Monks asked if the rest of the group agreed that they should get rid of the 1969 roller and everyone was of the opinion that it should be replaced. Mr. King asked him to obtain some figures and they agreed to spend the money out of the 2016 budget if they can find something this year. Chris said the rentals will be coming back in so they may be able to purchase a used one.

Rick Ashcraft stated that District Three will possibly need to replace a semi-truck that has been giving them problems. He asked if there was a way to find out how much the truck is costing the county on an annual basis. Chris told him that shop secretary Kris Smith keeps records on every piece of equipment, so if there was a work order done on it, there would be a record.

At 10:00 a.m., Department of Human Services Director Patricia Phillips and bookkeeper Sherri Hansen met with the Board to present the 2016 DHS budget. Ms. Hansen explained that there was a decrease in revenue between 2016 and 2017 but that there is also a decrease in expenditures. Ms. Phillips added that all counties in the state are underfunded and everyone is overspending. Ms. Hansen put in that the state was able to “make the county whole again” at the end of their fiscal year. Mr. Ensign asked if there were any requests for vehicle replacement in 2017 and Ms. Phillips said that there were not. Also, she commented that staff salary raises were based on the Board’s requested one-step cost of living adjustment and any annual step increases due to employees.

Mr. King asked Ms. Phillips about the department’s relationship with Centennial Mental Health and was told that at the meeting with Lincoln, Cheyenne, Kit Carson, and Elbert County DHS departments last week, the directors agreed that they are “just done” with CMH. Ms. Phillips said they have tried endlessly to work things out with Centennial but it has been thirty years and nothing has changed. She added that it is likely they won’t even use CMH next year and she is currently working with Signal to find another provider to contract with for substance abuse. She added that they already have other providers for psych treatment and stated that even if they have to travel, they would prefer to do that than work with Centennial. She went on to say that even Logan County has contracted with Mount St. Vincent’s so that they don’t have to use Centennial Mental Health.

Steve Burgess asked who Otero County uses and Ms. Phillips stated that they use Southern Peaks Mental Health but added that the entire mental health system seems to be an issue, as she has heard that there are problems with that organization as well.

Mr. King wanted to know if DHS could work with Lincoln Community Hospital if they could find a way to obtain providers. Ms. Phillips said she believes the hospital can take Medicare but wasn’t sure about Medicaid, which is one of the biggest issues. She added that she would certainly support it as an alternative, however, if something could be worked out. Mr. King commented that the service would certainly be much better, as well as there being a possibility of bringing more providers to the community.

Mr. Burgess put in that Lincoln Community Hospital Director Kevin Stansbury has stated that they plan to completely withdraw from Centennial Mental Health. Mr. Stansbury does hope to attend the meeting in Fort Morgan in November, and Mr. Burgess said he would speak with Mr. Stansbury when he gets a chance.

The commissioner and administrator budgets were reviewed and then the group looked at the Emergency Management budget request. Mr. Ensign had included a line item for a department head salary in the amount of \$19,500; a 40-hour week on Level 6, Step 1. Mr. Burgess said he thought the EPR Coordinator in Public Health was going to take over the position. Mr. Ensign responded that Mr. Johnson already has a full-time job and this will be a completely new position to encompass OEM and the communications coordinator at the county jail. The idea is to split the salary between OEM and E911. Mr. Ensign suggested the Board review the E911

budget request as well since they were discussing it, adding that he'd included another \$19,100 in the department head line item for salary. He explained that no tax money in terms of a mill levy are put into the department, as it is funded completely through the \$.70 E911 surcharge fees billed on county resident phone lines.

The group took a brief break and while waiting for the next appointment, Ms. Lengel stated she'd noticed in the minutes that the Board had changed the October 17 meeting to October 19 and had added a meeting specifically for the Invenergy/Xcel hearing on October 24. She requested that the October 19 meeting be cancelled, due to the fact that her office will be mailing ballots that week and she cannot spare anyone to take minutes. There were no current appointments for October 19 and Mr. Stone said he felt the meeting could all be accomplished on October 24. Mr. King agreed and the meeting for October 19 was cancelled.

At 11:00 a.m., Sheriff Tom Nestor and Jail Captain Michael Yowell met with the Board to present the Sheriff, Jail, and Victim's Advocate budget requests for 2017. There were not many changes to the sheriff's budget, and Captain Yowell stated that the major increase in the jail budget, aside from salary increases, would be the increase in the medical supplies line item. He had asked Kevin Stansbury if the hospital could bill the county on an as-used basis for non-formulary medications, LCH services; such as, labs, x-rays and imaging fees, and transports, inpatient charges, and orders by non-Lincoln County providers. Mr. Stansbury suggested he include \$12,000 to be on the safe side and the captain said they'd decided on \$8,000 instead.

Sheriff Nestor stated that he'd moved the annual lock and switch repair of \$4,500 to the repairs and maintenance line item instead of taking it out of capital outlay. Therefore, the capital outlay line item would reflect \$0.

The captain brought up the Interstate Compact Law that basically requires law enforcement to extradite a person who violates their probation to wherever a judge deems necessary. He stated that it is a strong possibility that they will have to travel out of state and the county will incur the costs. Mr. King stated that Mr. Stone is the CCI commissioner representative and asked if they needed to work on a legislative change. The next CCI meeting is October 14 and the captain said he would get Mr. Stone some information prior to that meeting.

The Victim's Advocate budget request was reviewed and then the sheriff stated he did include justification sheets for two new vehicles; approximately \$78,000. They have a 2009 Chevy Tahoe and a 2014 Dodge Durango that they would trade in or sell. Actually, he would like to give the Durango to the Victim's Advocate so they could get rid of the vehicle that she drives. He added that they will also need to replace light bars and radar on some of their other units.

Mr. King asked the two for their opinions on Centennial Mental Health and Sheriff Nestor said things are pretty bad. He explained that CMH requires that the sheriff's department transport people to the hospital, basically because they don't want to deal with it themselves. He commented that it is simply not right to treat calm, local county residents in such a manner as they are required to do. Captain Yowell put in that the court clerk is trying to get the judges

and CMH together to discuss what legally constitutes an M18, which is what they are required to fill out when they have to transport someone. Sheriff Nestor added that mental health is a problem nationwide and it just seems to be getting worse.

Mr. Schiffers asked about the camera and whether or not they had found the money for the purchase. Sheriff Nestor said they are looking at other companies to see if they can find something cheaper but also believed they would be able to come up with the funds somewhere within the budget.

Mr. Stone said he'd received a complaint regarding hunters setting off fireworks down south and wanted to know if the sheriff's department had received the same complaint. Captain Yowell said that they had.

At 11:45 a.m., Land Use Administrator John DeWitt met with the Board to present the Land Use budget, which he stated had been reduced since they agreed that a part-time person was no longer necessary.

The group broke for lunch and when the meeting re-convened at 1:00 p.m., Mr. Burgess said he'd gone up to the hospital to speak with Mr. Stansbury, who told him he will be going to the Centennial Mental Health meeting in November.

County Coroner Andy Lorensen then met with the Board to present the 2017 budget request for his department. He stated that Jefferson County hasn't increased their rates in fifteen years so finally decided it was time. Instead of \$100 per autopsy for supplies, it will be increasing to \$200 per autopsy. He had increased his operating supplies line item by \$500 and his professional services line item by \$10,000, stating that both were very unpredictable. The support staff line item was also increased by \$600 and Mr. Lorensen defended the adjustment by saying that he's been fortunate enough this year not to have paid much from the on-call funds.

Mr. King asked if he had ordered the pickup and Mr. Lorensen had not, as there were problems with the vehicle purchase. He had received an email from the woman who gave him the quote he'd brought to the Board, stating that she hadn't provided him with one. He sent her the original email and asked her to honor the price. He will look for something else if the company won't honor the quote.

The Weed Control, Administrative, Maintenance of Building and Plant, Centennial Metal Health, and Health Inspector budgets were reviewed and then the group reviewed the Fairgrounds budget request. John Palmer had reviewed it and adjusted it where he felt necessary. The comment was made that the fair superintendents need to park elsewhere as they were taking up the handicap parking spaces on the north side of the Ellis Allen building.

At 1:30 p.m., Public Health Director Sue Kelly met with the Board to present the 2017 budget requests for her department. She stated she had not completed the salaries since she didn't

know what the Board had decided to do about the OEM position. Since the EPR money is channeled through the state health department, Ms. Kelly said she was told that the EPR Coordinator wouldn't necessarily have to be housed in the Public Health office as long as they were paid through that department. She added that they would certainly like for Richard Johnson to have the OEM/EPR/Communications Coordinator position and would prefer that he remain in the Public Health office as a 35-hour per week employee. Mr. King said the commissioners thought it should be a 40-hour week position. Ms. Kelly said it could be handled either way but felt they should try 35 hours first. She added that if the Board chooses to create the position through Public Health, she will contribute half of the salary using EPR funds.

At 2:00 p.m., County Clerk Corinne Lengel presented her 2017 budget requests for the Clerk & Recorder and Elections departments.

First, she explained that the driver examiner has indicated he will retire at the end of 2017. Since the Department of Revenue is moving to a completely new motor vehicle and driver's license computer system beginning in February of 2017, Ms. Lengel said she had included six months' salary for a replacement driver examiner that she would like to hire in June. With the loss of her part time deputy clerk, she reduced the part time line item from \$23,000 to \$800 to cover time for the replacement examiner to attend training in February. The state will pay for the training, hotel and meals, and Ms. Lengel was told that it would be acceptable to send both her current examiner and his replacement to the training. Ms. Lengel also reduced her office supplies line item by \$500, as well as her postage line item. However, she explained that she'd increased the telephone line item due to the addition of another internet line since the election system must be on a dedicated line. She had increased her dues and meetings line item by \$50 in order to cover the increase in CCCA (Colorado County Clerk's Association) annual dues, and had decreased the record digitization line item by \$20,000 since the project is almost complete.

Ms. Lengel brought up the fact that the commissioners may want to consider digitizing old commissioner records as there is no other copy of commissioner proceedings since the county was formed, other than a paper copy. She stated that she is not even sure some of the documents are legible anymore but since no one ever looks at those records, they may still be in relatively good shape. Her suggestion was to hire Roxie Devers to come in and go through the records to see what should or should not be kept, and then have US Imaging do on sight scanning of the documents so that they did not leave the premises. Mr. Schiffers asked if the records were currently being digitized and Ms. Lengel said that they are not. She was not sure what it would require but stated that some counties do scan commissioner documents into their computer systems somehow. Although the Board felt it should probably be done, they also felt it may be too costly of a project for 2017 when there are so many expenditures to consider. The last item on the Clerk's budget request was for the replacement of the recording system, which will be six years old in 2017 and is due for an upgrade. The total cost to replace it will be \$10,900 and will most likely be done in September. Ms. Lengel explained that recording costs are going up in January; \$2.00 per document, which was done to create a fund for upgrades to existing, or purchases of new, recording systems statewide. Ms. Lengel said she could certainly apply for the grant funds but knew of several counties in the state where

systems are ten or twelve years old, and she felt those counties should have the first opportunity to receive those funds. The other \$2,000 in Ms. Lengel's capital outlay line item was designated for an access door from the driver examiner's office into the Clerk's office for safety reasons.

Mr. Ensign commented that he has been told he needs some type of escape route as well since his office has no exit except for the one door into the Land Use office. Mr. Schiffers felt that the two doors could possibly be put in at the same time.

Ms. Lengel then presented the Election department budget, stating that most line items had decreased considerably for several reasons, mainly because there will only be one election in 2017. Still, Ms. Lengel stated that the county will move to the state-mandated Dominion voting system next year, which will require the lease or purchase of new equipment. Although not a fan of leasing, Ms. Lengel said that most counties that moved to the new company in 2016 entered into a six or eight-year lease agreement, which seems to be the best option. Mr. Kimble has reviewed the lease and agreed it would be acceptable. The annual lease will be \$18,560, but the Secretary of State has promised to reimburse \$8,052 the first year if the county will change systems in 2017. The lease will cover all equipment, software, upgrades, installation, on-site support, and some training. Ms. Lengel also commented that the new company, Integrated Voting Solutions, where she will purchase ballots, envelopes, and secrecy sleeves is much cheaper than the current vendor she uses. She added that with salary increases as well as a new voting system and recording system, both budgets are actually less than they were in 2016.

County Attorney Stan Kimble called to ask if the Board could move the Invenergy/Xcel hearing date from October 24 to October 26 but the commissioners had prior engagements.

The remaining budgets were reviewed: Veteran's Office, Transportation Enhancement Grant, Library Fund, Contingent Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, Landfill Fund, Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund, East Central Council of Local Governments, Fire Control, Ambulance Service, Emergency Medical Service, E.M.S. Subsidy, Developmentally Disabled, and the Community Development Block Grant.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on October 6, 2016.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Greg King, Chairman