

Board of County Commissioners of Lincoln County
September 18, 2012

The Board will conduct the 2013 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 Wayne Shade – Weed Control budget and discuss requesting chemical bids
- 10:30 Colette Barksdale – Social Services budget
- 11:30 Travis Taylor – Extension Office budget
- 1:00 Tom Nestor – County Sheriff, Jail and Victims Assistance budgets
- 2:00 Chris Monks and David Seymour – Road & Bridge budget
- 3:00 Julie Joffe – Fairgrounds budget

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

- Office of the Board
- Administrator
- Administrative
- County Attorney
- Clerk & Recorder
- Elections
- Maintenance of Building & Plant
- Centennial Mental Health
- Developmentally Disabled
- Veterans Office
- Community Development Block Grant
- Transportation Enhancement Grant
- Library Fund
- Contingent Fund
- Conservation Trust Fund
- E911 Fund
- Capital Project Fund
- Landfill Fund
- Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund

- Old Business
- New Business

The Board of Lincoln County Commissioners met at 9:00 a.m. on September 18, 2012, for the 2013 preliminary budget hearings. The following attended: Chairman Steve Burgess, Commissioners Gary Beedy and Ted Lyons, County Administrator Roxie Devers, and Clerk to the Board Corinne M. Lengel.

Chairman Burgess called the meeting to order and asked County Assessor Jeremiah Higgins to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

County Treasurer Jim Covington then presented his budget request for 2013. Mr. Burgess asked him if he would still need to keep the part time line item in his budget if he had his employees move to a forty-hour work week, and he said he probably would not, but had used it this year to get his tax notices out. He added that Ms. Patton would move to an eight hour, five day per week schedule and they would no longer work four, ten-hour days, and then decided that he would prefer to keep the new employee on a thirty-five hour work week.

Mr. Lyons asked how the new computer system is working and Mr. Higgins said he felt that it was getting better.

The final comment regarding Mr. Covington was that the Public Trustee now needs to complete a budget, which is required to be published. Although it does not become a separate fund in the county budget process, revenues and expenditures will require a different method of being accounted for.

Mr. Covington had increased his Capital Outlay line item due to a change in the copier lease price, which also affected Mr. Higgins, who had submitted his budget prior to learning of the increase. Thus, the Assessor's budget was increased by \$250 in the Capital Outlay line item.

Mr. Beedy made a motion to approve the minutes from the meeting held on September 17, 2012, as submitted. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

The commissioners reviewed the Office of the Board and Administrator budgets, and then Land Use Administrator John DeWitt met with the Board to present his budget request for Land Use and Emergency Management. Mr. DeWitt said he would like to allow any excess money in this year's budget to be used for hazmat equipment for the fire departments, such as suits. Since it falls under OEM, Mr. DeWitt thought it would be nice to help them out, but he was informed that CSP has a full hazmat unit in the area and sends it to all hazmat spills. Ms. Devers thought it might be good to use some funds for training, though. Mr. Burgess told Mr. DeWitt that if he does find things he needs to purchase for OEM, he will need to bring the proposal to the commissioners first.

Next, the Board reviewed the Administrative budget, and Mr. Beedy asked if it would be beneficial to pay off the Karval Water Users DOLA loan payment to save the interest, but no decision was made.

The 2013 budget request from the County Attorney and County Clerk were reviewed; Ms. Lengel stating that she had requested a promotion for Driver Examiner Pete Holmstedt. Mr. Burgess asked Ms. Devers if there was a place to sign off on promotions, since there had been issues with Human Services in 2012. It was agreed that the Board would sign off on the request sheet and it would be placed in the employee's personnel file.

At that time, Weed Coordinator Wayne Shade met with the Board to present his 2013 budget request and discuss chemical bids. The budget request was fine and it was decided that requests for chemical bids would be published as soon as possible.

Human Services Director Colette Barksdale and Robert Kraxberger met next with the commissioners regarding her budget request. She said that the fund balance is getting low and she may need to ask for 2.5 or 3 mills. She reminded the Board that her department had given up half of a mill to Plains Medical Center a few years ago, and that the county is supposed to put 20% toward the DHS budget. She went on to say that the main reason for the decrease in the fund balance is the fact that so much state and federal funding has been cut.

After Ms. Barksdale presented her budget, Mr. Beedy asked for a breakdown of expenditures of county dollars by line item such as the other departments present, but Ms. Barksdale said that her bookkeeper had never been able to figure out how to do that, as the money is all divided into specific programs once the figures are entered into Quick Books. Mr. Lyons asked how she would ever know how much she needed to budget for or how much had been overspent, and her response was that either the state bails them out if they are over-budget, or they simply have to absorb it.

Mr. Beedy said he felt that the commissioners are missing out on how much Human Services actually costs the county because they never see the total costs for office supplies, advertising, travel and training, postage, or other line items that county dollars are spent on. He added that it does not have to be a complicated formula and not broken out by state program, but a simple spreadsheet like the other departments turn in would suffice.

Ms. Barksdale promised to see if her new accountant could figure something out.

At 11:30 a.m., Travis Taylor met with the commissioners to present the 2013 budget request for the Extension office. Painting and re-carpeting was discussed, since Public Health Nurse Sue Kelly had asked that the nurse's office at the annex be repainted, and Travis said he would not mind having new paint, but that the carpet is still fine. He said that they may need a new copy machine and had done some checking on purchase versus lease, but since the copier they have is still working, he wanted to know if he should budget for a new one or just wait to see how long the old one lasts. The Board agreed that if he should need to replace the copier in the middle of the year and had not budgeted for one, that they would take the money from Capital Projects to pay for it.

Mr. Burgess wanted to know if Travis Nall would be the one to do the painting, and Ms. Devers said that she would ask him, but that it would need to be done during the winter months, if so. Discussion turned to fair books and posters and it was decided to increase the line item back to \$5,000, as it had been cut to \$2,500. The Kids Contest line item had also been reduced after the decision was made to only purchase forty rabbits in 2013.

Travis said he'd had a request from a 4-H club in Deer Trail who wanted to bring their participants to Lincoln County, as Arapahoe County had moved their club meetings to Aurora instead of Deer Trail. He'd given them the stipulations that were set up when 4-H members from El Paso County had wanted to come to Lincoln County; that they must live within ten miles of the county, go to school, or own land in the county. He was asked if Lincoln County would be willing to charge them a fee to participate, as they were already paying \$40 per participant in Arapahoe County. Travis said he told the gentleman that he would mention it to the commissioners, but the Board agreed that it was just too much of a stretch to allow them to cross another county (Elbert) to come to Lincoln County.

At 1:00 p.m., Sheriff Tom Nestor met with the Board to present the 2013 budget requests for the Sheriff, County Jail, and Victims Assistance departments. First, Sheriff Nestor updated the commissioners on bids he'd obtained for a 2013 Chevrolet ½ ton crew cab pickup and a 2013 Dodge with the same specifications; one from Vince's Chevrolet in Burlington in the amount of \$27,908, the other from Colorado Springs Dodge in the amount of \$27,938, which includes the tool boxes.

The sheriff then went through his budget, explaining that overtime is still high due to court appearances and transports. He also informed the commissioners that he needs to replace twenty-two locks in the jail, as they have been compromised and he is concerned with officer safety. The Board gave their approval for him to spend approximately \$2,500 to have the locks replaced as soon as possible.

Once the sheriff had gone, the commissioners reviewed the Elections budget; Ms. Lengel explaining that she had restructured the budget to include employees who actually work on elections, rather than the way it is currently set up. She had also put in for a promotion for her Elections Deputy, which would actually be a new title. Ms. Devers requested that the employee be considered a Deputy I, which is already on the pay schedule, and Ms. Lengel said that would be fine.

Also reviewed were the Maintenance of Building & Plant, Coroner, Centennial Mental Health, Developmentally Disabled, Veterans Office, Community Development Block Grant, Transportation Enhancement Grant, Library Fund, Contingent Fund, Conservation Trust Fund, E911 Fund, Capital Projects Fund, Landfill Fund, and the Lodging Tax/Tourism Fund budgets. Comments were made that the Library fund balance and the E911 fund balance are quite large, and Ms. Devers said it may be possible to move a tenth of a mill from the Library Fund to the Human Services Department.

Mr. Beedy commented that he had spoken with Hugo town manager Gary Ensign, who said that Zane Nestor still had not brought him the information pertaining to the radios. The Board felt that they should possibly schedule a meeting with the E911 board.

At 2:00 p.m., Road Foremen Chris Monks and David Seymour met with the Board to discuss the 2013 Road & Bridge budget. A lengthy discussion ensued regarding oiled roads and the maintenance of them, traffic counts recently obtained, and the rising costs of materials. Several line items were increased from their preliminary amounts, particularly the Supplies line items.

After the road foremen left, Fairgrounds Manager Julie Joffe met with the Board to discuss the fairgrounds budget. Mr. Burgess told her they had increased the fair books line item back to \$5,000 and after some discussion of the fact that many different costs need to come from the Rodeo line item, such as hotel rooms and feed, that line item was increased to \$16,000. Discussion turned to other repairs that the fair board had asked be made and what those might cost, and Ms. Joffe submitted some other requests which included cost estimates.

When the Board moved on to old business, Mr. Lyons said that after listening to Ms. Devers, Mr. Beedy, and Ms. Lengel, he felt the commissioners should hire an independent inspector to come out and look at the courthouse roof to determine if it really needs to be replaced. They all agreed that CTSI should also provide a written statement that the county will not be penalized in any way or not receive the insurance money at some future date if the decision is made not to replace the roof at this time. Ms. Devers said that Allen Chapman with CTSI is scheduled to meet with the Board on September 27.

Ms. Barksdale had left a contract for the Board to review, so after they had done so, Mr. Beedy made a motion to sign the CORE Services Program Third Year of a Three-Year Plan contract in the amount of \$300,936 for the period of June 1, 2010, through June 30, 2013. Mr. Lyons seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned until 9:00 a.m. on September 27, 2012.

Corinne M. Lengel, Clerk to the Board

Steve Burgess, Chairman