

Finance Committee Meeting Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, May 20, 2014

The meeting convened at 1:13 p.m. in Room 903 of the Omaha-Douglas Civic Center, 1819 Farnam Street, Omaha, NE 68183. A copy of the Open Meetings Act is located on the wall near the entrance of the room. A notice of the meeting was published in the May 13, 2014 issue of The Daily Record. County Commissioners present at the start of the meeting were PJ Morgan, Mary Ann Borgeson, and Pam Tusa. Others present at the start of the meeting included Joe Lorenz, Patrick Bloomingdale, Diane Carlson, Marcos San Martin, Catherine Hall, and Kaieva Williams of Administration; Brad Alexander, Mark LeFlore, and Rondy Woodard of the Youth Center; Dan Esch of the Clerk/Comptroller's office; Parker Schenken and Tyler Mullen of Baird Holm; Jake Wasikowski of KMTV; Doug Kagan and Marty Brown of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom; and Bev Traub of the League of Women Voters. Commissioner Morgan conducted the meeting.

1. Preliminary 2014/2015 County budget review with selected department heads and elected officials.

Youth Center (DCYC)

County Commissioners Clare Duda, Mike Boyle, and Marc Kraft entered the meeting during this discussion, as well as John Ewing of the Treasurer's office, John Friend of the Clerk of the District Court's office, Lee Lazure of Civil Service Commission/Human Resources, Dianne Wallace, IT Coordinator, and Mark Conrey of 911/Communications. Ms. Williams left the meeting during this discussion. Speaking during the DCYC budget discussion were Mr. Lorenz, Mr. Alexander, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Tusa, Commissioner Borgeson, Commissioner Morgan, Mr. LeFlore, Commissioner Kraft, Mr. Woodard, Mr. Brown, Ms. Carlson, and Commissioner Duda. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- DCYC's current budget for 2013/14: \$7,757,608
- DCYC's budget target for 2014/15: \$7,509,501
- DCYC's budget request for 2014/15: \$7,556,952

- Mr. Alexander said the reason why DCYC's requested budget is \$46,631 more than its target budget for FY2014/15 is because DCYC is receiving a Sherwood grant that will allow it to pilot an evening reporting center.
 - Mr. Alexander said the expense of the grant will be \$152,661.
 - Mr. Alexander said this will be completely offset by revenue, but the exact amount of the revenue has yet to be determined.
 - Mr. Alexander said the evening reporting center will allow DCYC to do a variety of things, such as a tutorial program to help youth get back on track academically, provide counseling to the youth and to their families, and an employment location component that will tie into DCYC's career center.
 - Mr. Alexander said if the Sherwood grant for the evening reporting center was excluded, DCYC's FY2014/15 budget request would be \$7,403,471 (\$106,030 below its target).

- Mr. Alexander said DCYC is going with the assumption of having an average daily population of 96 youths, but there is some concern about that number increasing.

- Mr. Alexander said the average daily population amounts at DCYC were as follows:
 - January 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013: 91 youths.
 - April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014: 95 youths.
 - October 1, 2013, to March 31, 2014: 107 youths.
 - Mr. Alexander said starting on October 1, 2013, all of the delinquency cases started to transition over to Probation, so that's the significance of this date, but they're still working their way through that process.
 - January 1, 2014 to April 30, 2014: 110 youths.
- Mr. Alexander said the DCYC's career center and a DCYC domestic violence program have been funded through JAG money, but DCYC was unable to obtain JAG money for these programs for next year.
 - Mr. Alexander said these are two wonderful programs and he does not want to see them go away.
 - Mr. Alexander said DCYC will continue to look for grant funds for these programs, but the DCYC may need \$19,750 for the career center and \$8,000 for the domestic violence program in FY2014/15.
- The HOME program was discussed.
 - Mr. Alexander said during calendar year 2013, the Home Program served an average of 36 youths per day.
 - Mr. Alexander said this resulted in 12,294 detention bed days saved during 2013, which translates into \$1,973,925 in savings (cost of detention vs. cost of Home Program).
 - Mr. Alexander said the Home Program was involved in piloting a truancy program with Omaha South High School.
 - Mr. Alexander said only two of the youth served by DCYC ended up having truancy charges filed on them.
 - Mr. Alexander said he believes this truancy program is beneficial because there is a strong correlation between truancy and delinquency.
 - Mr. Alexander said if there is funding available through the Community-Based Juvenile Services Grant, DCYC will try to use that money to fund an additional position for this.
- Mr. Alexander said DCYC's costs for drugs and pharmacy will go down by \$19,473, due in large part to a contract with UNMC.
- Personal costs were discussed.
 - Mr. Alexander said regular time pay will be decreased by \$16,477 for FY2014/15.
 - Mr. Alexander said recent retirements at DCYC allowed DCYC to restructure and consolidate duties, update job descriptions, and eliminate positions.
 - Mr. Alexander said a 7th supervisor position has been created due to the restructuring, and that he believes this will help decrease overtime for supervisors.
 - Mr. Alexander said there were retirements where the people retiring were topped out on their pay grades, so there's savings with the salaries of the new employees.

- Mr. Alexander said a new juvenile detention technician is in the budget for FY2014/15.
 - Mr. Alexander said there is a need in DCYC's medical department to have someone dedicated to providing security and supervision in the medical department, and to escort youths to and from appointments.
- Mr. Lorenz said so far the revenue received by DCYC during FY2013/14 is \$750,000 more than what was budgeted for.
- Commissioner Borgeson asked about the possibility of having an account at DCYC that is similar to the Inmate Benefit Account at Corrections.
 - Commissioner Borgeson said this type of account could be used for programs for the youth at DCYC.
- Mr. Alexander said the Read Right program continues to be successful.
 - Mr. LeFlore said State testing scores for youth at DCYC have gone up an average of 5% over the last three years.
- Mr. Lazure and Treasurer Ewing left the meeting during this discussion.
- Mr. Alexander, Mr. LeFlore, and Mr. Woodard left the meeting after this discussion.

Commissioners

Speaking during the Commissioners budget discussion was Mr. Lorenz. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Commissioners' current budget for 2013/14: \$255,000
- Commissioners' budget request for 2014/15: \$257,328
- Mr. Lorenz said the Commissioners' budget is just for the salaries of the Commissioners.
- Mr. Lorenz said the budget increase for FY2014/15 reflects the salary increase for the Commissioners which is effective January 1, 2015.

Miscellaneous

Speaking during the Miscellaneous budget discussion were Mr. Lorenz, Mr. Bloomingdale, Commissioner Morgan, and Commissioner Boyle. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Miscellaneous' current budget for 2013/14: \$117,000
- Miscellaneous' budget request for 2014/15: \$125,000
- Mr. Lorenz said the Miscellaneous budget is primarily for the Commissioners' travel.
- Mr. Lorenz said this budget request is based on the experience of the last two years.
 - Mr. Lorenz said some of the Commissioners have commitments through NACO.
 - Mr. Lorenz said during the last couple of years this fund has run short and the last few amounts were paid out of Fees & Contracts.
- Mr. Bloomingdale said for next year, he would like Mr. San Martin to go to a legislative conference in Washington, DC since Mr. San Martin is the legislative liaison.
 - Mr. Lorenz said the travel for Administrative staff is in the budget for Administration.

Administration

Speaking during the Administration budget discussion were Mr. Lorenz, Mr. Bloomingdale, and Commissioner Morgan. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Administration's current budget for 2013/14: \$1,246,616
- Administration's budget request for 2014/15: \$1,076,277
- Mr. Lorenz said the FY2013/14 adopted budget for Administration was \$990,066, but it was modified to its current amount after receiving a grant from the Sherwood Foundation and a Community Services Aid grant.
 - Mr. Lorenz said both grants will run out during FY2014/15.
- Mr. Lorenz said this budget request reflects a new Internal Audit position.
 - Commissioner Morgan and Mr. Bloomingdale talked about the new internal audit position looking at budgets and doing performance audits.

Fees & Contracts

Speaking during the Fees & Contracts budget discussion was Mr. Lorenz.

- Fees & Contracts' current budget for 2013/14: \$1,758,000
- Fees & Contracts' budget request for 2014/15: \$1,758,000

Risk Insurance

Kyle Kramer of 911/Communications entered the meeting during this discussion. Speaking during the Risk Insurance budget discussion was Mr. Lorenz, Commissioner Duda, Commissioner Boyle, and Mr. Kagan. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Risk Insurance's current budget for 2013/14: \$3,216,000
- Risk Insurance's budget request for 2014/15: \$3,216,000
- Mr. Lorenz said workers' comp claims are continuing to remain high.
- Mr. Bloomingdale said many of the workers' comp claims happen at the County's 24/7 operations, and some for the employees with County Road.

2. Other business.

- Mr. Lorenz said currently the total budget requests submitted for FY2014/15 are about \$1,000,000 over the total budget targets.
- Mr. Lorenz said the biggest budget issues for FY2014/15 are with the Health Center, Community Mental Health Center, and the increase in healthcare costs.
- Mr. Lorenz said there will be another Finance Committee meeting on June 3, 2014, and suggestions as to where to cut expenses or add revenues can be discussed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:21 p.m.