

## Finance Committee Meeting Douglas County, Nebraska

Tuesday, May 5, 2015

The meeting convened at 10:22 a.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 April 28, 2015 issue of The Daily Record. County Commissioners present at the meeting were James Cavanaugh, PJ Morgan, Mike Boyle, Clare Duda, Marc Kraft, and Chris Rodgers. Others present at the start of the meeting included Patrick Bloomingdale, Joe Lorenz, Diane Carlson, Cheri Albin, Marcos San Martin, Karen Cole, and Kaieva Williams of Administration; Dave Phipps of the Election Commissioner's office; Tom McDonald of the Engineer's office; Adi Pour and Tim Kelso of the Health Department; Dan Esch of the Clerk/Comptroller's office; and Bev Traub of the League of Women Voters. Commissioners Morgan and Cavanaugh conducted the meeting.

### **2. Preliminary 2015/2016 County budget review with selected department heads and elected officials.**

#### Election Commissioner

- Election Commissioner's current budget for 2014/15: \$1,336,285
- Election Commissioner's budget target for 2015/16: \$1,348,861
- Election Commissioner's budget request for 2015/16: \$1,342,670

Item 2 was taken up first. Catherine Hall of Administration entered the meeting during this discussion. Ms. Williams left the meeting during this discussion. Speaking during the Election Commissioner's budget discussion were Mr. Lorenz, Mr. Phipps, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Morgan, Commissioner Rodgers, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Commissioner Duda, Ms. Albin, and Commissioner Kraft. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Handouts were provided and reviewed during this discussion:
  - Mr. Lorenz provided a document with budget appropriation figures (see Attachment #2).
  - Mr. Phipps provided the following:
    - Expense and revenue figures from 2010 through 2015 (see Attachment #1).
      - The 2015 figures on this attachment are year-to-date.
    - Current employee count and payroll figures (see Attachment #3).
      - Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office currently has one vacancy.
      - Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office has 13 full-time employees.
    - An organizational chart (see Attachment #4).
- Mr. Phipps said the minimum wage increase will affect the Election Commissioner's office probably more than most other departments because of the temporary staff the Election Commissioner's office uses.
  - Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office hires more and more temporary employees as it gets closer to an election.

- Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's postage costs are increasing.
  - Mr. Phipps said early voting grows more and more each year.
    - Mr. Phipps said close to 30% of voters vote early.
- Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office uses the Daily Record for sample ballots, not the Omaha-World Herald.
- Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's budget does not have money in it for printing ballots in the North Omaha and South Omaha newspapers.
  - Mr. Phipps said if the County Board adds it to the Election Commissioner's budget, he can do it.
    - Commissioner Rodgers said it needs to be in the Election Commissioner's budget.
  - Commissioner Boyle said the last time he looked into it, it was around \$2,500 to print the ballot in The Omaha Star and \$1,700 to print the ballot in the primary Spanish newspaper.
    - Commissioner Rodgers said these publications have a shelf-life that is beyond a week, and people are going to look for them.
- Mr. Phipps said his term ends December 31, 2015, so the County Board will need to set the salaries for the Election Commissioner and the Deputy Election Commissioner 60 days prior to that date.
  - Regarding whether or not he'll be staying on, Mr. Phipps said he hasn't talked to the Governor yet, but plans on doing so this summer.
  - Mr. Phipps said he's been Election Commissioner since 2005.
- Mr. Phipps said special elections get billed 100%, so the County gets paid back for any money the Election Commissioner spends on those elections.
  - Mr. Phipps said the most recent special elections were all done by mail.
- Mr. Phipps said based on some recent comments, Secretary of State Gale might be coming around the idea of all mail ballots.
- Mr. Phipps said by printing ballots themselves, the Election Commissioner's office saves about \$75,000 per election.
- Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office is getting closer to the point where they could have a folding ballot machine.
  - Mr. Phipps said he's hoping by the next primary election.
- Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office is not planning on any mass changes with polling locations.
- Commissioner Boyle said the topography of polling place locations needs to be considered.
  - Commissioner Boyle said the polling place on 24<sup>th</sup> and Bancroft has a steep hill to the east of its location, which elderly people would have to walk up.
  - Commissioner Boyle said he'd like to have a discussion with Mr. Phipps outside of the Finance Committee.
- The reduction in the number of precincts in 2012 and voter turnout was discussed.
  - Mr. Phipps said the Election Commissioner's office increased the size of precincts in 2012, which reduced the number of precincts and therefore reduced the amount of polling places.

- Mr. Phipps said there around 226, 277 polling places today, down from over 300 prior to this move in 2012.
  - Mr. Phipps said polling places are used less as early voting is being used more.
  - Mr. Phipps said polling places were reduced to reduce costs.
    - Commissioner Cavanaugh said it's more important to have fair, accurate, and high turnout elections.
  - Mr. Phipps said from he has seen, this reduction has not affected voter turnout.
    - Mr. Phipps said it's tough to compare voter turnout when comparing a new precinct to the old precinct because the lines shifted, but in general it didn't seem to negatively impact voter turnout.
- Mr. Phipps left the meeting after this discussion.

Engineer / Bridge / County Road

- Engineer's current budget for 2014/15: \$215,162
- Engineer's budget target for 2015/16: \$218,286
- Engineer's budget request for 2015/16: \$218,286

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- Bridge's current budget for 2014/15: \$3,739,750
  - Bridge's budget request for 2015/16: \$4,968,250
  - Bridge's revenue budget for 2014/15: \$2,557,918
  - Bridge's projected revenue for 2015/16: \$3,040,020

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- County Road's current budget for 2014/15: \$32,056,151
  - County Road's budget request for 2015/16: \$42,443,564
  - County Road's revenue budget for 2014/15: \$27,873,051
  - County Road's projected revenue for 2015/16: \$37,732,092

Speaking during the budget discussions for the Engineer, Bridge, and County Road were Mr. McDonald, Mr. Lorenz, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Morgan, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Commissioner Rodgers, Mr. Bloomingdale, Ms. Albin, Commissioner Kraft, and Commissioner Duda. Mark Conrey of 911/Communications entered the meeting during these discussions, as well as Jeff Stevens of Nebraska Taxpayers for Freedom. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Mr. Lorenz said none of the County Road Fund or Bridge Fund comes from property taxes, it's mainly from gasoline excise tax and federal grants.
- Mr. Lorenz said the Engineer's budget covers the salary for the Engineer himself and some support.
  - Mr. Lorenz said on a net basis, there is no General Fund money used for the Engineer.
    - Mr. Lorenz said even though the Engineer's budget comes out of the General Fund, there is a transfer from the County Road Fund to the General Fund.

- Mr. Lorenz said the budgets for both County Road and Bridge are somewhat variable depending on the projects being done.
- Mr. McDonald said there will be a number of projects for County Road, the largest project being the widening of Q Street from 180<sup>th</sup> Street to 194<sup>th</sup> Street.
  - Mr. McDonald said this will be a two-year project.
  - Mr. McDonald said if a utility needs to be moved and it is in the right-of-way, then the County does not have to pay for it to be moved.
- Mr. McDonald said a lot of the County Road revenue increase isn't from the gas tax allocation, but rather it's from a fund controlled by the City of Omaha.
  - Mr. McDonald said this is called the ASIP Fund (Arterial Street Improvement Program).
  - Mr. McDonald said the fund is an agreement between the City, the County, and developers.
  - Mr. McDonald said a certain amount of all new development, all new building permits, and other related items goes into this fund, and it is used on County roads.
- Mr. McDonald said if the Legislature increases the gas tax, it won't have a lot of effect on the amount received by the County.
  - Commissioner Rodgers said most of that increase will go to the State.
- Mr. McDonald said there 90 positions with the Engineer and County Road.
  - Mr. McDonald said that amount has stayed the same over the last five years.
  - Mr. McDonald said about 77 of those 90 positions are union.
- Mr. McDonald said the Engineer only does snow removal in SIDs, it does not do any kind of repair work.
- Handouts were provided and reviewed during this discussion:
  - Mr. Lorenz provided a document with budget appropriation figures for the Engineer, Bridge, and County Road (see Attachment #5).
  - Mr. McDonald provided the following:
    - An organizational chart (see Attachment #6).
    - A five-year history of total expense and revenue for the Engineer's office (see Attachment #15).
    - Several handouts on the various funds and expense accounts associated with the Engineer (see Attachments #7 - #14).

#### Health Department

- Health Department's current budget for 2014/15:           \$12,864,211
- Health Department's budget request for 2015/16:       \$14,047,604

Speaking during the Health Department's budget discussion were Mr. Lorenz, Commissioner Rodgers, Commissioner Morgan, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Dr. Pour, Commissioner Duda, Commissioner Boyle, Mr. San Martin, Mr. Kelso, Commissioner Kraft, and Mr. Bloomingdale. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Mr. Lorenz said the Health Department budget is viewed from a net taxpayer contribution standpoint, as opposed to a pure expense budget.

- Mr. Lorenz said the Health Department receives a significant amount of revenue.
- Mr. Lorenz said the Health Department's 2015/16 budget request calls for a net taxpayer support increase of \$124,571, which is below the target set for them.
  - Dr. Pour said the target for the net taxpayer support increase was set at \$139,970.
- Dr. Pour said the Health Department's tax support has been close to flat over the last five years.
  - Dr. Pour said the Health Department's overall budget has increased due to grant support, but the tax support has not.
- Handouts were provided and reviewed during this discussion:
  - Mr. Lorenz provided a document with budget appropriation figures (see Attachment #16).
  - Dr. Pour provided the following:
    - A comparison between the 2014/15 and 2015/16 budgets (see Attachment #17).
    - A slideshow presentation on the 2015/16 proposed budget (see Attachment #18).
    - 2014 Action and Impact Report on the Community Health Improvement Plan (see Attachment #20).
    - A strategic plan for the Health Department (see Attachment #19).
      - Commissioner Cavanaugh said it's the most comprehensive strategic plan he's seen since he's been a Commissioner.
- Dr. Pour said in 2015/16 the Health Department will have cost increases in the following areas:
  - An increase of \$85,608 in DOT.Comm expenses.
    - Mr. Lorenz said DOT.Comm went to an activity-based costing model, and the increase in costs for the Health Department is based on that.
      - Mr. Lorenz said DOT.Comm expenses are flat County-wide, but the expenses are being allocated differently to the County departments.
  - An increase of \$35,000 for paper needed for Vital Statistics.
    - Dr. Pour said this is specific paper that has a security seal on it.
  - An increase of \$20,000 in costs associated with SPSS and SAS licenses.
    - Dr. Pour said previously the State had paid for the licenses, but now the County has to.
- Mr. Lorenz said the Health Department revenue comes from grants and fees generated.
  - Dr. Pour said grant revenue for 2015/16 will increase by \$350,388.
  - Dr. Pour said there will be an increase of \$341,440 in 2015/16 for fees generated, mainly due to increases in Vital Statistics records.
    - Mr. Kelso said the fees for copies of birth certificates and death certificates went up \$5.00 (per certificate).
      - Dr. Pour said the fee was increased by statute.
- Dr. Pour discussed some of the new grants received by the Health Department.
  - Dr. Pour said the "1422" grant was awarded to the Health Department from the State.
    - Dr. Pour said this is a grant where the Health Department will collaborate with General Assistance to see how the County can flag patients who come in and have issues with high blood pressure or high cholesterol, and then connect them to a pharmacy.

- Dr. Pour said this grant is \$1.5 million over three years.
  - Dr. Pour said the Health Department received the “Reach” grant.
    - Dr. Pour said with this grant, the Health Department is partnering with Creighton University and the Omaha Housing Authority (OHA) to see what can be done in regards to prevention in the OHA towers.
    - Dr. Pour said this grant is \$100,000 over three years.
  - Dr. Pour said the Health Department was able to increase the lead poisoning prevention grant by \$600,000.
  - Dr. Pour said the Health Department received a \$750,000 from Sherwood for adolescent health and STD treatment.
    - Dr. Pour said this grant was not reflected in the 2015/16 budget request.
      - Dr. Pour said this grant was just received.
    - Dr. Pour said this will provide after-hours testing in public libraries.
      - Dr. Pour said this will more than double the number of people being tested currently.
    - Dr. Pour said currently the grant is for one year, but Sherwood is saying they are dedicated long term.
      - Dr. Pour said the Health Department has specific goals that they have to meet on this grant.
    - Dr. Pour said this grant will involve the hiring of 6.25 FTEs.
      - Dr. Pour said these individuals know when they get hired that they are on a grant, and they will be laid off if the grant goes away.
- Mr. Kelso said for restaurant/food establishment inspection fees, the Health Department is looking to move towards a system that’s based on risk.
  - Mr. Kelso said in a risk-based system, a high risk establishment is going to pay more than a low risk establishment because it’s going to take the Health Department inspectors longer to inspect a high risk establishment.
    - Mr. Kelso said an example of a high risk establishment would be a full-service restaurant preparing food on-site, and an example of a low risk establishment would be a convenient store selling only packaged goods.
- Commissioner Boyle he thinks the County ought to consider asking Mayor Stothert for 0.01% of the restaurant tax to help support the ratings of restaurants and support the health and safety of the public.
  - Commissioner Boyle said a small part of that revenue for the City could be significant for the County.
  - Dr. Pour said the Health Department charges the restaurants for inspections, licenses, etc. because at one time the County Commissioners passed a resolution that said the entire program needs to be fee based.
    - Dr. Pour said this program has no tax support.
- Dr. Pour said violence and mental health is a huge issue in our community, but at this time there are no resources in the Health Department budget to address those issues.

- When asked how the Health Department would address these issues if it had the resources, Dr. Pour said the Health Department would play the role of bringing different entities together.
  - Dr. Pour said the Health Department is in a unique position in that it's a neutral table that people like to come around, so it's easier for the Health Department to make that collective impact.
  - Dr. Pour said to run an effective program, she thinks there would need to be somebody designated to running it, and one staff person or so would take about \$100,000.
    - Dr. Pour said this would mean somebody in the Health Department coordinating between all of the different agencies, organizations, and hospital systems.
- Dr. Pour said there is currently no grant funding available for this.
  - Dr. Pour said she is looking all the time for violence and mental health grants.
- Mr. McDonald left the meeting during this discussion.
- Dr. Pour and Mr. Kelso left the meeting after this discussion.

#### 911/Communications (911)

- 911's current budget for 2014/15: \$5,873,011
- 911's budget target for 2015/16: \$5,934,635
- 911's budget request for 2015/16: \$6,174,193

Speaking during 911's budget discussion were Mr. Lorenz, Mr. Conrey, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Mr. Bloomingdale, Ms. Cole, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Rodgers, and Commissioner Duda. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Mr. Lorenz said the City of Omaha reimburses the County for 85% of 911 expenses because much of what 911 does is handle events that occur within the City of Omaha.
  - Mr. Conrey said about 90% of the calls 911 receives is for the City of Omaha.
- Mr. Lorenz said the request over target is almost entirely because of a lease payment due to Motorola.
  - Mr. Conrey said 911 was in a situation where some of its equipment was at end of life, and 911 needed new equipment.
    - Mr. Conrey said 911 had to buy new radio consoles, a new recorder, and some other upgrades.
  - Mr. Conrey said there was about \$1.5 million worth of equipment 911 needed to buy.
    - Mr. Conrey said these purchases were going to be part of the bond issue, but the bond issue didn't receive voter approval in November 2014.
  - Mr. Conrey said Motorola gave 911 a lease-purchase agreement over a five-to-six year period.
    - Mr. Conrey said 911 didn't have to pay anything the first year of the lease (which occurred this budget year), but roughly \$235,000 is due during the 2015/16 budget year.
    - Mr. Conrey said he's hoping 911 only has to do that once because if the bond issue will pass in 2016, then 911 will be able to pay it all off.

- Commissioner Boyle said there are public buildings being built around Nebraska that are being constructed without the vote of the people, coming out of general fund property taxes.
  - Commissioner Boyle said it's not popular, but if the bond issues fails, he'd like to put on the table the idea of making expenditures out of general fund dollars on the needs of 911.
- Handouts were provided and reviewed during this discussion:
  - Mr. Lorenz provided a handout with budget appropriation figures (see Attachment #21)
  - Mr. Conrey provided a slideshow presentation on the 2015/16 budget (see Attachment #22) and the 911 budget requirements for the City of Omaha and Douglas County (see Attachment #23).
- Mr. Conrey said revenue from the Wireline Surcharge will decrease by \$350,000 in 2015/16.
  - Mr. Lorenz said it will go from \$1,350,000 in 2014/15 to \$1,000,000 in 2015/16.
  - Mr. Lorenz said the County gets \$0.50/line with the traditional landline surcharge.
    - Mr. Lorenz said the number of landlines keeps going down as things become more mobile and digital.
  - Mr. Lorenz said one would think there would be corresponding growth in the wireless lines, but the County doesn't get \$0.50/wireless line because that revenue is governed and dictated by the Public Service Commission (PSC).
    - Mr. Lorenz said the PSC has been keeping a greater share of that money, and giving less to the County.
- Mr. Conrey said 911 has 76 positions, and it's been that way for the last five years.
  - Mr. Conrey said 911 has not filled an operator position or four dispatcher positions in order to meet budget requirements.
- Mr. Conrey said the 911 call volume decreased about seven years ago, but since then the volume has stayed the same.
  - Mr. Conrey said 911 handles around 65,000 telephone transactions per month (750,000/year).
  - Mr. Conrey said even though serious crime has gone down, there are more vehicle accidents and more domestic calls.
  - Mr. Conrey said Omaha Police don't have enough officers on the street to respond to some of the calls, so 911 sometimes receives multiple calls on the same incident.
- Mr. Conrey said he thinks the move to Next Generation 911 will happen sometime in the next three or four years.
  - Mr. Conrey said it will take longer to process a call under Next Generation 911 because there will be a lot of data that will come in with the phone call.
  - Mr. Conrey said more money will be needed for this.
- Mark Foxall, Roland Hamann, John Hubbard, and Amber Michalski of Corrections entered the meeting during this discussion.
- Mr. Conrey left the meeting after this discussion

The meeting recessed at 12:40 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 12:56 p.m.

#### Corrections

- Corrections' current budget for 2014/15: \$34,615,294
- Corrections' budget target for 2015/16: \$34,584,690
- Corrections' budget request for 2015/16: \$34,764,314

Speaking during the budget discussion for Corrections were Mr. Lorenz, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Dr. Foxall, Ms. Michalski, Commissioner Rodgers, Commissioner Boyle, Commissioner Duda, Ms. Carlson, Commissioner Morgan, Mr. Hubbard, Mr. Bloomingdale, Commissioner Kraft, and Mr. Hamann.

Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Handouts were provided and reviewed during this discussion:
  - Mr. Lorenz provided a document with budget appropriation figures (see Attachment #24).
  - Dr. Foxall provided a slideshow presentation on the 2015/16 budget (see Attachment #25).
- Dr. Foxall said the cost of doing business in Corrections continues to go up as contracts increase and salaries increase.
- Dr. Foxall said Corrections has worked very hard to decrease the average daily jail population.
  - Dr. Foxall said the average daily population in 2014 was 1,086, compared to an average daily population of 1,165 in 2011.
    - When asked if there is a correlation between the decreased crime rate and the average daily jail population, Dr. Foxall said he can't give a simple answer to that question.
      - Dr. Foxall said one would need to take into consideration many variances, like enforcement practices by law enforcement, staffing levels of law enforcement, and what is happening on the bench.
- Dr. Foxall said although the average daily population has decreased, the dangerousness of the people coming in has gone up.
  - Dr. Foxall said in addition to people who are just plain violent, the people with mental illnesses are coming in more unstable and violent.
  - Dr. Foxall said he's seen more change in Corrections' inmate population in the last five years than he has in the previous 15 years.
    - Dr. Foxall said there are more violent individuals, more mentally ill individuals, and more individuals with gang ties.
- Dr. Foxall said Corrections is asking to increase its correctional officer staff by 8.
  - Dr. Foxall said in addition to the increased dangerousness of the inmate population, he'd also like to add more correctional officers because of the following reasons:
    - Dr. Foxall said he would like to have more uniform presence in the lobby at 1709 Jackson St.
      - Dr. Foxall said there are a lot more people coming into that building as Community Corrections expands.
    - Dr. Foxall said there is a rising female population.
      - Dr. Foxall said as of 5/5/2015, there were 136 females in Corrections.

- Dr. Foxall said Corrections would like to add a paralegal to its support staff.
  - Dr. Foxall said this paralegal would work with the judges in effort to get more people on pre-trial release, which would free up bed space on the secure side of the facility.
  - Dr. Foxall said this would collapse some part-time positions and make a full-time position.
- Dr. Foxall said Lancaster County Jail has a State Probation officer whose responsibility is defined to the Lancaster County Jail.
  - Dr. Foxall said this Probation officer would help decrease the average length of stay of PSIs (Pre-Sentencing Investigations).
  - Dr. Foxall said if Douglas County Corrections had a Probation officer dedicated to them, he thinks that would open up bed space.
    - Dr. Foxall said some PSIs take up 60 to 90 days.
  - Dr. Foxall said he thinks it would take about \$75,000 to have a Probation officer dedicated to Corrections.
    - Dr. Foxall said he did not include this in the 2015/16 budget.
      - Commissioner Boyle said he'd like to see this included in the 2015/16 budget.
- Dr. Foxall reviewed some of Corrections key contracts, including a contract with medical provider Correct Care Solutions for \$5,237,674.
  - Commissioner Cavanaugh said he'd like to see a breakout of that contract.
  - Dr. Foxall said there are two doctors, an M.D. and a psych doctor.
- Mr. Lorenz said Corrections' revenue for 2015/16 is projected to be flat.
- Dr. Foxall said the FCC is getting ready to promulgate rules on intrastate inmate calling, which will likely kill Corrections' commission to the tune of \$600,000.
  - Dr. Foxall said he didn't take that out of the 2015/16 budget because he's hearing that the FCC is going to phase in adherence to their new rule since it will have a dramatic impact on many jails.
  - Dr. Foxall said Corrections has already lost revenue from an FCC ruling on interstate inmate calls.
- Dr. Foxall and Mr. Hamann said the State does not reimburse Corrections.
  - Mr. Hamann said when Corrections was getting reimbursed by the State, it was at a rate of \$35 per inmate per day, which came to an average of about \$240,000/month (\$3,000,000/year).
  - Dr. Foxall said at first the State just stopped paying, then the law was changed.
    - Commissioner Cavanaugh said he'd like to see what the law said before it was changed.
    - Commissioner Cavanaugh said with a new Governor, new Director of State Corrections, and new members in the Legislature, the County should start making its case again.
- Dr. Foxall said he doesn't have any recidivism numbers currently, but there will be an evaluation component to a contract Corrections has with the University of Nebraska-Omaha that will bring about recidivism numbers.
  - Dr. Foxall said Corrections has requested \$35,000 in its budget for this contract, but it may be higher than that.
- Dr. Foxall said Corrections has 392 staff, down from 438 staff in 2010.

- Dr. Foxall said co-conspirators cannot be placed in the same housing unit.
- Dr. Foxall said he believes Jail TV will be at Corrections by the end of the summer.
  - Dr. Foxall said this will involve a second TV in the housing units, and educational programming will be run through that second TV.
- Dr. Foxall said there is an overrepresentation of minorities in Corrections, as well as an overrepresentation of poor people in Corrections.
- Dr. Foxall said heroin abuse has increased dramatically in other Midwest communities, and it will make its way to Omaha.
- Commissioners Rodgers, Morgan and Boyle left (separately) during this discussion.

## 1. Budget Update

Item 1 was taken up after Item 2. Speaking during this item were Mr. Lorenz, Commissioner Cavanaugh, Commissioner Duda, Ms. Carlson, Commissioner Kraft, and Mr. Bloomingdale. Highlights from the discussion included the following:

- Mr. Lorenz reviewed a handout that listed the departments who submitted 2015/16 budget requests that were at least \$25,000 over target, as well departments with decreased revenue projections for 2015/16 (see Attachment #26).
  - Juvenile Court: \$2,383,085 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said the Juvenile Court increase is driven by Guardian Ad Litem (GAL) costs.
    - In regards to making changes to GAL costs, Mr. Bloomingdale said the County Board could either have GALs in-house or do an RFP for another contract.
      - Mr. Bloomingdale said he thinks in-house option would be better than doing another contract.
        - ❖ Mr. Bloomingdale said by doing it in-house, the department director would report to the County Board.
      - Mr. Lorenz said Commissioner Borgeson wants to have GAL options as an item for discussion at the next HR Committee meeting.
    - The Juvenile Court's 2015/16 budget presentation was held on April 28, 2015.
  - Employee Fringe Benefits: \$1,600,000 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said medical claims are increasing at about 8% - 9%.
  - Assessor/ROD: \$253,197 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said Assessor/Register of Deeds Battiatto would elaborate more on this request during an upcoming Finance Committee meeting.
  - 911/Communications: \$239,558 over target
  - Corrections: \$179,624 over target
  - County Attorney: \$155,249 over target
    - The County Attorney's 2015/16 budget presentation was held on April 14, 2015.
  - JAC: \$136,714 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said this amount will be 100% offset by grant revenue to the JAC.

- The JAC's 2015/16 budget presentation was held on March 24, 2015.
  - District Court: \$115,662 over target
    - The District Court's 2015/16 budget presentation was held on April 28, 2015.
  - Youth Center: \$108,049 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said this amount will be 100% offset by grant revenue to the Youth Center.
    - The Youth Center's 2015/16 budget presentation is scheduled for later in May.
  - Public Property: \$93,804 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said this increase is related to increased costs in rent and utilities.
    - Public Property's 2015/16 budget presentation was held on March 10, 2015.
  - Sheriff: \$87,872 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said the Sheriff being over target is for an additional two positions at the Hall of Justice since restraints on juveniles are no longer allowed due to LB 482.
    - Mr. Bloomingdale said Sheriff Dunning forwarded to him an e-mail from Judge Crnkovich that said Juvenile Court needs more security because of the change in law.
    - The Sheriff's budget presentation was held on April 21, 2015.
  - GIS: \$78,157 over target
    - The 2015/16 budget presentation for GIS was held on April 21, 2015.
  - Outside Office Expense: \$62,000 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said this increase is related to increased costs in rent and utilities.
  - Capital Improvement: \$35,000 over target
    - Capital Improvement's 2015/16 budget presentation was held on March 10, 2015.
  - Clerk/Comptroller: \$26,354 over target
    - Mr. Lorenz said the Clerk/Comptroller being over target is primarily due to some employees retiring in the office and the Clerk/Comptroller would like to run some positions parallel as a training mechanism until the people retire.
    - The Clerk/Comptroller's 2015/16 budget presentation is scheduled for later in May.
- Mr. Lorenz said revenue for the Treasurer, Clerk of the District Court, and the Assessor/Register of Deeds will decrease in 2015/16.
  - Mr. Lorenz said the Treasurer is expecting a decrease of \$670,000 due to the Supreme Court ruling regarding SIDs and the commissions the Treasurer can collect.
  - Mr. Lorenz said the Clerk of the District Court is expecting a decrease of \$66,290 due to less Title IV money coming in.
  - Mr. Lorenz said the Assessor/Register of Deeds is expecting a decrease of \$32,500 because real estate transactions are down.
- Mr. Lorenz said total revenue projected for 2015/16 is up almost \$11 million, but total requested expenses are up almost \$16 million.
  - Mr. Lorenz said the net deficit is \$5,061,360.
    - Mr. Lorenz said funding a deficit of \$5.061 million from a property tax hike would require an increase of approximately 2.5 cents to the tax levy in 2015/16.

- Mr. Lorenz said two years ago there was a \$5 million issue like this, and it was cut to a deficit of \$3 million, which resulted in a 1.6 cent increase to the tax levy.
- Mr. Lorenz said the increase in property values is factored in to the revenue, but it's risky because a lot of the property value increases are coming from commercial properties.
  - Mr. Lorenz said he expects many of those values will be protested.
- Dr. Foxall, Mr. Hamann, Mr. Hubbard, and Ms. Michalski left the meeting during this item.

### **3. Other Business.**

There was no other business.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.