

## BUDGET WORK SESSION MINUTES

June 22, 2009

1:00 p.m.

Oval Office

PRESENT: Commissioners Leslie Lewis, Kathy George, and Mary P. Stern.

Staff: Laura Tschabold, John Krawczyk, Jack Crabtree, Ken Summers, and Murray Paolo.

Guests: None.

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Leslie called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Air Support - Leslie stated that, despite Murray's best efforts, the Air Support program is facing a budget deficit. She explained that the county doesn't get much paying utilization of the program because most agencies in the county are financially strapped, and even if there was some paying utilization, it probably wouldn't be enough to run the program.

She stated that there are two options to consider: selling the equipment, the options for which are limited because it would have to be sold to the public sector, and exploring some sort of regional program involving other counties. Mary said that selling the equipment isn't a good option because of the limitations and the current economy, but an appraisal of the equipment is important to have for either option. The Board agreed to have Laura and Murray work out the details of getting a physical inventory and appraisal of all equipment associated with the air program as the first step. Laura agreed to check with OEM regarding the restrictions on sale of the equipment and to work on a request for quotes for the appraisal.

Jack agreed that selling off the equipment would not be a good idea. He stated that he has had some discussions with other sheriffs and there is strong interest in a regional program, but nothing has come about yet. He stated that the county needs to do its homework and agree on a plan for what it wants, then approach the other sheriffs with that as a starting point. Ken stated that the other sheriffs have made it clear that they want Jack to be involved in these discussions, not just county administrators. Kathy stated that it would be helpful when crafting a plan to have some idea of what the other counties might be able to fit into their budgets and whether it is the sheriffs or their commissioners that need to approve the agreements. Jack stated that the regional program could be managed either by Yamhill County or at a higher level. He said that the only thing he wants to get out of it is access to the aircraft at a reasonable cost, preferably free.

John agreed with a suggestion made previously by Leslie to have the regional program take over Aircraft #2, which is very close to being operational, use it for five years, and then return it to the county to be sold. Leslie added that after the five-year period, the regional program could have Aircraft #3, which the county hasn't done any work on yet, and get it running. She said that she would like to sell Aircraft #1 if possible to get the cash out of it and have a bigger entity manage #2. She said that if the county can't sell #1, the county should get

free access to it as a regional asset because it was developed with county money and Murray's time.

John stated that a decision that needs to be made for the immediate future as to who should be designated as the custodian of the helicopter to make decisions regarding requests for its use. Leslie stated that the sheriff should make those decisions, but the county would have to be paid an hourly rate for flight time from county departments as well as from outside agencies. After some discussion, the Board agreed to charge \$500/hour for outside agencies and \$300/hour for internal departments, both of which would include pilot time.

Murray stated that moving oversight of the air program to the Sheriff's Office would enhance the county's ability to work with other agencies. He said that he has already received a proposal from Washington County for a regional program and they have money to bring to the table, but they clearly want it to be a partnership with the Sheriff's Office. Leslie stated that Jack and Laura would certainly be involved in discussions, but the program is not under the Sheriff's Office at this time. Kathy added that Jack has already been functioning as the call-out contact for the helicopters and there isn't any reason to make a change until the future of the program is decided.

Kathy, Mary, and John agreed that the county should continue paying for liability insurance and workers compensation to keep the program going for now. Leslie stated that the program should be grounded. John stated that the insurance would be paid from the county's self-insurance fund. Kathy and Mary agreed to go ahead with a memorandum of understanding between the county and McMinnville Water & Light for emergency use of the helicopter and an agreement with the City of McMinnville for three hours of flight time per fiscal year.

SB1145 Funds - John stated that the county will likely lose over \$250,000 in 1145 funds this fiscal year, which would affect the Jail and Community Corrections. He said that Barbara Paladeni and Jack will attend Wednesday's budget meeting to present their plans. He stated that the county has to go with the best information available and delay budget adoption as long as possible. He said that this information needs to be presented to the Budget Committee.

Video Lottery - John stated that \$75,000 needs to be cut from the video lottery budget. Leslie said that the \$40,000 for Tonya Saunders' position should be shifted over to the Transit budget as a permanent change. Mary pointed out that with Tonya involved so heavily in transit, the county has no grant support position. She stated that Laura needs at least a part-time assistant to help with grants and other projects.

John stated that the Oregon State Marine Board is allocating less money to the Sheriff's Office this year and expecting more work. He suggested telling OSMB that the county will no longer do the work and see if they come up with any more money. Jack advised against pushing them any further than the county already has. He said that safety on the river falls within the county's area of responsibility. Leslie suggested that Yamhill County and other counties approach OSMB jointly to propose that counties be allowed to charge higher launch fees without losing OSMB revenue.

Leslie stated that she hasn't been able to talk to Al Westhoff, but the Fair may be able to cut \$10,000. John agreed to take another look at the figures for the current year to see if the ending balance may be higher than projected.

John stated that the Budget Committee's suggestion to cut all county departments off of video lottery revenue next year is not feasible. Mary agreed that it would take more than one year. Leslie stated that the county ought to look at getting Marine Patrol off video lottery in better economic times. Kathy stated that the county should not be responsible for contributing to the McMinnville Downtown Association. Leslie said that the Board may need to develop some policy for how to allocate video lottery funds once the internal departments are weaned off. Mary stated that the Board needs to have another discussion about a room tax. She said that it is foolish in this economic climate to leave money on the table.

John noted that additional budget items for HHS, the Assessor's Office, and Juvenile would be discussed at Wednesday's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Anne Britt  
Secretary