



***In the County Court of the State of Oregon for Harney County  
Minutes of the Budget Committee (FY 20-21)***

***April 20, 2020***

The Harney County Budget Committee convened April 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m., in the Foyer of the Harney County Courthouse, to continue deliberations on the 2020-2021 Harney County Budget.

Members present were Judge/Budget Officer Pete Runnels, Commissioner Patty Dorroh, Commissioner Kristen Shelman, Committeepersons Terri Hellbusch, Holly Smith and Rick Paul. Also attending were Deanna Atwell, Human Resources; County Clerk Derrin Robinson and County Treasurer Bobbi Jo Heany.

Chair Hellbusch called the meeting to Order.

Commissioner Dorroh asked about public meeting law. Judge Runnels explained the meeting meets public meeting law, as video and minutes will be posted as soon as practicable after the meeting.

Commissioner Shelman commented that businesses are hit hard, and wants to ensure employees aren't setting better than the business owners and to ensure raises are not provided. Judge Runnels explained there are no salary increases in this budget. He said there may be longevity included in the line item, but all can be rescinded except for union contracted employees.

D. Atwell explained the salary matrix. Judge Runnels explained the longevity. It amounts to 5.00 per month, for employees longer than 5 years. It was set by resolution years ago. Clerk Robinson will provide a copy of the Order.

The Audit has not yet been completed, and a brief discussion ensued regarding the situation.

The following Funds and/or Department proposed budgets were reviewed:

**101-005-District Attorney**

Items mentioned: Increase in Medical Examiner Cost. H. Smith asked how we can forecast the final 3 months of the budget. Judge Runnels explained the General Fund is currently at currently at 63% of budgeted expenditures. Motion by Smith, second by Dorroh to tentatively approve 101-05. Motion carried.

### **101-001 and 101-013 Sheriff and Jail**

Items mentioned: Sheriff Dan Jenkins explained restructure of one Road Deputy position to the Jail, back filled 3 full time jail positions at lower salary grades, and saving patrol dollars in Sheriff's office. Transferred BLM Deputy to separate Fund 220, as it is a contract funded position. Commissioner Shelman asked about buy back and early retirements. Commissioner Dorroh asked about the overtime grant being zero. Sheriff Jenkins said it was ODOT speed grant, no longer available. Sheriff has and will continue to apply for various grants. Rick Paul asked the Sheriff what changes administratively he has made since appointment that will reflect expense or revenue in the agency. He explained changes in staffing arrangements. Commissioner Dorroh asked about the lack of budgeted Revenue. Sgt. Ellis explained lack of complete policy manual, and staff deficiencies. She has worked with counsel to ensure we aren't garnering any unnecessary liability. Commissioner Dorroh asked if we can check with other jails and see what they have done, and not reinvent the wheel? Are these revenue lines unrealistic? Ellis suggests eliminating the Prisoner Reimbursement line, as it likely will not be collected. She felt Contract Beds could be increased, because it has been higher than budgeted, and believes it will continue. She believes inmate medical fees will be accurate once the policy is finalized. The Budget Committee was concerned in various salary line increases, and wants to ensure they are correct. Commissioner Shelman asked about cross training for jail and patrol. Sheriff Jenkins said there is some but training certifications make it difficult. Motion by Dorroh, second by Paul to tentative approve 101-001 and 101-013. Motion carried.

### **101-007 County Court**

Items mentioned: Discussion ensued about increases in county counsel. Commissioner Dorroh asked why there is a proposed increase. Judge Runnels stated due to comments made last year, an increased cost is expected. Commissioner Dorroh stated she believes it needs to be advertised. County Clerk Robinson expressed concern about the need for in-house counsel, and the value of that. He explained County Department Heads and Elected Officials rely on county counsel far more frequently that you know. Commissioner Shelman stated she would like to see it go back to the District Attorney providing counsel. County Clerk Robinson again, expressed it will not be priority to the District Attorney. Commissioner Dorroh wanted to review what items were budgeted in County Court that could or should be from a different fund or department. Judge Runnels stated he has done that, and moved those to the appropriate Fund or Department. Motion by Dorroh, Second by Runnels to tentatively approve 101-007. Motion carried.

### **252- Fair and 326- Fairgrounds Reserve**

Items mentioned: Fair Manager Jordon Bennett reviewed his restructure of the fair budget to Fairgrounds Operations, Fair Operations, Fairgrounds Memorial, Fair Stock Sale, and 326-Fairgrounds Reserve. Jordan Bennett, Fair Manage explained the budget restructure and asks for an additional \$60,000 contribution to the fair fund. Discussion ensued regarding funding sources. The Committee discussed the effects of changing the date of the horse races July 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020, separating the event from the Fair. Committee by consensus agreed to hold on this budget for corrected versions of the budget sheets.

**101-008 Juvenile**

Items mentioned: Reviewed and lowered jail assessment. Holly Smith asked for in the future, a better job of disclosing position changes. She said this was a blindside, as the committee was told last year there would be a cost savings in the retirement of the previous Director and it was not. The Committee was led to believe there would be savings in FTE. Motion by Dorroh, second by Paul to tentatively approve. Motion carried.

**101-009 Facilities Maintenance**

Items mentioned: All janitorial for all departments has been brought into this department, and organized as such. Motion by Dorroh Second by Paul to tentatively approve. Motion carried.

**101-010 Justice Court**

Items mentioned: Committee lowered projected revenue for Fines /Fees to \$150, 000. Committee raised concerns over the Justice of the Peace being paid more than the rest of the Elected Officials since the office is not open 5 days a week. The committee eliminated the budgeted clerical position. Commissioner Dorroh expressed concerns of not servicing the public, in the regard necessary, by not holding 5-day-a-week office hours. Motion by Dorroh, second by Paul to tentatively approve as adjusted. Motion carried.

Holly Smith moved longevity in this year's budget be removed for a 1-year hiatus, including Union contracted employees if contract allow it. Commissioner Shelman seconded. Motion carried.

Commissioner Dorroh asked that adjustments be made to back-pay the furloughed workers from last year.

The committee recessed at 1:06 p.m. until April 29<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m.



Derrin Robinson  
Harney County Clerk