

Lane County Budget Committee
Thursday, May 14, 2020
2:00pm – Virtual Meeting

Budget Committee members present: Chair, Herb Vloedman, citizen members: Larry Abel, Chris Hazen, Dawn Lesley, Dale Stoneburg, and Lane County Commissioners: Joe Berney, Jay Bozievich, Heather Buch, Pat Farr and Pete Sorenson

Staff Present: Lane County Administrator, Steve Mokrohisky, Budget and Financial Planning Manager, Christine Moody, Budget Staff, Jill Allen, Tawnya Ellis, Joe Szelesta

Presenting were:

For Board of County Commissioners and Performance Auditor, Budget & Financial Planning Manager, Christine Moody

For FY 20-21 challenges and opportunities, County Administrator, Steve Mokrohisky; Health & Human Services Director, Karen Gaffney; Behavioral Health Manager, Pauline Martin; Human Services Division Manager, Steve Manela; Joint Housing/Shelter Strategist, Sarai Johnson; Budget & Financial Planning Manager, Christine Moody

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Chair Vloedman called the meeting to order at 2:01pm.

II. COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Dale Stoneburg shared a potential conflict of interest as he does some contract work with the Sheriff's office.

III. BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS / PERFORMANCE AUDITOR

Christine Moody, Budget & Financial Planning Manager, presented the following slides and discussions:

- Board of County Commissioners overview. 5 FTE with FY 20-21 resources \$877,569 and expenses \$954,608.
- County Performance Auditor overview. 1 FTE with FY 20-21 resources \$159,646 and expenses \$180,969. This position is currently vacant.
- FY 20-21 resources for County Commissioners and Performance Auditor.
- FY 20-21 expenditures for County Commissioners and Performance Auditor.
- Highlights of FY 19-20.
- Ms. Moody shared how the Board of County Commissioners and the Performance Auditor fulfill the Lane County Strategic Plan.

QUESTIONS were opened for Board of County Commissioners and Performance Auditor.

Larry Abel asked when and why the Performance Auditor left.

Mr. Mokrohisky reported the Performance Auditor left in October of 2019.

Ms. Moody shared he went on to a different opportunity.

Chris Hazen asked about bond rating increase benefits and sharing with the public.

Ms. Moody reported the benefit when taking on new debt or refinancing.

Mr. Mokrohisky shared high bond rating lowers cost to the tax payer and is a reflection of the financial management of a company.

Discussions were held about bond rating in regards to resources.

Chair Vloedman asked if there is anything in the proposed budget document that could affect Moody's bond rating for Lane County.

Mr. Mokrohisky shared that he doesn't believe so. Lane County is at or exceeding funds for reserves.

Ms. Moody shared being structurally balanced keeps Lane County more stable.

Commissioner Sorenson asked about the ability to decrease expenditures when revenue drops.

Ms. Moody shared the budget doesn't have to change to change the habit of spending. Each department will be watching their funds and working with the budget office.

IV. FY 20-21 CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES

Karen Gaffney, Health and Human Services Director, presented the following slides and discussions:

- Behavioral Crisis Center overview sharing challenges and next steps.
- Comprehensive Crisis System overview.
- Behavioral Crisis Center plans update.

Steve Manela, Human Services Division Manager, presented the following slides and discussions:

- Navigation Center / Shelter initiative overview, current state and desired outcomes.
- Navigation Center / Shelter strategies noting partnerships and challenges for next steps.
- Rapid Resolution overview noting strategies and desired outcomes.
- Rapid Resolution partnerships and challenges for next steps.

Sarai Johnson, Joint Housing/Shelter Strategist, presented the following slides and discussions:

- Homeless Systems Transformation overview noting position needs.
- Overall homeless response noting desired outcomes, strategies, partnerships, challenges and next steps.

QUESTIONS were opened for FY 20-21 challenges and opportunities.

Larry Abel shared his disappointment in Lane County's implementation of the TAC report.

Steve Manela shared the purchase of the 1st Avenue building for the Navigation Center after COVID-19. Mr. Manela also referred the committee to the reported fiscal support for the TAC implementation.

Mr. Mokrohisky shared Lane County is still in year one of the TAC report implementation and permanent supportive housing exceeds what is suggested in the TAC. He shared Lane County has acquired a site for the Navigation Center, and hired a strategist position. Mr. Mokrohisky reported Lane County is either at or exceeding the first year for the TAC implementation.

Larry Abel shared encouragement on progress for the TAC implementation.

Commissioner Farr shared the TAC report was performed by an outside source that shared information the County already knew in his experience the past year has moved faster than he has seen.

Chris Hazen asked about benchmark cities comparable to Lane County for innovative and cost effective solutions.

Sarai Johnson shared our communities problem is having enough housing units that are affordable and shared options for solutions. Ms. Johnson reported Salem is most comparable city but they are not moving ahead of us.

Commissioner Sorenson asked for data metrics on current shelter types and the impact in numbers of how much will be met during this FY.

Sarai Johnson shared she would send a written response of current data and projections.

Commissioner Sorenson asked about the timeframe for transition of the 1st Avenue building from COVID-19 to the Navigation Shelter.

Sarai Johnson shared the County is ready to move quickly and believes people can move in and the transition can happen in phases due to the layout of the building.

Dawn Lesley asked what it would take to turn the 1st Avenue building into a long term sound structure.

Karen Gaffney shared the due diligence done before acquiring the building. She reported that due to acquiring the building for COVID -19 the County was able to use the Army Core of Engineers.

Sarai Johnson shared the building has steel walls that are non-load bearing and can be reconfigured easily.

Commissioner Berney referenced the structurally balanced budget and hopes it encourages the use of community resources and Lane County community working together as a whole during COVID-19.

Christine Moody, Budget and Financial Planning Manager presented the following slides and discussions:

- Revenue and expenditure impacts from COVID-19 noting; video lottery, Transient Room Tax, Car Rental Tax, Land Management permits and fees, Road fund gas tax, Waste Management fees. Ms. Moody showed concern about state revenues increasing both countywide and department specific in the proposed document, this will be looked into and findings will be shared with the committee.

QUESTIONS were opened for COVID-19 revenue and expenditure impacts.

Commissioner Sorenson asked if the Budget Committee will need to make adjustments to budget as presented due to COVID-19.

Ms. Moody shared Public Works will have a gas tax adjustment and some departments will hold vacancies.

Ms. Moody shared the state economic forecast comes out next Wednesday which could highlight areas to deal with during supplemental budget #1.

Commissioner Berney asked if the state economic forecast defines constraints for the Lane County budget.

Mr. Mokrohisky shared Lane County will have a better understanding of how the State will handle their budget after the forecast is released which in turn will help Lane County.

Commissioner Farr shared his recollection of the infrequency of the economic forecast triggering executive sessions to cut services.

Commissioner Sorenson shared an overview of the State budget process.

V. COMMITTEE BUSINESS / PRE-DELIVERATION DISCUSSION

Christine Moody presented a historical budget committee deliberation process. Ms. Moody requested individual budget committee proposals be turned in by 5:00pm on May 19th.

Chris Hazen asked about public comment on Association of Oregon and California Counties and the deadline for committee questions to be answered.

Ms. Moody shared departments were given until May 19th to answer questions. Ms. Moody shared the Association of Oregon and California Counties dues were removed during the FY19-20 budget. The committee as a whole would need to decide how to handle public comment response.

Dale Stoneburg asked for an update of tracking of SRS funds.

Ms. Moody reported she would reach out to Public Works.

Dale Stoneburg asked about budget preparation of known issues.

Ms. Moody shared known issues are reported in the proposed budget document.

Chair Vloedman asked about known issues and technical issues.

Ms. Moody said all could be listed on known issues due to COVID-19 adjustments.

Discussions were held on the deliberation process.

Discussions were held on adding FTE's and funding sources.

Chris Hazen asked about reporting the budget to the community and motioned for a communication pathway discussion during the deliberation process.

Commissioner Sorenson 2nds the motion and adds to differ the motion until next meeting so staff can describe how the public release of the budget happens.

Dawn Lesley shared her concern of heavy lift of the motion due to time constraints.

Commissioner Sorenson clarified his differ on the motion.

Chris Hazen restated the motion for the budget committee to add a discussion to the deliberation process of key messages of the budget and how they are brought back to the community.

Commissioner Sorenson 2nds the motion.

Commissioner Buch refers the committee to the budget message and is unclear how the message differs from the motion.

Dale Stoneburg refers the committee to the dashboard as a means for getting information to the community.

Vote was taken and motion fails.

Next meeting is 5:30pm on Thursday May 21st.

VI. ADJOURN

Committee Chair Vloedman adjourned the meeting. 4:43pm.

*Note: A webcast (the “official” record of the meeting’s events) is available at:
https://lanecounty.org/how_do_i/view/webcasts*