

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

MONDAY

2:15 p.m.

May 15, 2000

PRESENT:

Ted F. Short, Chairman
Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman
Joanne Bond, Commissioner
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Pauline Reese, Deputy County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the pledge of allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Deputy Clerk called the roll, and the Board conducted the following business:

AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Shaw, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the agenda for the May 15, 2000, meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no response to the call for public comment.

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The Board had earlier convened as the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District at their scheduled public hearing time, and the proceedings are incorporated herein.

00-392 BUDGET – SIERRA FOREST FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT – FISCAL YEAR 2000/2001

1:30 p.m. This time was set in a Notice of Public Hearing published in the Reno Gazette Journal on May 5, 2000, to provide for public comment in the consideration of the adoption of the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District final 2000/2001 fiscal year budget.

Richard E. Harvey, Fire Chief of the District, advised that this is basically the same budget presented at a workshop during the Board’s Caucus meeting on April 17, 2000. He advised that the State reserve went up \$740 as the reserves were recalculated based on the expenditure patterns for this year and this extra amount was found which will be available to start next year.

Chief Harvey advised that the second item is the proposed 4-cents tax adjustment reflecting \$209,000 to cover an increase in the level of service from intermediate life

support to advanced life support at the engine station in Washoe Valley. At the Fire Board's direction, they have had several meetings with citizen advisory boards and several agencies, e.g. REMSA, the District Health Department, on the proposed move from ILS to ALS. They have also met with the Washoe Valley Citizen Advisory Board (CAB), the Galena CAB, and the Verdi CAB. He said that at the Verdi meeting a slight problem occurred because this was not agendized properly to allow action. The assurance is that it will be favorable when they can proceed. He advised that the scheduling did not allow their attendance at the Cold Springs/Peavine area CAB and the Southwest Truckee Meadows CAB, which only includes a portion of the District.

He then addressed the move from ILS to ALS and delineated the areas that would benefit from this, mentioning the freeways and some ski areas.

Chairman Short opened the public hearing. Jim Gubbells, Vice President, Regional Emergency Medical Service Authority (REMSA), stated that they have met with the Fire Chief and discussed this proposal. He explained that he believes it does make sense to increase the level of service in Washoe Valley. He advised that one concern was consistent medical direction for ALS providers both locally and in Washoe Valley, and that is in progress. The other concern, he noted, was on the skill level because of the low volume of calls; therefore, an effort must be expended to make sure that an individual paramedic will keep his skill levels up. One remedy, he cited, was to have that person work part time at REMSA where there is a greater exposure to calls. He then addressed questions concerning response time.

James Allen, M.D., an emergency room physician at St. Mary's Hospital representing REMSA and Incline Fire, spoke in support of the move from ILS to ALS. He noted this to be an area that is difficult to cover for them with increased traffic and increased population, and ALS will be beneficial to that area.

In response to Chairman Short, Chief Harvey, explained the arrangement for retaining supplies and training paramedics, and the adequacy of equipment in response to Commissioner Bond. The Chairman then closed the public hearing.

Following discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the final budget of the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District for fiscal year 2000/2001 be approved. It was further ordered that submission to the Department of Taxation be authorized following execution by all members of the Board.

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00-393 **BUDGET – WASHOE COUNTY – FISCAL YEAR 2000/2001**

2:15 p.m. This time was set in a Notice of Public Hearing published in the Reno Gazette Journal on May 5, 2000, to provide for public comment in the consideration of the adoption of the Washoe County final 2000/2001 fiscal year budget. Proof was made that due and legal Notice had been given.

The County Manager advised that a power point presentation was prepared by the Manager's office and a packet of the slides to be shown was presented to each Board member.

In presenting accomplishments of the 1999/2000 budget year, which was an extremely productive year, she cited capital projects completed to include, jail expansion, the Northwest Branch Library, the Bartley Ranch Amphitheater, the Sun Valley BMX Skate Park, the Swan Lake Nature Study area, and many water infrastructure projects. Also completed or implemented were several regional projects which had been in various stages of design, e.g., global positioning the 800 Mhz regional radio system, fire consolidation, early case resolution between the D.A. and Public Defender, commencement of Juvenile Detention facility replacement, the Court's master plan, the Library master plan, initiation of the Truckee River flood control project, the regional public training center, regional dispatch, and the EOC.

She added several County administrative projects as follows: reorganization, classification and compensation study, and technology refresh program. She cited the savings and cost avoidance initiatives that have been undertaken over the past year. The technology refresh program, the employee suggestion program, the renegotiation of contracts, and several other items have saved or avoided costs of \$7,000,000.

Lisa Gianoli, Budget Manager, stated that this year's budget is comprised of 23 governmental funds, six proprietary funds, and combined appropriations in the governmental funds, including fund balances and transfers out of \$409,893,158. She stated that estimated expenditures in the proprietary funds total \$48,586,314. In the overview, which was started in March, she cited parameters to build the budget which were to maintain the fund balance between 7% and 9% in the general fund, to keep the combined tax rate fixed at 1.2495, and to maintain the growth rate at a less than 6.7% combined rate of population and CPI. The process has been completed with the maintenance of those issues, and before the Board today is the general fund recommended budget in revenues giving a breakdown of revenue sources with the largest pieces being from intergovernmental revenues.

She reviewed expenditures by function with the largest part being the public safety function with general government and judicial next, and many other areas following. She referred to the expenditures by object, noting salaries and wages as the largest piece at 45% and employee benefits at 14%. She said that the combination of these two is 59% and if transfers and fund balance were discounted, those two amounts would be about 72% of expenditures.

She then referred to the operating funds being general, health, public works, and construction showing functionally where these dollars are going. The County Manager noted that the percentage for public safety increases when the number of construction and public works projects are added to support the public safety function. She said this is an admirable priority for the Board that almost 40% of the budget is going to public safety.

Ms. Gianoli then reviewed the breakdown of the County's taxes by operating rate, the legislative overrides, voter overrides, and the debt rate, and what it will mean to an owner of a \$100,000 house. She advised that the one key thing to remember in this is the operating rate is the only piece where there is any kind of latitude in what can be done with those dollars. The rest are for special revenue, either funds or specifically delineated for special purposes. She advised that the calculation on the \$100,000 house was regardless of location in Reno or Sparks or unincorporated Washoe County. Everyone would pay that \$437.33 as well as the State of Nevada rate and the Washoe County School District rate, noting what Reno and Sparks residents would have to pay additionally.

She then reviewed budget highlights with a 5.5% increase in expenditures including base adjustments (4% cost of living, 17% insurance, 4% retirement), service demands, general government (Registrar of Voters, Recorder, and Information Technology), and Judicial (District Court, District Attorney, and Justice Courts). Also included are Public Safety (Sheriff, Juvenile Services, Public Administrator), Welfare (Child Protective Services), and Culture/Recreation (Library and Parks). She detailed some of these.

Commissioner Sferrazza asked about the National Center Study and the additional compensation to Court employees retroactive to July 1st as mentioned in the letter from Judge Hardesty. He asked if other employees will also be included as it was his understanding that due to negotiations some of those impacts would not take place until sometime in the future. Ms. Gianoli stated her understanding that this will be brought to the Board before the close of the current fiscal year, and the salary sweeps within that budget is what will be proposed to the Board to pay the cost of going back to July 1. The Hay study will not be completed, however, until after the start of the new fiscal year.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated that he wants a parity between employees so that the same is done for County employees as the Court employees. The County Manager stated that the proposal is to make any adjustments necessary under the Hay Study retroactive to July 1st of this year. Commissioner Sferrazza was informed that if someone is in the range, they would not receive any salary increase immediately, and that is what is happening with the National Study as well. There will be a variety of situations as some will be low in the range, some within the range, and the range will be changed to absorb similarities. The County Manager advised that staff will have that recommendation so that there is parity. She further advised that they have not changed the salary schedule in the Courts, and with the reference to retroactive payment, the Courts would make this out of their existing 1999/2000 budget with salary savings. Commissioner Galloway expressed concern that if someone continues to work up the range, would that have an impact on this budget. Ms. Gianoli said there will be a separate Board item with the recommendation for adopting salary ranges, and that is completely separate from this budget.

She next reviewed positions advising that there were in excess of 100 positions requested and there are 57.9 new positions, but 22 positions were eliminated for a net of

35.9. She said that the elimination resulted where technology allowed the job methodology changed, and in some instances, the type of position was changed in many instances to a lesser position or more-administrative positions were eliminated.

Commissioner Galloway noted that this is practicing economy of scale by lowering the ratio of employees to population as our efficiency grows. Ms. Gianoli stated that awareness of that message in going through this budget was influential concerning overtime. The reality became apparent that adding positions rather than spending time-and-a-half for work to get done was more economical She noted that the new count of FTE's at this point is 2,544 positions countywide.

She advised that on the capital side, investment included investing in new infrastructure and the maintenance of existing was used as a basis. She stated that this also helps in bond rating through reduction of debt financing without having to borrow funds to do some of the improvements. She noted that this also provides flexibility in the event funding is available, if the economy should change, where a project can be delayed or not done. She added that the emphasis as far as the capital is concerned was placed on technology, the juvenile justice facility, CPC building for the Sheriff's office, the Incline maintenance facility, and the historic Courthouse restoration.

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Ms Gianoli stated that the debt financing of the Library expansion dollars will be placed in a fund of their own. She added that they are presently under Culture and Recreation in the general fund entitled WC1 Tax Division. She advised that those dollars will come from deferred tax collection to service that debt.

Chairman Short then called for public comment. There being no response, the public hearing was closed.

County Manager Singlaub then acknowledged members of the Capital Improvement Program Committee in spending many hours to arrive at the outcome to fund as many projects as possible that have been deferred for some time.

Chairman Short then acknowledged staff for their diligent efforts in this budget. The other Commissioners joined in the acknowledgement of the effort that went into the completed budget.

Following discussion, on motion by Commissioner Bond, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried, Chairman Short ordered that the Washoe County Fiscal Year 2000/2001 budget be approved as presented. It was further ordered that submission to the Department of Taxation be authorized following execution by all members of the Board.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.

TED F. SHORT, Chairman
Board of County Commissioners
Washoe County, Nevada

ATTEST: AMY HARVEY, County Clerk