

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

MONDAY

10:00 A.M.

MAY 19, 2003

PRESENT:

David Humke, Chairman
Jim Shaw, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
Bonnie Weber, Commissioner

Amy Harvey, County Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Madelyn Shipman, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

The Board met in special session in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada, with Vice Chairman Shaw presiding and Chairman Humke participating via telephone. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

03-552 AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Chairman Humke, seconded by Commissioner Galloway, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Vice Chairman Shaw ordered that the agenda for the May 19, 2003 meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There was no response to the call for public comments.

**03-553 TENTATIVE AND FINAL BUDGETS – WASHOE COUNTY –
FISCAL YEAR 2003/04**

10:45 a.m. This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on May 9, 2003 to consider the Tentative Budget, as well as possible adoption of the Final Budget, for Washoe County for Fiscal Year 2003/04. Proof was made that due and Legal Notice had been given.

Katy Singlaub, Washoe County Manager, said a letter was received from Kathy Burke, Washoe County Recorder, withdrawing her budget appeal for an additional staff position.

John Sherman, Finance Director, noted there was concurrence with the District Court concerning their budget. Mr. Sherman then reviewed the proposed budget and answered questions of the Board. Commissioner Galloway said he was pleased to see the elimination of the net asset deficit in the Risk Management fund.

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Mr. Sherman stated the County should anticipate grant funding from the Federal and State governments to suffer in the near term. Commissioner Galloway recommended identifying essential public safety related or top priority positions vulnerable to grant funding cuts.

Mr. Sherman explained funding for vector control could be kept in an account on the General Fund side whereby the Health Department would apply for funding and the County and the Board could track the costs. Chairman Humke stated he thinks the interlocal agreement that provides for governance of the Health Board needs to be renegotiated before making major changes to the budget.

In response to Chairman Humke, Ms. Singlaub stated there is not full compliance from the District Court with the hiring deferral, they operate their own human resources functions, but they do comply with many of the County's human resources provisions. She further said she appreciated that the Court has made efforts to take on some of the County's unfunded positions that could have otherwise resulted in layoffs. Chairman Humke stated it is unfair, not an equitable situation for employees, detrimental to morale and not appropriate for the District Court not to adhere to the County's policies. He also said he wants management staff to immediately begin negotiating these issues. In response to Chairman Humke, Ms. Singlaub said it is anticipated the nine-month hiring deferral will continue, but it continues to be evaluated to determine whether it is producing the needed salary savings. She stated in extreme situations and on a case-by-case basis, such as in the Public Defender's Office, exemptions are granted.

Commissioner Weber said she felt the people spoke in the survey concerning the Court being an exception to the rule. She stated she could not vote to levy any tax increase. She also stated employee wages, salaries and benefits need to be reviewed and the County is top-heavy with management and middle management. Mr. Sherman stated the proposed budget does not include a tax rate increase.

Ron Longtin, Clerk of the Court and District Court Administrator, said he is certain the Chief Judge will work with the County concerning the hiring deferral process. He stated in the past the Court has filled positions they deem to be key, essential and necessary for running Court operations. He then thanked the Board, Ms. Singlaub, Mr. Sherman and Mr. Conforti for their hard work in developing a compromise with the Court's budget. In response to Commissioner Galloway, Mr. Sherman stated any legislation or programs, such as implementation of the DUI Traffic School, would come before the Board before adjusting the budget.

Commissioner Galloway suggested continuing this item to Tuesday, May 20, 2003 so that Commissioner Sferrazza could participate. Chairman Humke stated it would be difficult for him to participate on May 20.

Madelyn Shipman, Assistant District Attorney, said the Board could vote on the budget as presented at this time, without the vector control piece in it and without any changes, continue the public hearing to May 20, discuss vector control at that time and, if necessary, amend any previous motion.

Commissioner Galloway recommended broadening the proposed one-half of one cent for vector control to critical health services. Chairman Humke said implementing a tax increase before renegotiating the interlocal agreement could diminish the County's bargaining position. Ms. Shipman said there would not be a problem expanding discussions to critical health services.

Vice Chairman Shaw opened the public hearing by calling on anyone wishing to speak. There being no response, the public hearing was closed.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Vice Chairman Shaw ordered that the proposed budget be approved as presented, including the four percent reduction for the District Court.

On motion by Commissioner Galloway, seconded by Chairman Humke, which motion duly carried with Commissioner Sferrazza absent, Vice Chairman Shaw ordered that this public hearing be continued to Tuesday, May 20, 2003.

Ms. Singlaub expressed appreciation to the budget staff and the Department Heads. The Board echoed that appreciation.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

JAMES M. SHAW, Vice Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by
Melissa Ayrault, Deputy County Clerk*