

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

MONDAY

10:45 A.M.

MAY 16, 2005

PRESENT:

Bonnie Weber, Chairman
Bob Larkin, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner
David Humke, Commissioner
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Melanie Foster, 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 Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Susan Schlerf, Assistant City of Manager, City of Reno, stated the Reno City Council is looking for assistance from the County on various projects; and she presented a list of the requests, which included \$360,000 for revitalization of Virginia Lake as a regional park, a five-year commitment of \$500,000 per year for the Homeless Shelter, confirmation of the County's commitment of \$600,000 for the South Meadows Fire Station, acquisition of property on Peavine for open space, and financial matching of the City's efforts for graffiti abatement including equipment and staff.

Sam Dehne, local resident, commented on the number of people who showed up for various events over the weekend but no one showed up for this meeting on the County's budget. He said the budget should be augmented for noise abatement.

05-470 **PUBLIC HEARING - ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2005/06**
TENTATIVE AND FINAL BUDGET

10:45 a.m. This was the time set in a Notice of Public Hearing, published in the *Reno Gazette-Journal* on May 6, 2005, to consider the tentative budget for fiscal year 2005/06 as well as possible adoption of the final budget.

Chairman Weber opened the public hearing.

Katy Singlaub, County Manager, conducted a PowerPoint presentation outlining the budget process beginning with Board workshops, Department presentations,

and Department appeals. Several charts and graphs of financial and statistical information were displayed on the overhead. She said the Departments submitted approximately \$15-million in above-base requests, and staff is recommending approval of about \$7.5-million. Ms. Singlaub noted the budget workbook detailing every program budget, every Departmental budget and every cost center budget was available. The County Manager also explained the new positions that are proposed in the budget and service enhancements to improve service.

In regard to the requests from the City of Reno, Ms. Singlaub stated the proposed budget does include approximately \$280,000 in funding for the homeless shelters.

Ms. Singlaub advised there was a phone call from the State Department of Taxation at 5:00 p.m. Friday alerting staff that the impacts of AB489, the tax cap legislation, may be greater than the projected \$4.2-million; and if that does come to pass, staff may be coming back to the Board with an amended final budget.

Ms. Singlaub concluded stating staff has kept the budget within the CPI and population growth guidelines imposed by the Board and is not proposing any tax increase.

Gary Schmidt, Washoe County citizen, spoke on expenditures for legislative lobbyists and the need that those be readily identifiable in the interest of open, visible government. He questioned District Attorney Gammick's authority to send his Deputies to the State Legislature to lobby. Mr. Schmidt stated the Board needs to address this problem.

Sam Dehne, Reno citizen, it seems that Washoe County has a bottomless pit of money. He stated lobbyist should not be paid with taxpayer dollars; the County should include something in the budget for noise enforcement; and the County should give the Airport Authority \$3,600 so they can afford to televise those meetings.

Commissioner Galloway discussed staffing levels at the Sheriff's Office and said traffic enforcement is very important. He said he would like to keep this issue open.

Commissioner Sferrazza addressed the requests from the City of Reno. Concerning the homeless shelters, Commissioner Sferrazza stated room tax money, the settlement on the skyways and Redevelopment Agency funds were supposed to have been set aside for that purpose; and he asked what happened to those commitments and funds. He said acquisition of open space on Peavine is already budgeted. Commissioner Sferrazza also requested the Board's staff be increased by two staff members who would attend the Neighborhood Advisory Board (NAB) meetings and report back to the Board.

John Sherman, Finance Director, responded to questions from Commissioner Sferrazza concerning financial details in the budget.

Chairman Weber expressed concerns that some fairly significant monetary requests from Reno were just presented to the Board. Ms. Singlaub noted one of the requests was for a five-year commitment and advised the statutes require budgeting annually, which does not provide for multi-year commitments.

Commissioner Larkin commented that revenues and expenses are increased in this budget, but that is because of the boom economy currently being enjoyed. He said that would not go on forever and the Board needs to continue to use any windfall monies for projects such as technology advancements.

Commissioner Galloway stressed the County is not increasing the property tax rates and discussed the affects of other entities raising their rates. He also commented on the importance of the other entities not raising their operating rates and said, just because the County is not increasing its rate, it is not telling the other entities it is all right for them to increase their rate.

Ms. Singlaub agreed and said staff would draft correspondence to send to the other entities. She also pointed out that included in the proposed budget are several positions which have been recommended for reclassification by the Job Evaluation Committee, and the Board needs to approve those reclassifications as well.

Commissioner Humke moved to adopt the final budget for fiscal year 2005/06 including the consensus statement by Commissioner Galloway subject to an informal writing. Commissioner Larkin seconded the motion.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated he previously asked for the salary information associated with the position reclassifications; and, without that information, he could not approve the reclassifications. Ms. Singlaub suggested continuing the reclassifications to Tuesday's meeting. Commissioners Humke and Larkin agreed to amend the motion to continue the reclassifications.

Commissioner Sferrazza asked when the Board could address a staffing and a work plan for people to attend the NAB meetings. Chairman Weber said that issue should be brought back at a later date for discussion because she is not in agreement with that idea.

Commissioner Sferrazza stated while he would be voting for the budget, he wanted to express his disagreement with the Capital Improvement Plan because his District is being short-changed in terms of funding for street maintenance, etc.

Upon call for the vote, the motion to adopt the final budget for fiscal year 2005/06 carried unanimously.

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There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

BONNIE WEBER, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

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

*Minutes Prepared by
Sharon Gotchy
Deputy County Clerk*