

TERM OF COMMISSION: November Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt
Auditor June Pitchford
Deputy County Clerk Michelle Malaby

The regular meeting of the County Commission was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

SUBJECT: 1996 Budget Hearing

Facilities Maintenance Director Chuck Nichols and Administrative Assistant Clarice Martin were present.

Commissioner Stamper asked Mr. Nichols to review his supplemental budget.

Mr. Nichols stated a one ton dump truck with a snow blade is requested because they believe it will be cheaper than contracting for snow removal. The current cost to clear a county owned parking lot is \$1,000 per clearing. The truck will also be used to haul mulch and rock for the MKT recreational trail. If the commission approves the purchase, they will discontinue the contract for snow removal. The 1995 budget for snow removal services is \$5,000.

Ms. Pitchford stated the Department indicated they do not want to reduce the \$7,000 amount requested for 1996 snow removal services.

Following discussion, Mr. Nichols agreed they need funding for snow removal services during the first part of 1996 while they request bids for the truck. He will determine how much.

Mr. Nichols stated the fourth supplemental request is for \$2,500 for grounding rods at the correctional facility. There is only one residential grounding rod. The government center has five or six commercial grade grounding rods. The grounding rod installed in at the correctional facility is inadequate given the size of the electrical system. Computers and other electrical equipment shut down when there is an electrical surge. This is hard on the equipment. One incident resulted in the loss of the variable speed drive on the air handling system.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Mr. Nichols replied the cost of the variable speed drive was \$4,000.

The commission agreed to discuss the fifth supplemental request during the Public Works Department budget hearing. They request \$7,000 to remodel the front entry and install combination locks in order to improve security. Mr. Nichols could not comment on the type of problems they are having.

Mr. Nichols stated the eighth supplemental request would upgrade the Barber-Colman climate control system at the Sheriff's Department. The system is five years old. This upgrade would bring it to the level of the same system in the Government Center. The dedicated phone line would allow Barber-Colman and Facilities Maintenance to access the system remotely.

Commissioner Stamper stated he will ask Information Services Director Scott Monnig if they can use the AS400 to access the system.

Commissioner Vogt questioned are there problems at the Johnson Building parking lot that warrants the installation of gates and a card reader--the ninth supplemental request?

Commissioner Miller stated the Recorder of Deeds' office personally monitors the parking lots. They issue warnings on a daily basis to people who should not park there. This request would alleviate the need for them to do that.

Commissioner Vogt stated the Recorder of Deeds does not charge \$13,000 to monitor the lots. This is an item that the commission could trade for a more pressing need.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Mr. Nichols replied the tenth supplemental request is for \$7,200 to asphalt the Guaranty parking lot and replace the wooden steps with concrete steps. The lot has a gravel surface.

Ms. Pitchford stated there has been discussion of terminating some of the leases and assigning the displaced employees spaces on the Guaranty lot. She proposed funding for one year leases of current parking lots and the items indicated on the supplemental request report.

Commissioner Stamper asked has anyone spoken to Ms. Pitchford about potential income from leasing spaces on the Guaranty lot?

Ms. Pitchford replied only Commissioner Stamper. Unless the county would make a lot of money from leasing the spaces, she prefers terminating leases on other lots and reassigning employees to the Guaranty lot.

Commissioner Stamper stated there have been complaints about the Guaranty lot lighting and steps.

Commissioner Miller commented the Parking Committee would like to relocate employees who park in assigned spaces on the Armory lot to the Guaranty lot. However, the Guaranty lot is not as desirable. They could stripe and number the lot if it is paved. The Parking Committee was to determine Public Defender office employees' interest in leasing Guaranty lot spaces for the same amount the county pays for Armory lot spaces. She has not heard the outcome of that inquiry.

In response to a question from Commissioner Vogt, Mr. Nichols replied the eleventh supplemental request is for \$8,000 to concrete the dumpster area at the Sheriff's Department. Garbage trucks break the asphalt when they back onto the area and because they rock as they lift the trash dumpsters. The concrete should last six to ten years.

Commissioner Miller commented replacement of the carpet in the administrative area of the Sheriff's Department (supplemental request thirteen) should be delayed until they correct the drainage problem.

Commissioner Vogt stated she does not recall the carpet being bad.

Returning to the first supplemental request to delete a Maintenance Worker I and add a Maintenance Engineer, Commissioner Stamper asked will this affect their ability to respond to requests for maintenance?

Mr. Nichols replied he and one other employee are specialists in most of the mechanical areas. The Maintenance Worker I is capable of performing the work of a Maintenance Engineer. It would be to the county's benefit to move him to the position of Maintenance Engineer. If not, the county will likely lose the employee.

Commissioner Stamper stated his concern with the request is that Mr. Nichols will request a Maintenance Worker I next year.

Ms. Pitchford agreed the commission should not expect such a request.

Commissioner Miller noted the department did request an additional grounds person. The Auditor did not propose funding the request.

Ms. Pitchford stated \$20,331 is included for contractual services in the parks budget (1610) to maintain El Chaparral park and for a minimal amount of maintenance of the MKT recreational trail. The commission may decide to hire an additional groundskeeper if the cost is less than the amount for contractual services.

Ms. Pitchford stated she would like to point out that the core budgets for housekeeping and grounds maintenance are just over \$577,000. Revenues are over \$610,000, leaving a difference of about \$33,500. Supplemental requests total far more than that amount. The general fund transferred seed money to the budgets for housekeeping and grounds maintenance in 1995 with the intent of funding significant projects and needs. The current level of spending cannot be sustained in the future. This budget uses some of the seed money. Part of the spread between revenues and expenditures should be used to cover inflationary growth.

Commissioner Stamper stated he has questions about the core budget. The 1995 maintenance supplies budget is \$4,000. That amount has not been spent, yet \$7,000 is requested for 1996.

Ms. Pitchford replied they underestimated the cost of light bulbs.

Mr. Nichols added he was unable to replace the light fixtures at the southern Public Works Department facility due to the increased cost of light bulbs. It is less costly to replace the fixtures than the ballast in the existing fixtures.

Ms. Pitchford confirmed the following changes, agreed upon today:

- the Facilities Maintenance Department will provide a revised, reduced amount for contracted snow removal services.

The County Commission agreed.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner