

Budget Work Session

TERM OF COMMISSION: December 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
County Auditor June Pitchford
County Counselor John Patton
Deputy County Clerk Melanie Stapleton

The meeting was called to order at 10:10a.m. by Commissioner Stamper.

Subject: Community Services Advisory Commission

Commissioner Stamper welcomed the group from the CSAC to the work session.

Kevin Collins introduced Phil Steinhaus, Lisa Scibner and Scott Cristal who were also current CSAC members.

Kevin Collins stated that the community is steadily growing. He stated due to this growth, the CSAC would be requesting more money in order to meet the increasing needs of the County.

Kevin Collins stated that they were asking for a total of \$112,277.00. He stated that this was a 2% or \$2245.00 increase over last year's budget request.

Kevin Collins stated that the CSAC was asked to fund 28 projects and would only be funding a total of 21.

Kevin Collins stated that the projects were a direct investment in people.

Commissioner Stamper asked June Pitchford to give an update on what was included in the proposed budget for the CSAC.

June Pitchford stated that she had included the level funding and had left the others as supplemental requests.

Commissioner Vogt asked about the home-delivered meals. She stated that the CSAC had budgeted \$12,480 for this. She wanted to know who received the money to provide the home-delivered meals.

June Pitchford stated that the money goes to CMAAA.

Phil Steinhaus stated that in past times the CMAAA would deliver meals to the County and Meals-on-Wheels delivered to the City. He stated however that this had changed in recent years. He noted that CMAAA has started delivering more meals within the city limits.

Commissioner Vogt asked the members of the Commission if they were bothered by CMAAA taking their support away from the Senior Center. She asked if this affected their budget recommendations at all.

Kevin Collins stated that they had discussed the issue, but he stated that he did not recall if or how it affected their budget decisions.

Commissioner Miller recommended that the money that was directed for the meals be used to supplement the low-income individuals that eat their meals at the Senior Center. She stated that she had met with the Senior Board and the president of the Senior Center Board and they had discussed developing an organization outside of the Senior Center that would allow individuals to have subsidized meals anonymously.

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Commissioner Miller stated that they had discussed utilizing the Boone County Council on Aging for this type of program since the Boone County Council on Aging was already aware of the individuals who were in need of aid. She stated that this would be a program to offset the burden that had been attached to the Senior Center.

Commissioner Vogt stated that she was very concerned about the people who had been (and would no longer be) served at the Senior Center. She asked if Commissioner Miller was suggesting that the money be placed with the Boone County Council on Aging to handle the food service.

Commissioner Miller stated that this was correct. She also noted that the concern of the Senior Center Board was that the meals would be increasing in price from \$1.50 to \$3.00. She stated that she had told the board that there would be a budget work session with CSAC and that she would bring this discussion up during the meeting.

Commissioner Stamper clarified that this was a discussion to request that an amount be transferred from CMAAA to a dedicated source for meal support at the Senior Center.

Commissioner Vogt then stated that she felt that the funds should be re-allocated to another source for this purpose, however she stated that she did not believe that this was something that needed to go through the CSAC.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he agreed, however he stated that the CSAC might have some thoughts to share on this subject.

Phil Steinhaus asked who would be receiving the funds.

Commissioner Miller stated that they would go to the Boone County Council on Aging or some other agency and would be specifically for offsetting the cost of meals at the Senior Center for people who could not afford the increase now that CMAAA is not going to service that entity.

June Pitchford asked if the Commission would re-allocate the \$2520 for congregate meals or the \$15,000 for the home-delivered meals.

Commissioner Vogt stated that it was her understanding that the \$2520 for congregate meals basically funded the Centralia Center and if so she did not want to re-allocate that money. She stated that she would rather confine the conversation to the \$12,480.

Phil Steinhaus stated that the \$12,480 was requested to provide meals to those Boone County residents living outside of the city limits.

Commissioner Stamper stated the preference (of the Commission) to discuss the impact of re-allocating some money. He also stated that they would like to discuss the decrease of affordable meals and do some further investigation

Phil Steinhaus asked if there needed to be a special meeting of the CSAC.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the Boone County Commission would offer a recommendation of action to the CSAC.

Phil Steinhaus asked what role the Boone County Commission wanted the CSAC to play in this matter.

Commissioner Vogt stated that the Boone County Commission would do further investigation and make their judgement. She stated that in their discussion there would be serious investigation into how the people that had been receiving meals could continue to receive those meals.

Phil Steinhaus stated that a special meeting of the CSAC could be called if necessary.

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Commissioner Vogt stated that if this needed to be done, then the Boone County Commission would let the CSAC know sometime early next week.

Phil Steinhaus stated that the only other consideration that he had was if a ticket system were to be used, then the Boone County Commission might want to consider designating who would receive them.

Commissioner Stamper stated that it seemed unclear as to who was eating the meals anyway. He noted that it had been stated during this meeting that CMAAA was delivering more meals to the city than to the County anyway.

Lisa Scribner clarified that the statement was that things were changing, CMAAA was beginning to deliver more meals to the city.

Commissioner Vogt asked why the HIV and AIDS assistance was funded through the CSAC.

Phil Steinhaus stated that it had been requested by the Health Department that the CSAC fund this assistance through their organization.

June Pitchford stated that it could be re-allocated back to the Health Department.

Phil Steinhaus stated that this was also the way that other items such as dental were handled.

Commissioner Vogt suggested that dental and rental assistance be transferred back to the Health Department.

Commissioner Stamper stated that there might have been some logic in sending these allocations to the CSAC. He stated that the CSAC had hearings and discussions with other organizations, and thereby gave them a standard to judge the handling and flow of the resources.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he thought this was the social aspect of health which was why these areas had been assigned to the CSAC.

June Pitchford stated that this discussion might also need to be included in the work session for the Health Department budget.

The Boone County Commission agreed to add this discussion to the work session for the Health Department.

Commissioner Vogt asked about the additional funding for Cedar Creek, Reality House, and the Voluntary Action Center.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the Boone County Commission recognized the need for these items and the funding, however the County would have to let them know what had been decided.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the Community Services Advisory Commission for attending and presenting their request.

Subject: Dr. Jay Dix, Medical Examiner

Dr. Jay Dix stated that he was appearing before the County Commission at the request of June Pitchford to discuss the increase in costs (especially from Fountain Enterprises).

June Pitchford stated that her questions were concerning how the County's relationship (long-term) with Dr. Dix should be structured.

June Pitchford wanted to know if the present arrangement that the County had with Dr. Dix was the contractual approach that would best serve Boone County, knowing that Fountain Enterprises provided death investigative services and autopsy support services to Boone County, Callaway County, and operated other services as a private enterprise. She also wanted to know what type

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of documentation would determine if what the County had in its budget was a fair representation of what the services were actually costing and if there was a need to look at structuring this differently.

June Pitchford stated that Dr. Dix had suggested perhaps hiring the staff and making them employees of the County. She stated that this would raise some issues such as how the employer costs would be shared between Boone and Callaway Counties. She suggested that (she and Dr. Dix) communicate their intention to proceed (in 1999) as they had in past years, then take a look to see if there is a need for change and solicit the Commission's input.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he had spent some at a NACO meeting (last year) with some colleagues from around the country. He stated that he found out that Boone County was very unique. He stated that his colleagues were spending more money per investigation in their areas.

Commissioner Stamper stated that there was also a distinction in the volume. He stated that most Counties contracted (for this service) until they reached a 100-150 autopsies a year level, and then when they went above that level; they went to a different format.

Dr. Dix stated that he was not sure if it was the number that changed the way that the autopsies were handled. He stated that sometimes it was more the population center than the number of cases per day. He stated that only about 30 states had a formal medical examiner system that was state or division run.

Dr. Dix stated that Boone County was pretty archaic in the way that things were handled. He stated that the reason that Boone County operated in this way was because he was salaried through the University of MO. He stated that if he were not at the university, then the price would probably go up.

Dr. Dix stated that there was a \$15,000 increase from Fountain Enterprises because the owner realized that she could not operate the type of business that he (Dr. Dix) was operating and survive based on the amount that had been paid in the past. He stated that the owner of Fountain Enterprises had to build a new building and this increased the costs.

Dr. Dix stated that when you look at morgue use costs (\$200 per case), in 1986, the VA Hospital had wanted to charge \$300, just for using the facilities. He stated that if the cases were prorated from that time, the cost would be at least \$500 a case.

Commissioner Vogt asked if there was any alternative to Fountain Enterprises as far as services were concerned.

Dr. Dix stated that he could probably do autopsies in funeral homes or at the VA Hospital, but he would not use either of those facilities because he did not find them to be adequate.

Commissioner Vogt asked if this was an area that the Auditor should give the Commission some information about for FY 2000.

June Pitchford stated that she was not sure that this would provide the County with any guidance. She asked the Commission if they were comfortable with the amount of information that they were receiving. She stated that the amounts were not tied to anything (per capita, etc.) that would help them predict the future costs. She stated that she was not sure what her role should be as far as gathering information and documenting.

Commissioner Stamper stated that Boone County had evolved to a method of subcontracting for these services. He stated that the County's case volume would not warrant a change in that system at this time. He stated that Dr. Dix was comfortable with the arrangement and the costs were reasonable.

Commissioner Miller agreed with Commissioner Stamper.

June Pitchford asked Dr. Dix about the staff becoming County employees.

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Dr. Dix stated that the only interest he had in doing this was that there were people who were being paid almost a full salary, but were not receiving any benefits. Dr. Dix stated that this bothered him.

Commissioner Vogt asked if the County would also be paying overtime wages.

Dr. Dix stated that the County was paying a set price. He stated that if you look at the money a person gets for the amount of work that they do, they might be receiving more per person than a full-time person working somewhere else. He stated that this was 24-hour operation and the employees usually worked 8 hr shifts. He stated that it was very difficult to figure out what should be done.

June Pitchford asked Commissioner Stamper if there was a way to include Fountain Enterprises employees in the County's Health plan or provide a sufficient amount to Fountain Enterprises in order to allow them to purchase a healthcare plan.

Commissioner Stamper stated that there was a way to do that, however the health plan people had always been very reluctant to do this. He stated that they had pushed for this before. He stated that you could only proceed so far with this and then you would be triggered as an insurance company, putting you under a totally different, whole new level of scrutiny and regulations. He stated however that he could ask about this again.

Dr. Dix stated that this was not Fountain Enterprises' request.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he understood that.

Dr. Dix stated that the owner of Fountain Enterprises would be pleased if the Commission wanted to look into something for next year.

Commissioner Stamper stated that if at a point in time, it became meaningful for the death investigation services to become a part of the Sheriff's operation, then the Commission should not be adverse to it. He stated that he did not want to send the message back to Fountain Enterprises that he was unappreciative of the services that were given. He also stated that if this were a way for the County to enhance itself, then it should take a look at it.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Dr. Dix for this time.

Subject: Sheriff's Department

Account 1251

Sheriff Boehm, Major Brewer, and Captain Braun were in attendance to discuss the budget for the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there would be one additional position in this budget.

Captain Braun stated that there would not be. She stated that this was a supplemental request that had been withdrawn.

Commissioner Stamper wanted to discuss pay ranges for the public record. He stated that a request came forward from the Reclassification Committee that the ranges be adjusted for the deputies. He stated that it was based upon recruitment and retention concerns and comparable pay within the community. He stated that this adjustment would make a step towards improving the County's ability to retain.

Commissioner Stamper asked about the special Sheriff's fund that was approved this past year. He wanted to know if this was reflected in this budget.

Sheriff Boehm stated that he had sent a letter to the Auditor asking that this fund not be set up.

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Commissioner Stamper stated that there was also a *conceal and carry issue* on the ballot in April that would have significant impact on the Sheriff's Department and its workload. He asked the Sheriff to describe what the impact potential would be.

Sheriff Boehm stated that if the *conceal and carry issue* was passed, it would be the Sheriff's responsibility to issue the permits. He stated that the permits would cost \$80. They would have to pay \$80 to the Sheriff's Department to process the permit. He stated that part of the revenue would have to be sent back to the Highway Patrol to cover their expenditures.

Commissioner Stamper stated that 50% of the cost would be sent to the Highway Patrol.

Sheriff Boehm stated that the Sheriff's Department, County of Boone, would retain the other \$40 for additional staff.

Commissioner Stamper asked if this would be an annual or a one-time fee.

Sheriff Boehm stated that this fee was for the original application, and then there would be a renewal fee.

Commissioner Vogt asked if the renewal could be performed by mail or if it had to be done in person.

Sheriff Boehm stated that the individual had to come back in person in order to renew the permits.

Sheriff Boehm stated that his department was currently handling the applications to purchase weapons, but the *conceal and carry* was a separate issue.

Commissioner Miller asked if the money from this permit (if the issue were to pass) would be a Sheriff's fund or go to the General Revenue Fund.

Commissioner Stamper stated that this issue was heavily debated and it was decided that it would be up to the individual Sheriff to decide if they wanted to maintain their own fund or if send it to the General Revenue Fund.

Commissioner Miller asked if the renewal fee was split in half as well.

Sheriff Boehm stated that he did not know the answer to that.

Commissioner Stamper stated that in theory the Highway Patrol money was to maintain the database.

Commissioner Stamper asked if the telephone systems bid had been carried forward.

June Pitchford stated that they had not been notified officially.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he had signed off on the paperwork for that.

Forfeiture Fund

Sheriff stated that this was the same as it had always been. He stated that it was a 50:50 arrangement. He stated that money for this was budgeted as needed.

Commissioner Stamper asked what the money in the Sheriff's Training Fund was spent on.

Sheriff Boehm stated that the money was spent on the continuing education of officers that was required by law (48hrs in 3 yrs.). He stated that it was used for people who had been hired and had not received basic training.

Commissioner Miller asked if 50% of the officers were currently trained.

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Sheriff Boehm stated that this was correct and that they tried to exceed the number of hours of training that the State required.

Account 1254-Alternative Corrections Program

Major Brewer stated that the Alternative Corrections Program was one that was contracted to the County (Sheriff's Department) who then subcontracted the service through the Reality House. He stated that revenues came in to cover the expenses

Commissioner Miller asked if all the money that was budgeted was being spent. She wanted to know if they were able to get all the people through the program as was originally anticipated.

Sheriff Boehm stated that this was correct. He stated that 15 beds had been set aside, but instead they were using only about 8 or 9 beds.

Commissioner Miller asked if it took a special kind of person to go through this program.

Major Brewer stated that a person had to be deemed applicable to the program.

Captain Braun asked June Pitchford about the telephone systems money.

June Pitchford stated that this was on an open-items list and the Commission could re-appropriate the money.

Commissioner Stamper asked what the city of Columbia was doing for the cost of housing its prisoners.

Major Brewer stated that they paid 100% or a contract rate established by the Sheriff in conjunction with the federal contracts of \$49 a day. He stated that for every inmate being housed there on a municipal charge, the city of Columbia was liable for a \$49 a day cost. He stated that the new municipal court judge's approach had doubled or tripled from what was previously imposed. He stated that people were being sentenced to longer terms and being held. He stated that this also contributed to the overpopulation of the prisoner facilities.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there was a technicality in the charging, for instance if the offender was charged a certain way it would become a County offense.

Major Brewer stated that this was correct. He stated that most offenses were State offenses, so the offender could be charged either way. He stated that the only ones that the city of Columbia could be charged for were municipal offenses.

Major Brewer stated that this has not slowed down and that there was no indication that the municipal court would slow down.

Commissioner Stamper stated that they had discussed the revenue side, now they needed to discuss the expense side.

Commissioner Stamper stated that there were ten, new FTEs in this area due to the modifications to the jail. He asked if they were forecasting a full twelve months of expense for these ten.

Major Brewer stated that they were. He stated that they anticipated bringing the FTEs on board for training 60 days prior to completion of the jail. He stated that the plan was to expand the FTEs at a slightly lower amount in order to have them run the control rooms, therefore allowing the department to bring the officers out of the control rooms. He stated that they would start advertising in January.

Major Brewer stated that he was somewhat disappointed with the Corrections budget. He stated that they had put in two supplemental requests (for a part-time attorney and safety vests). He stated that he would like the Commission to reconsider the request for safety vests. He stated that they were very important.

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Commissioner Stamper asked Major Brewer to elaborate on the need for the safety vests.

Major Brewer stated that there was going to be more officer-to-inmate contact because the new facility would make this possible. He stated that there would be more open bay space. He stated that presently if they needed to go into a control situation, the cooperative combatants could lock themselves down, however with the creation of more open bay space they would not have that ability.

Major Brewer stated that the safety vests were a request that had been made by some officers. He stated that he had viewed the shanks that could be made from normal material. He stated that the inmates had 24hrs a day to create the shanks.

Commissioner Miller asked if any of the officers had the safety vests.

Major Brewer stated that they did not.

Commissioner Vogt asked if there were any safety vests that were available for the officers at all.

Major Brewer stated that the ones on hand were of a different weave. He stated that they were not the same as the bullet-proof vests. He stated that a shank could penetrate a bullet-proof vest which was why a different kind of vest was needed for the tank. He stated that a vest that does both would be much more expensive.

June Pitchford stated that she was fully supportive of the needs for the vests, however she was reluctant to add the additional \$10,000 needed for that purchase. She stated that there might be some money left in the uniform account to help support that request. She stated that she had wanted to see how things evened out with the budget before making that decision.

Commissioner Vogt asked, if the officers had to go into a control situation, how many would be sent in.

Major Brewer stated that they went in with whatever was available, anywhere from 2 to 4 officers.

Commissioner Miller elaborated on the way that the vests were worn. She stated that these vests were fitted to each officer underneath their clothes.

June Pitchford stated that this was an opportunity for them to decide whether they wanted to add the vests as part of the uniform equipment (and add it into the budget).

Sheriff Boehm stated that they would have the opportunity to send more than 2 to 4 officers into a situation like this once the FTEs were running the control room. He stated that they had found sharpened shanks on people who were waiting trial for homicide.

Commissioner Vogt asked what a shank could be made out of.

Sheriff Boehm stated that could be made out of anything.

Commissioner Vogt asked if they could get cleaning equipment that was made out of plastic.

Major Brewer stated that you have to be very careful with plastic because if it were to break or shatter, it could do more damage.

Commissioner Stamper stated that if there was a way to utilize the residual funds from 1998 in order to start this process, then a proposal should be brought forward to that effect. He stated that if there was an area in the budget where money was left over (and money could be shifted), then the Commission should be notified of that as well.

Major Brewer stated that they would know more, when the actual budget was approved.

Commissioner Stamper asked what was being budgeted for out of County housing in 1999.

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June Pitchford stated that there was \$250,000 intended for out of County housing during the construction period and for intermittent housing if the population were to go over 200.

Commissioner Stamper asked if they were forecasting that the renovation would take the County to the level where they are able to house the number of prisoner's that it had at present.

Major Brewer stated that this was true, if the number held to the October/November population number.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he thought that an architectural firm had been hired to do a staffing study. He wanted to know if the numbers in the budget were consistent with that study.

Commissioner Miller stated that a preliminary study had been given to the Auditor. She stated that she had not received a copy of the completed study.

Major Brewer stated that the projected numbers were underneath what would be recommended. He stated that the department's current staffing level was lower than what was recommended.

Commissioner Vogt asked if the DARE funds were locally collected or if the County was still receiving some grant funds.

Captain Braun stated that the department did not receive any grant money for the DARE program and had not in several years. She stated that the Sheriff had given them some money from a forfeiture fund and they had been using that for probably 5 or 6 years. She stated that they also received yearly contributions. She stated that they used this money to fund the t-shirts and other things that were not funded by the Highway Patrol.

Commissioner Vogt asked about the officers who are involved with DARE.

Captain Braun stated that those salaries came out of the general revenue.

Sheriff Boehm stated that these officers were utilized in other ways when they were not working with the program.

Commissioner Vogt asked how many schools were involved in the DARE program.

Captain Braun stated that they program was in eight schools. She stated that they were doing a trial program in a junior high school this year.

Commissioner Miller asked how Officer Johnson was doing.

Sheriff Boehm stated that he was in pretty good spirits.

Sheriff Boehm stated that the if department could provide any information or statistics as far as adult entertainment was concerned, he would be happy to do so.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the department for being present.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40am.

Attest: _____
Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt

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District II Commissioner