

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
Deputy County Clerk Melanie Stapleton

The meeting was called to order at 11:30a.m. by Commissioner Stamper.

Subject: Information Technology

Mail Services

Dan McFarland, Director of Information Technology stated that there would be a new (mail-processing) machine in 1999 that would cost \$19,000. He stated that he wanted to look into separating the mail by departments in order to keep track of how much was being spent by each department.

GIS Budget

Dan McFarland stated that Boone County was in the lead in putting in these maps. He stated that a GIS Analyst in the department had come up with a way to digitize the maps that would cut down on the time spent on doing this each year while keeping the information accurate.

Ross Short, GIS Analyst made a short presentation concerning the maps.

Dan McFarland stated that the maps would be digitized as they were put into the system in order to speed up the process.

Commissioner Miller asked if this was due to the change in technology.

Commissioner Vogt stated that it was.

Commissioner Stamper asked about the computer server and hardware lease.

Dan McFarland stated that it was questionable as to whether they were going to use a lease or if they would be able to get along on what they had at present.

Account 1170

Dan McFarland stated that some of the bid items were for replacing the Sheriff's Department AS400 and upgrading the software for the AS400 in the Government Center. He stated that the Novell software for the e-mail system would also be upgraded.

Dan McFarland stated that they would take a look at the equipment in the County and then lay out a computer policy. He stated that the two computers at the Sheriff's department would be pulled out.

Dan McFarland described what was being done for the imaging request made by June Pitchford. He stated that the mug-shot system would be upgraded by a team that would ascertain what needed to be done for the next five or six years. He stated that this was his official position and nothing had been included in the budget for this purpose.

June Pitchford stated that there had been nothing included in the Sheriff's Department budget for the mug-shot system and that they needed to take a look at the Forfeiture fund money to see what was there and what would be left over before that decision could be made.

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Commissioner Miller stated that the department should send the request and research to Dan McFarland by April 1999 in order to give him time to put together a budget for the entire department. She stated that this would be helpful to the County overall.

Dan McFarland also stated that there were some significant issues with the expertise in the programming staff. He stated that they would come back with a different setup. He stated that they needed to have a good cross-training session.

June Pitchford asked if there were any supplies that needed to be included in this budget.

Dan McFarland stated that there was not.

Subject: Humane Society

Dr. Dave Finch, Shelter Manager and Faye Knowle, board member, were present to discuss the Humane Society.

Dr. Finch stated that the Humane Society had been serving the County of Boone since 1943. He stated that they carried out several activities including receiving, sheltering, and adopting the animal brought to the shelter.

Dr. Finch stated that 73% of the housing was temporary and it was projected that 5900 animals would have been sheltered by the Humane Society in 1998. He stated that about 2000 dogs and cats were spade or neutered. He stated that there was an overpopulation of cats and that the adoption rate was only 24-25%.

Dr. Finch stated that his staff responded about 3 times a night to requests from Boone County residents and also provided educational outreach presentations and programs at the shelter.

Dr. Finch stated that the Humane Society also operated in the area of animal cruelty, investigating about 300 cases a year. He stated that they were not allowed to seize someone's animal or enter private property unless invited. He stated that the case was referred to the Animal Control when their tactics were not working.

Dr. Finch stated that the Humane Society leased space to the Animal Control and provided care to the impounded animals. He stated that 41% were turned over to the Animal Control, when they were not claimed by their owners. He stated that about 51% were not claimed by their owners.

Dr. Finch stated that they were requesting the same amount as last year.

Faye Knowle stated that they really needed the money which would be added to the Animal Control budget.

Commissioner Miller asked if the Humane Society answered night calls.

Dr. Finch stated that they did.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the two for the work that they did.

Subject: Soil and Water Conservation

The Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Committee stated that they were only present to answer questions of the Commission.

Commissioner Miller asked when another plat book would be available.

The Chairman of the Soil and Water Conservation Committee stated that it would be available around the year 2000.

Commissioner Miller stated that she believed that Boone County received its money's worth from the Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

Commissioner Vogt agreed with Commissioner Miller's comments.

Commissioner Stamper thanked the committee members for attending.

Subject: Star Prevention

Commissioner Stamper welcomed Pat Oney from the Star Prevention program.

Pat Oney stated that there were several programs currently running and some other potential programs on the way. She stated that the Choices video in collaboration with channel 8 had been presented to approximately 1000 Boone County students so far. She stated that they had also been doing safety check-points for drug and alcohol addictions.

Pat Oney stated that the Star Prevention program had started out slow with kids who were referred by the probation or parole officer. She stated that in the four months of the program she had one child who attended two meetings, with the rest being very sporadic. She stated that they were set to do an event with \$1500 funding from the Optimists' Club. She stated they had originally had 100 kids sign up, but only 10 had received parental consent. She stated that they had not been able to go forward with the event. She noted that they carried \$1 million in event insurance.

Pat Oney stated that she worked with Hallsville and they picked up the Star Team program. She stated that she worked with the Middle School counselor who referred 12 kids that she felt were very high risk for substance abuse and did not participate in any school activities. She stated that this had worked out very well, and the first event would be on December 19th in Hallsville. She stated that the students were given a budget and guidelines. She stated that they created a Web of Sobriety.

Pat Oney stated that students would attend the event voluntarily. She stated that as they entered, they would enter the web of sobriety. She stated that there would be games as well. She stated that the point was to create an evening that was fun but allowed their peers to give up an evening of partying for an evening of sobriety. She stated that the Star Team would distribute 20 baskets to low-income senior citizens filled with household products and can goods. She stated that the admission to the Web of Sobriety would be two cans of food.

Pat Oney stated that she could see a change of attitude in the students in the programs during the six weeks that she had been working with them. She stated that the Star Team students realized that they were responsible for monitoring their peers at the event.

Pat Oney stated that most kids do not realize that they have options. She stated that they hoped to establish Star Teams in the schools that they working with and go back periodically to help them host events.

Commissioner Stamper asked Pat Oney to elaborate on the problem with the juvenile kids.

Pat Oney stated that the some kids in the juveniles have real problems with commitment programs. She stated that they had other programs that they had to attend, but she wanted this program to be voluntary because it did not do her any good to have kids that did not want to do the program. She stated that the kids that came out were very receptive to the idea, however at that point in their lives, they had a great problem with committing. She stated however as the program spread in Boone County, those children would still be reached, but they would be reached through their school systems. She stated that in some cases there were problems with transportation or they had to be at other programs.

Commissioner Stamper asked if the request for funding was a one-time investment.

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Pat Oney stated that she had raised for \$5705 (approximately 25% match for this program for a year). She stated that she was asking for \$10,200 which would be a 50% funding.

Commissioner Vogt asked how many board members served on this program.

Pat Oney stated that they had seven board members with a potential of two more.

Commissioner Miller asked what would be done next year to fund this program, if this was a one-time investment.

Pat Oney stated that she had been looking into several grant packages. She stated that they had hoped if they received 25% in local match funds, 50% in County match fund, and then participated in other fundraisers, that this would qualify them to go for one of the larger grants.

Pat Oney stated that they were looking at other income producing programs. She stated that Judge Whitesides was approached about referring first-time offenders to an Alive at 25 program (a National Safety Program). She stated that Judge Whitesides agreed to send people to this program. She stated that Callaway, Howard, and Cooper counties would also be approached. She stated that the average cost for the program was \$40 and would address offenders ages 16-24.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Pat Oney for coming and stated that they would not make these kinds of decisions until the end of the budget process.

Subject: Peak Project-Khesha Duncan

Khesha Duncan, Andy Coop, graduate assistant in the University of MO, Department of Educational and Psychology Counseling, and Maria Gutierrez were present to speak about the Peak Project.

Khesha Duncan stated that the Peak Project was modeled after a program at the University of Fla. in Gainesville called the Researched-based Model Partnership Education Program. She stated that the program had proven to be extremely successful in increasing the academic and social success of African-American children. She stated that Dr. Carolyn Tucker, program founder and current administrator was now being offered the financial support by the Hitachi Corporation (her largest corporation) to explore other states to see if that program could be as successful in other places. She stated that one of her colleagues, Dr. Craig Frisby, was currently with the University of MO.

Khesha Duncan presented a video on the program.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he had the impression that the target group was an older group.

Andy Coop stated that they had studied the entire range of ages. He stated that the high school kids were the ones that were dropping out, however it was the precursors that effected this. He stated that these were really important issues to pay attention to.

Commissioner Vogt stated that one of the themes that she had heard while working on the Drop-out Committee (and in going to the National Conference) was that you have to start working with kids at a young age because this is when things are happening in their lives that will cause them to drop out of school.

Commissioner Stamper asked Khesha Duncan to speak about the future of the program and funding sources.

Andy Coop stated that in 1999 there would be some start-up expenses, he stated that these expenses would not be repeated. He stated that by year three, they would find it necessary to expand some of the programs workers (teachers). He stated that the 2001 budget reflected those

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increases. He stated that the 2002 budget reflected the fact that they would not be doing much student recruitment, but instead would have children already in the program. He stated that by 2002, they hope to have doubled the number of children that they this program could serve.

Commissioner Miller asked Khesha Duncan if there was a corporation that had already been setup.

Khesha Duncan stated that they were incorporated at this time, and were continuing to pursue the full not-for-profit status.

Commissioner Miller asked if the County funded this project, and then something happened and the program dissolved, was there a process for liquidation of the assets.

Andy Coop stated that the equipment would be given to other non-profit organizations that had similar goals and efforts. He stated that this was not something that even crossed their minds.

Commissioner Miller stated that this was a reasonable answer to include in the plans especially since public dollars would be funding it.

June Pitchford stated that this was not something that was addressed in the contract for services that the County usually entered into with not-for-profit organizations.

Commissioner Miller stated that the only reason that she asked that question was because the entire amount was being requested in the first year and a lot of equipment was going to be purchased.

June Pitchford stated that this could be addressed.

Commissioner Vogt asked if there was a back-up plan if no grants were received.

Andy Coop stated that their efforts had been really focused on obtaining local and State grants. He stated that there had been dialogue about receiving funding. He stated that they thought they stood a good chance of receiving the funding.

Commissioner Miller stated that this was a good program.

Commissioner Vogt stated that (she and Khesha Duncan) had attended the National Conference and attended many workshops. She stated that all of the programs included public funding. She stated that the Drop-out committee had met for three years in order to see what could be done about the drop-out rate which was over 25% in Boone County. She stated that it was no surprise to her that there was going to have to be funding from the community. She stated that this was the program that the committee decided could do the best for Boone County. She stated that she was surprised that the entire \$162,000 was being requested from Boone County.

Andy Coop stated that they had submitted a proposal to Community Health Resources and Assessment Team as a funding source for \$453,000. He stated that they had also delivered proposals to Boone Electric Cooperative for funding. He stated there were other proposals out there, however they had not heard anything from the other sources so therefore they were still seeking the full support.

Commissioner Vogt asked what the funding request was that had been submitted to CHART.

Andy Coop stated that they had requested \$24,999, and Boone Electric was \$30,000.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the cost on the front end was about \$6,000 a student, with it gradually shrinking to about \$2500 a student.

Commissioner Stamper asked how this compared to cost in other areas such as Florida.

Andy Coop stated that he did not have that information. He stated however that there was another individual who could answer that question for him.

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Commissioner Stamper wanted to know what the thinking was in the Co-project administrator's salaries (\$50,000 for two individuals).

Andy Coop stated that they needed to have someone very dedicated to the program and the success of the project would depend on consistent personnel who would be able to establish contacts in the community that they were trying to work with. He stated that they wanted to avoid conflicts for not paying an individual sufficiently for a job that would be extremely difficult. He also stated that the administrator would take care of the overall projects and the co-project would be more involved with the day-to-day workings as the project developed.

Another individual present stated that the salary was also related to the sustainability of the program, in that the people in these positions would make the community-based contacts needed to sustain the program.

Commissioner Stamper stated that decisions like this were typically not made until the end of the budget cycle. He stated that the funding for projects such as this was currently in debate (due to the area of disagreement with the trustees). He stated that if they could grasp an understanding of the way that Healthcare Profitshare was headed in the future, then this was something that they could look at. He stated that they were very concerned that Boone County had one of the top drop-out rates in the State. He stated that this was the only program that he had seen that addressed this problem. He thanked the group for coming and stated that the Commission would give the request very serious consideration.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45pm.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner