

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
Deputy County Clerk Melanie Stapleton

The work session was called to order by the Presiding Commissioner at 2:30pm.

Commissioner Stamper stated that County Auditor June Pitchford has presented a schedule outlining the changes in the proposed 2001 Budget.

June Pitchford stated that the statutory requirements mandate that agencies and departments present their requests to the Budget Officer by September 1st. She stated that the County Commission would make any changes in the proposed budget from that point forward. She stated that the State Statutes allow a mechanism for approaching the Circuit Court for voluntary reductions. She noted that the Court offered \$74,000 total in voluntary reductions for the proposed 2001.

Commissioner Vogt stated that Bob Perry, Court Administrator informed his staff that the voluntary reductions were made possible through grants.

June Pitchford stated that the other changes listed on the document were requests that were received after the proposed budget was drawn up.

Commissioner Stamper asked June Pitchford what the General Fund balance was.

June Pitchford stated that the General Fund balance, unreserved undesignated is 17% of expenditures or \$3.49 million.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he appreciated the voluntary reductions made by the Circuit Court. He noted that there are also areas of minor increase since the proposed budget was drawn up, including insurance and gasoline prices.

Commissioner Stamper asked June Pitchford for her opinion on the dedicated phone lines.

June Pitchford stated that this project represents the initiation of a project without a complete analysis of the ongoing costs.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he would like an additional day to do research on this matter.

June Pitchford stated that the \$5800 for the Health Educator position should have been included in the proposed 2001 Budget. She stated that this was an oversight on her part. She noted that she communicated that oversight to Stephanie Browning, Health Department Director.

June Pitchford stated that it was John Patton's opinion that the Nuisance Abatement fees could not be added onto the tax bills. She stated that an appropriation should be established for the payment of those fees and when the money is recovered it could go into an account within the General Fund.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the concept is to establish an account for nuisance abatement, cleanup the property, and then go through the court system to collect from the owner of the property in question.

Commissioner Stamper noted that Public Works Director David Mink made a variety of changes in the Road & Bridge Fund to address other priorities in the Public Works Department. He noted

that the County Commission concurred with those modifications.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the one of the pending items of the 2001 budget was funding of the Visioning process. He stated that the Auditor placed Healthcare ProfitShare funds next to that item. He stated that this seems to be a reasonable use of that fund.

Commissioner Stamper stated that issue of position vacancies still required discussion.

Commissioner Stamper noted that the County Commission found value for the Human Resources request for an additional staff member. He stated that this could be addressed through an appropriation or the consolidation of the benefits positions under the Human Resources

Commissioner Stamper stated that the County Commission discussed the Information Technology need with Bob Ormiston, Information Technology Director. He stated that the County Commission asked Bob Ormiston to develop immediate and long-term strategies to address the issues in his department.

June Pitchford stated that the Information Technology department could also review the information from the exit questionnaires and include that in the strategic development

Commissioner Stamper noted that Bob Ormiston reiterated his need for additional staff.

June Pitchford stated that her main concern with the adding of FTEs was the ability to sustain those positions over time. She stated that if the County does not obtain some relief from out of County housing, it will not be able to the keep funding new FTEs.

Commissioner Stamper stated that a decision was made that the plotter/scanner shared by the Recorder's Office, Assessor's Office, and Information Technology would be purchased in the 2000 budget. He stated that the departments were to report back to the County Commission on the funding method.

June Pitchford stated that she would follow-up on the plotter/scanner discussion.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the there was a full-time position taken out of the County Clerk budget. He noted that Wendy S. Noren offered to trade her part-time pool for that FTE. He stated that Commissioner Miller would discuss the benefits positions with Wendy S. Noren before the County Commission came to any final decisions on the County Clerk issues.

Commissioner Stamper that there has been discussion about the Sheriff switching a corrections officer position to a patrol officer position.

June Pitchford stated that if the County wants a successful initiative on the Jail tax issue, then some consideration should possibly be given to adding the additional officers once the funding is secure.

Commissioner Stamper stated that a member of the County Commission would speak to Sheriff Boehm about transitioning a corrections officer to a patrol position.

Commissioner Stamper stated that there had been peripheral discussion about taking the County Counsel as a County employee. He stated that Betty Dickneite, Human Resources Director provided some information on the compensation level for this. He requested that June Pitchford meet with the County Commission to discuss that issue.

June Pitchford stated that she would be willing to review that issue. She noted that it would be best to make this sort of transition during budget time.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the County Commission held the following positions on proposed 2001 budget issues:

- agreement on the \$95,000 modifications in Road & Bridge
- \$20,000 for the Visioning Process will come from the Healthcare ProfitShare
- no documentable savings have been identified from the vacant positions
- a question still pending on additional Human Resources staffing
- pending decision on additional FTEs in the Information Technology Department
- clarification pending on the plotter/scanner purchase
- pending decision about the FTE in the County Clerk's Office
- question on an additional Patrol officer vs the shifting of a Corrections officer to a Patrol officer

Commissioner Stamper stated that the evening public hearing is set for December 21. He stated that the County Commission should meet at least one more time before that date to make final decisions on the budget.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the County Commission would attempt to meet for an additional hour following the regular County Commission meeting on December 19th for another work session.

The work session adjourned at 3:15pm.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner