

JACKSON COUNTY BUDGET COMMITTEE

Minutes
Courthouse Auditorium
April 3, 2018
1:30 p.m.

The Jackson County Budget Committee meeting was called to order by Chair Dick Rudisile at 1:30 p.m. in the Courthouse Auditorium. Roll call was taken.

Present: Mr. Dick Rudisile, Presiding Officer/Chair, Budget Committee; Mrs. April Sevcik, Budget Committee; Mr. Craig Morris, Budget Committee; Commissioner Colleen Roberts; Commissioner Rick Dyer, and Commissioner Bob Strosser.

Staff: Mr. Danny Jordan, County Administrator; Mr. Harvey Bragg, Sr. Deputy County Administrator; Ms. Traci Carrier, Budget Analyst; Ms. Jennifer Drake, Recording Secretary.

Guests: Interested Members of the Public

Election of Presiding Officer

Mrs. Sevcik made a motion to nominate Mr. Dick Rudisile as the Chair and Presiding Officer of the Budget Committee. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Mr. Morris, Mrs. Sevcik, Commissioner Dyer, Commissioner Strosser, Commissioner Roberts, and Mr. Rudisile. Motion passed.

Approval of Budget Committee Minutes

Commissioner Dyer made a motion to approve the minutes of the Jackson County Budget Committee Meeting for November 30, 2017. Mr. Morris seconded the motion. Those who voted aye: Mr. Morris, Mrs. Sevcik, Commissioner Dyer, Commissioner Strosser, Commissioner Roberts, and Mr. Rudisile. Motion passed.

Presentation of Budget Message

Mr. Jordan noted that the recommended budget is available to the public for review through the County website, or through written copies available from the County Administrator's Office. He read the entire Budget Message into the record and explained that more specific detail will be provided during the budget hearings. The recommended budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 is \$358,062,146 and the adopted budget for fiscal year 2017-2018 is \$339,169,362. The recommended budget continues on the principles set by the Budget Committee in prior years. He reviewed the financial devastation that occurred due to the depletion of timber payments. He also explained that future funding to replace these payments is sporadic. Currently, there is an extension on Secure Rural Schools (SRS) funding of approximately \$4,200,000. Counties who received timber payments have a much lower tax rate than those counties not receiving payments. Mr. Jordan reviewed the tax rates for various counties in Oregon.

Mr. Jordan stated the first Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS) increase impacted the General Fund in fiscal year 2017-2018. The recommended budget also includes savings to prepare for the next increase in fiscal year 2019-2020. He explained new legislation that may allow a PERS side account to be established similar to the one currently set up by the County, and Jackson County qualifies for the program under this legislation as it is currently written.

He reviewed the employee salary increases for each classification and those based on union negotiations. The recommended budget for fiscal year 2018-2019 has increased full-time equivalent positions from 864.40 to 884.15 and he explained the FTE changes by each

department and the plan to pay for these changes. These increases represent the Budget Committee's instruction to preserve safety and health related services, as well as State-mandated services but not backfill for any lack in State funding. He communicated the mission statement and goals for the County.

Mr. Jordan then explained the needs of County facilities in no particular order. These included County facility improvements that will be addressed as there is funding and opportunity at the State courts, correctional facilities, emergency communications and the animal shelter.

The recommended budget includes a contingency of \$10,000,000. Additional funds have been moved to contingency and reserves for the possibility of the PERS buy down and the building of a new jail. Some local governments borrow at the beginning of the year, however, Jackson County does not due to the reserves that are carried, saving the taxpayers money.

Mr. Jordan explained the budget hearing process and provided the dates and times. He explained the process for reviewing the Elected Officials' salaries. He then reviewed the budget binder and explained the sections so the Budget Committee members would find it easier to review. The County is in good financial standing and he acknowledged staff for the work required to prepare this budget.

He reviewed the property tax rate, Appendix A, and stated that less than 10 percent of the budget comes from local property taxes; the permanent tax rate for Jackson County is \$2.0099 per thousand of calculated assessed value and assessed value is approximately 74.17 percent of real market value and has been set by the Oregon Constitution. Debt Service, Appendix B, was then explained in detail. County debt is reviewed by staff and when money can be saved or costs adjusted, those changes are made to reduce the costs to taxpayers. He explained the Library Debt Service levies and the property taxes collected for the White City Enhanced Law Enforcement District. He explained each of the Airport Revenue Bonds and rates and how those had been reduced for economic gain. He also reviewed Local Improvement Districts and explained how proceeds are used and paid for by the residents who benefit from these projects. He thanked the Budget Committee for their time in allowing him to read the Budget Message into the record and offered to answer questions.

Chair Rudisile asked if there were any specific questions about the Budget Message and noted that the first budget hearing is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 2018. There being no further business, Chair Rudisile adjourned the meeting at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Dick Rudisile
Dick Rudisile, Presiding Officer/Chair

/s/ Jennifer Drake
Jennifer Drake, Recording Secretary
Approved on: 09/06/2018