

Russell County Commission
(Continued) Budget Meeting Minutes
September 15th, 2014
9:30 A.M. EDT.

Commissioner Lee motioned to resume the recessed Russell County Commission budget Meeting. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Members present were: Chair Peggy Martin, Gentry Lee, Ronnie Reed, Chance Corbett and Larry Screws. Vice Chair Cattie Epps arrived shortly after the roll was called. Tillman Pugh was absent. Also present County Administrator LeAnn Horne and the Assistant Administrator Vickie Perry.

A quorum was established and the meeting was reconvened.

Administrator Horne gave a recap of budget changes made at the September 10th, 2014 proposed budget meeting.

Commissioner Corbett motioned to add funding for the 22 chainsaws for the volunteer fire departments to the EMA budget. Seconded by Commissioner Lee. The vote was unanimous.

Administrator Horne also provided an overview of the proposed salary schedule.

Commissioner Reed motioned to place \$36,000 in the budget for a consultant group for representation in Montgomery. Commissioner Lee stated this is just approving the funding. She will have to bring back the contract for approval at Commission Meeting after the attorney reviews it. Seconded by Commissioner Screws. The vote was unanimous.

- Appropriations:
 - Ladonia Complex - \$40,000 was left as an appropriation since that had been an appropriation in the past instead of placing it in Parks and Recreation. This discussion was tabled until Commissioner Pugh arrived at the meeting since the complex is located in his district.
 - United To Save Ourselves – a one-time appropriation for \$10,000 for a one time project.
 - The American Legion – also a one-time appropriation for \$10,000 for their new park. They normally receive an appropriation \$4,000 but requested an additional \$6,000 this year for their project.
 - Drug Court – The request was for more than \$40,000, but agreed on this amount with is \$20,000 each for Adult and Juvenile.

- Dues:
 - Valley Partnership – Much discussion took place concerning benefits of being a member of this organization which cost \$21,635. Commissioner Screws motioned to drop membership with Valley Partnership at this time. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) had left the meeting; District 3 (Martin) abstained ; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps)voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. Five (5) yes votes and one (1) abstention; the motion passed.
 - Economic Development – James McGill discussed a contract for a grocery store study by Russ Research Services for \$4,000. Commissioner Pugh requested the county pay 100% of the study so that the county owns the report/property and has control over information. Commissioner Epps motioned to increase Economic Development \$4,000 for the grocery store study. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The vote was unanimous.
 - Lee/Russell Council of Governments – Commissioner Screws wanted to look next year at this agency to reduce funding. 5 governments agreed to pay equal amounts to this agency. Administrator Horne said Lee/Russell called on Friday to request an increase from \$142,775 to \$147,000. A breakdown of services Lee/Russell provides in the Commission Office.

Commissioner Pugh arrived at the meeting. The Ladonia Complex appropriation discussion was continued. It was decided to place \$40,000 of the \$95,000 appropriations into the Parks and Recreation budget under repairs. The rest will be left in appropriations for special projects.

Commissioner Lee left the meeting.

- Proposed Projects and New Request:
 - Commissioner Corbett motioned to increase the appropriation to the volunteer fire departments due to their increased insurances form \$85,000 to \$90,000.Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous. Commissioner Lee returned.
 - Commissioner Lee requested \$25,000 for the Old Seale Courthouse for installation of an elevator, in the event a grant is not funded.
 - Commissioner Screws requested 2 miles of road projects.
 - Commissioner Corbett requested to set aside \$10,000 and if he is able to match that amount in donations and other money; then he could spend those funds for playground equipment to be installed at the Crawford Masonic Lodge. After discussion, Commissioner Corbett changed the \$5,000 that had already been set aside in the budget to \$10,000 instead of an additional \$10,000 and he would match the amount through donations. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. The vote was unanimous.

- Salary Schedule:
 - Administrator Horne provided an updated salary schedule that reflected one-time adjustments were made in some positions due to extra duties and responsibilities and corrections. These positions will receive the 3% if approved. This schedule does not include the one-time salary adjustments that are listed separately for your consideration. Approval of (6) Corporals to be incorporated in salary schedule also.
 - Proposed 3% Salary Increase –
 - Commissioner Reed motioned to give employees 3% increase and not increase any special request made by Department Heads for select employees. Commissioner Reed withdrew his motion and stated to take each individually.
 - Commissioner Lee motioned to accept the one-time changes that were requested and presented to the Commission to the salary schedule. Seconded by Commissioner Pugh. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, no; District 4 (Reed) voted, no; District 5 (Epps) voted, no; District 6 (Corbett) voted, yes; District 7 (Screws) voted, no. Four (4) no votes and three (3) yes votes; the motion failed. Requested for each salary be voted on individually.
 - Enforcement Officer - Commissioner Corbett motioned to approve the salary for the Enforcement Officer as stated in the salary request. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. The increase will be paid out of the Garbage Funds since the \$10,000 increased duties are for the Sanitation Department with collections and enforcement duties. The vote was unanimous.
 - After much discussion, Commissioner Lee motioned to accept the salary increase as presented for these positions: Jail Maintenance Helper, 6 Corporals, and Utility Director. Seconded by Commissioner Corbett. The vote was unanimous.
 - Chief Mechanic - Commissioner Screws motioned not to approve the Chief Mechanic's salary above the 3% increase. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Commissioner Screws withdrew his motion. Discussions were held regarding the person employed in this position has been here less than a year and their duties or certifications have not changed during this period according to Mr. Kite. Commissioner Screws noted that the employee did receive a take home vehicle and free gas as a benefit during their eight month employment. It was noted by Commissioners that a vote is not necessary if the Commission is not going to provide an increase for this position above the 3% proposed for all county employees.
 - 3% Salary Schedule – Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the salary schedule as presented September 12, 2014 and was seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps) voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett) abstained; District 7 (Screws) voted, yes. Six (6) yes votes and one (1) abstention; the motion passed.

- Commissioner Screws motioned to approve the budget with the exception of the appropriation to Beyond Expectation. He would then like to vote on that appropriation separately. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. Administrator Horne clarified that he motioned to approve the budget with the changes that were reflected at the previous budget meeting and today's meeting as well. Commissioner Screws agreed that was his motion. The Budget was approved with a unanimous vote.
- Beyond Expectations – Commissioner Epps motioned to approve the appropriation for Beyond Expectation. Seconded by Commissioner Reed. District 1(Lee) voted, yes; District 2 (Pugh) voted, yes; District 3 (Martin) voted, yes; District 4 (Reed) voted, yes; District 5 (Epps)voted, yes; District 6 (Corbett); voted, yes District 7 (Screws) abstained. Six (6) yes votes and one (1) abstention; the motioned passed.

Chair Martin adjourned the meeting.