

Special Meeting – Budget Hearings September 8, 2009

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session to conduct Budget Hearings at the hour of 9:00 a.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2009, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Beverly Brown presiding, Linda Arcularius, Susan Cash, Marty Fortney and Richard Cervantes. Supervisor Cervantes provided the Invocation, and Supervisor Fortney led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

Budget Message The County Administrator presented the FY 2009-2010 Budget Message. He provided the errata to the budget that made minor changes to the written document. He noted line item changes to the budget document as follows:

- (a) pg. 1, first sentence the word eek should be eke;
- (b) pg. 29, differences between Department Requested Road Budget and CAO Recommended Budget should have noted that the Vehicles object code was reduced by \$120,000;
- (c) pg. 435, Elections narrative changed the date of the Primary Election from June 1, 2010 to June 8, 2010;
- (d) pg. 470, Library narrative should reflect decrease of \$48,132 in Net County Cost not increase; and
- (e) pg. 20, Treasurer-Tax Collector an additional \$3,059 reduction in revenues, which reduces the amount of contingencies from \$21,444 to \$18,385;

Mr. Carunchio also provided the Board with a hard copy of the Budget Message powerpoint presentation and proceeded with the presentation. He highlighted many of the differences between last year's Board approved budget and this year's CAO Recommended Budget, noting the reasons for the changes. He thanked the Auditor-Controller, Ms. Leslie Chapman and the Budget Analyst, Ms. Randi Chegwidde, for their tremendous support in preparing this year's budget and acknowledged and thanked the Department Heads for their efforts to control departmental spending with little impact to the services they provide.

**Recess/
Reconvene** The Chairperson recessed the Budget Hearings at 10:10 a.m., reconvening at 10:25 a.m., with all Board Members present.

**Departmental
Budgets** The Chairperson advised that she would be following the Budget Index to allow the Board and Staff to discuss the respective budgets and a final motion would be made at the end of the discussions regarding the entire budget.

The County Administrator noted the change to the Treasurer-Tax Collector's budget on page 20 to reduce revenues by \$3,059, which results in a reduction in the Contingencies balance from \$21,444 to \$18,385. Mr. Carunchio also noted an omission in the Treasurer-Tax Collector's budget which was the discussion regarding the replacement of the CREST Property Tax System.

The Board requested a workshop on the Water Department's long-term revenue and expense projections.

With regard to the Animal Control Budget on page 32, the Board requested that a goal for FY 2009-2010 be added to reflect improvements to the Animal Shelter. Additionally, the Board requested that future budget narratives include statistics on jail operations, i.e., number of arrests, number of people incarcerated, number of early releases, etc. Supervisor Arcularius requested a workshop be scheduled in the near future regarding the jail operations.

With regard to the Road and Public Works budgets, Supervisor Arcularius advised that the Legislature is reconsidering HUDA (gas tax) deferrals and that there is a small county exemption for counties with populations at 40,000 or less. She asked the Chairperson to contact Senator Ashburn and Assemblywoman Conway to reiterate Inyo County's support for the exemption.

The Board also discussed the status of the environmental assessment on the Laws Railroad Project, the need to consider changes in the fees charged at the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport, and the need to look into repairs at the Lone Pine airport of the AWOS system and the cracks in the runway and how to pay for those repairs. Additionally, the Board requested workshops on (a) the CARB regulations and funding issues combined with discussions on equipment replacement schedules; (b) TEA Projects, (c) State funded road projects, (d) personnel reorganization; (e) fuel fees and sales at the Eastern Sierra Regional Airport; (f) town water system rate study; and (g) deferred maintenance projects.

Ms. Linda Anisman, Director of Child Support Services, requested the Board to reconsider the Department's request for a career ladder adjustment for an employee. The Board acknowledged Ms. Anisman's support of her staff, and took no action on her request. The County Administrator noted an oversight in the Child Support Services Budget, noting that because there has been a request by Mono County for a Business Consultant Contract, which is estimated at around \$5,000 and there will be an increase in expenditures in the Professional Services Object Code with a corresponding increase in revenue. Mr. Carunchio also acknowledge Ms. Anisman's efforts to keep Inyo County costs down in order to benefit the region and to ensure there are sufficient funds for the Mono County request.

In discussing the Health and Human Services Tobacco Program Budget, the Board expressed concern with the development of a Tobacco Retail Licensure (TRL) policy with various organizations and retailers prior to discussions with the Board regarding what they would like to see in a policy and requested that a workshop be scheduled on the TRL prior to outreach to the public.

Recess/
Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the budget hearings at 11:50 a.m., to reconvene the hearings at 1:00 p.m. with all Board Members present.

The Board continued their departmental budget review. Supervisor Arcularius noted that with regard to the Deputy Public Administrator/Public Guardian position, the budget as presented includes a 3 months salary savings and the County Administrator confirmed that the position could be filled as of October 1, 2009.

The Board queried the Planning Director regarding the budgeted items pertaining to the recently settled Coso Project. The County Administrator informed the Board that there was approximately \$10,000 in revenue associated with the project, most of which was accounted for in the salaries and benefits codes. He explained that prior to submittal of the final budget, an adjustment in the revenue and expenditure codes would be made. The Board also discussed the staff time needed to participate in the RETI project, the status of the federal allocation for the Yucca Mountain Office, the status and plans for the County's requirements in the upcoming 2010 Census.

County Counsel, Mr. Randy Keller, noted that there would be some adjustments in the County Counsel budget, to reflect changes in revenues and expenditures associated with the settlement of the Coso matter. The County Administrator clarified that adjustments to the County Counsel budget to reflect adjustments associated with the Coso matter would be made in the final budget.

In reviewing the Coroner's budget, the Board asked for a copy of the "Basic Death Investigation Guide" which was referenced in the Coroner's narrative.

Supervisor Brown requested that the Clerk Recorder issue a press release to advise the public about who may vote via the internet. Ms. Roper explained that citizen's living in foreign countries and those serving in the military may vote via the internet, and confirmed that she would issue the press release to advise the public of this option. The Board requested a workshop on the costs associated with the upcoming election and the cost saving opportunities that could result from an all mail ballot.

The County Administrator noted that he is currently negotiating with the Courts regarding the Constable position, saying that he believes this to be a Court position, which should be funded by the Courts. He informed the Board that an adjustment would need to be made to zero this budget out should it be determined to have the position transferred to the Courts. The Board also requested a final year-end report on the Tourism Marketing Contract, and a discussion on museum special events. The Chairperson recessed the budget hearings at 2:10 p.m., to reconvene the hearings at 2:20 p.m., with all Board Members present.

The Board continued their department budget review. The Board discussed the BLM money for solid waste efforts, with the County Administrator confirming that the \$20,000 is budgeted. The Board went on to request a workshop on solid waste fees and services.

Recess/
Reconvene

The Chairperson recessed the budget hearings at 2:50 p.m., to reconvene the hearings at 4:00 p.m., with all Board Members present.

The Board considered the Advertising County Resources and Grants in Support budgets. They heard from representatives of the Bishop Chamber of Commerce, the Independence Chamber of Commerce, Bishop Historical Society/Laws Museum, and Inyo Council for the Arts, Wild Iris, the Film Commissioner, the Interagency Visitor's Center, and the California Indian Legal Center.

The County Administrator reviewed the items in the individual budgets which would be amended in the final budget which were:

- a) inclusion of funding for a Business Plan Consultant in the Child Support Services budget;
- b) reduction in revenue in Treasurer-Tax Collector's budget and corresponding decrease in Contingencies budget;
- c) true up the expenditures and revenue in the Planning and County Counsel budgets to adjust for settlement of the Little Lakes Appeal of the Coso Project; and
- d) add the improvements to the Big Pine Animal Shelter as may be appropriate due to the purchase of a metal building that may be available.

Adoption of FY
2009-2010 Budget

Moved by Supervisor Cash and seconded by Supervisor Fortney to adopt the FY 2009-2010 Budget as recommended by the County Administrator and amended as noted above, set the adoption of the Final Budget for September 15, 2009 and authorize the County Administrator to sign all the Grants-in-Support contracts, contingent upon the appropriate signatures being obtained, for the programs and amounts approved by the Board of Supervisors. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the FY 2009-2010 Budget Hearings at 4:45 p.m., on Tuesday, September 8, 2009.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

Attest: *KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO*
Clerk of the Board

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant