

Budget Hearing

August 13, 2018

Present: Rebecca Wood, Chairman; Roy Hubert, Commissioner; Terrill Zech,

6:15pm Chairman Wood called the meeting to order.

Chairman Wood asked Clerk Farnworth to review the salary budget for the new year. Clerk Farnworth reviewed the salary progression changes from 2015-2019.

The Sheriff's deputy starting wage was increased in July to \$17.55 and the appropriate moves on the scale to be competitive with the City. We were not getting any applications for the two open positions.

Clerical positions starting wage was moved up \$.50 to \$11.50 and the appropriate moves on the scale.

Discussion on salary schedule and why the Commissioners are not all paid the same salary and why Commissioner Zech was being paid a lower salary. The Commissioners are on a step like all other elected officials, they increase 3% each year they are in service. As experience is gained, employees are more valuable in their position.

Clerk Farnworth explained that there are two payment theories in the state, one is that all elected officials are paid the same, no matter their years of service and the other is there is a starting salary for the first year and a step increase each year they are in service. Lincoln County is using the step grade for all county employees.

It was suggested that for the next year's budget this topic be discussed again.

Clerk Farnworth reviewed the budgeted revenues with an increase in property taxes of the allowed 3% and use of forgone taxes of \$52,129. She gave an explanation of forgone taxes and we had a forgone amount that was left over from last year due to a large increase in the operating values after the property tax budget was set.

Clerk Farnworth continued the review of each department and fund of the budget explaining any large increases or decreases.

The Assessor is behind on the salary step schedule and there is a plan in place to bring her to the appropriate step in 4 years.

Commissioners have a capital purchase line for \$31,200 which is planned for security camera replacement at the courthouse and continued park plans that are being funded with penalty money from 4 Bros Dairy that is being held over.

Probation increase is due to using SCRAMM units on probationers, these test for alcohol presence as well as location.

LINCOLN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MINUTES

The coroner budget has been increased because we have a new coroner. Dr. Davis was doing a lot of things without charging the county, but now we need to pay for those things. We also need to ensure the new coroner is properly trained, and that has been budgeted for.

Courthouse janitor contract was moved to an employee position.

The Prosecutor is also behind on the salary step and a 4 year plan is in place to bring him to the grade.

Most of the Sheriff department increase is due to the increase in the starting wage during 2018 and is now comparing to 2018 budget. The Sheriff deputies were not given the step increase of 5% in 2019. He has also budgeted for some new bullet vests for deputies.

Fair budget is down for the new year and so is Junior College tuition due to a change in the program. The state is paying the colleges directly for dual credits for high school students.

Discussion on solid waste and the power generating plant. Also on the need for a scale.

A letter was read into the record from Mike Telford, requesting the commissioners reduce the affect of government on the county constituents. Also mentioned the amount of boards that he was on as a former county commissioner.

Chairman Wood discussed future plans for the county working with SIEDO and marketing what we have to offer visitors.


Commissioner Hubert recommended that the Commissioners take all comments under advisement at the next meeting.

Commissioner Zech reviewed the city budget for 2019, which includes an increase of 55% over 2 years ago.

7:35pm Chairman Wood adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully,

Brenda Farnworth



Rebecca Wood, Chairman

Attest:



Brenda Farnworth, Clerk