

Minutes For July 1, 2003 - Budget Hearings

The Solano County Board of Supervisors met in adjourned session on this day at 8:04 a.m. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Kromm. All members were present.

CLOSED SESSION: The Board moved into Closed Session at 8:05 a.m. to discuss Property Negotiations: Solano County Fairgrounds; Negotiating Parties: Michael D. Johnson, County Administrator and David Martinez, Vallejo City Manager; Under Negotiation: Price. The Board moved out of Closed Session at 9:04 a.m.

The Solano County Board of Supervisors reconvened on this day at 9:13 a.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Public Comment

Donald Tipton, Vallejo, expressed his concerns regarding Budget units 1000 Board of Supervisors, 2480 Department of Child Support Services, 7160 Vallejo Veterans Memorial Building, 8220 Homeacres Loan Program, 9129 Homeacres Loan Program Contingencies, 9238 Southeast Vallejo Redevelopment, 9846 Sandy Beach Lighting District, and 9814 East Vallejo Fire Protection District.

George Guynn, Jr., Suisun City, voiced concern with such a large budget, recommended going back to limited government, feels excess spending should be cut and reserves built up.

Superior Court, County of Solano

Judge Kays, Presiding Judge, read a prepared statement outlining the court change to State control, with negotiating for the undesignated Civil Assessment Fees, the agreement between CSAC and the State for the counties to pay \$31 million per year for the next two years into the Trial Court Trust Fund, and provided a spreadsheet, Handout A and Handout B, incorporated herein by reference, outlining funding options proposed for the split of undesignated Civil Assessment Fees and budget reduction actions for the 2003/2004 Memorandum of Understanding between the Superior Court and the County. Judge Kays further outlined the extreme financial position of the court, court generated revenue, the proposal for the Court to be part of the \$31 million proposal made by California State Association of Counties (CSAC) that is an unknown obligation that the Court has no control over, and effects on Court services if additional budget cuts are required. Judge Kays requested the proposal for 65% for the Court and 35% for the County and that the Court will have no responsibility for the County's share of the CSAC \$31 million commitment be adopted.

A discussion followed regarding the sweeping of undesignated fees, the

CSAC \$31 million agreement with the State, exposure to the County and sharing of the liability, enhanced retirement benefit costs, the historic split of the Civil Assessment Fees, Trial Court Funding, the State budget, and County costs to support the Courts.

Assessor/Recorder Skip Thomson discussed the costs absorbed by the County departments for the enhanced retirement benefit costs, salary increases for County departments, the need to provide services to the public, but the need for the Courts to look at the State for funding. Mr. Thomson urged the Board use caution allocating additional funding for the Court, when the funds may be necessary to backfill essential services.

Environmental Management

There was a brief discussion regarding the funding that is allocated in the Department of Environmental Management's budget to complete the General Plan Zoning consistency update of the Homeacres area, prioritization of current special projects, and other outstanding issues such as flood control, biosolids, mega dairies, etc., and funding cuts.

General Services

Discussion ensued regarding Animal Control, creation of a Regional Park District, and Proposition 40 funding.

Sheriff Department

Filling vacant positions in the Sheriff's Department/Corrections with Special Investigators that are being laid off in Health and Social Services, overtime issues, and the Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Program (MIOCR).

Health and Social Services

Discussions regarding funding for Children's System of Care, Mental Health Services for children, and the status of Crisis services.

Chairman Kromm closed the public hearing.

Reserves and Contingencies

County Administrator Michael Johnson noted the General Reserve Balance of \$19 million that can not be spent during the year and the restrictions of this fund, General Fund Contingency Reserve, and outlined the list of further funding considerations. Conversation followed regarding State Budget impacts, and assumptions used in building the budget.

There was consensus to leave General Fund Reserves at \$19 million.

The use of Tobacco Master Settlement Agreement (MSA) Funds was proposed for funding of some of the items listed for further funding considerations, and talks followed relative to MSA contingencies of \$2.1 million,

and the MSA spending plan.

Superior Court, County of Solano

John Taylor, County Administrator's Office, outlined budgeting differences of the Court and the County, followed by discussion regarding sharing of revenue, the Court absorbing one quarter of the risk relating to the \$31 million CSAC agreement with the State on Civil Assessments, and percentage calculations for splitting the undesignated Civil Assessment Fees.

Drug Court and the Proposition 36 Program

A spreadsheet was provided outlining the Drug Court budget for 2003/04 and 2004/05 and Prop 36 Program costs by function, incorporated herein by reference, excluding any grants. Mr. Taylor noted that \$251,000 would be needed for a year, the in-kind resources that are required to support the Court, effectiveness of the Prop 36 Program, how Drug Court works in conjunction with the Prop 36 eligible clients, results of both programs, and recidivism rates.

Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Program (MIOCR)

An outline of the funding requirements to continue the program was provided, incorporated herein by reference, a discussion followed about a scaled down model, difficulties for the Sheriff's Department to run this type of a program, compliment programs, grant possibilities, recidivism rates, flexibility for use of the building, tailing off of services without additional funding, cost effectiveness of the dollars comparing the FACT Program and New Horizons, and alternative uses for the building.

FACT Program

Deputy Director of Mental Health Kathy Cramer outlined the primary purpose of the FACT Program, program reductions, and the request to add back staff.

Department of Child Support Services

Director of Child Support Services Dennis Covell submitted a letter dated June 11, 2003, and a memo dated July 1, 2003, incorporated herein by reference. The letter outlined information regarding Voluntary Time Off being used to save positions that are being cut by the State, effects of the Maximus study, and suggested full staff analysis prior to bringing back staff members that have been laid off. The letter from the California Department of Child Support Services regarding the department living within their budget, repercussions if the County backfills any funding, and Mr. Covell discussed Federal automated program penalties. A short discussion followed regarding \$625,000 in department reserves that is slated to be used for the first installment for the automated program penalty.

There was a consensus not to backfill funding for the Department of Child Support Services.

FURTHER FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS

Throughout the day the following additional items were added to a list, that was continued from hearings on June 30, 2003, for further consideration for funding: Court MOU, Mentally Ill Offender Crime Reduction Program (MIOCR), Contract Add Backs, and Drug Court.

ADJOURN - This meeting of the Board of Supervisors adjourned at 4:03 p.m. to FY2003/04 Solano County Budget Hearings, July 2, 2003, 9:00 a.m., continued from June 30, 2003, and July 1, 2003.

Duane Kromm, Chair

Maggie Jimenez
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors