



Budget Committee Hearing
April 13, 2021 ~ 9:00 am ~ Room 219

4/13/2021 - Minutes

- 1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To www.klamathcounty.org**
- 2. To Join The Meeting Remotely Click The Link Below Or Calling: 833 548 0276 (Meeting ID 910 9633 7410), Passcode 896820)**
- 3. Call To Order & Those Present**
Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot, Commissioner Boyd, Ernest Palmer, Brienne Humphrey, Danise Brakeman, Sandy Cox, Haley Huffman/Admin Staff, Dale Geigle/Multimedia, Vickie Noel, Michelle Carpenter/Finance, Jeremy Morris/Public Works, Karen Oakes/Justice Court, Rick Vaughn/Tax Collector, Eve Costello, Melina Johnson/District Attorney, Dan Golden/Juvenile, Rochelle Long/Clerk
- 4. 9:00 Opening And General Discussion**
Commissioner Morris opens Hearing, introductions. Turns hearing over to Chair Brakeman
- 5. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting**
- 6. 9:10 Public Hearing - Klamath County Drainage Service District**

- 1. Received Budget Message Drainage District**

9:04 am Chair Brakeman opens Drainage District Public Hearing

Vickie Noel reads budget message.

Jeremy Morris address the Committee explains services provided by District and proposed projects. Commissioner Boyd believes the proposed budget reflects laziness on County Government, explains. Morris responds on the challenges when creating budget. Brakeman asks if there is a particular project that would reduce the contract services line item that Commissioner Boyd is referring to? Morris responds and explains the project and staff involvement. Commissioner DeGroot comments about the Master Plan for the District, appreciates Public Works using internal staff rather than going out and creating large expense to the district. Morris responds they are trying to be more proactive rather than reactive. Brakeman asks if this proposal came to

the BOCC in Budget Workshops? Commissioner Boyd indicates it may have but just looked it a couple days ago. Commissioner Morris indicates the budget did come before them, but didn't spend a lot of time on it. Brakeman comments that it doesn't look like they are spending much of the money. Commissioner Boyd further comments that this budget doesn't accurately reflect anticipated spending. Palmer comments that he wouldn't have a problem reconvening the Budget Committee if necessary, but agrees with Commissioner Boyd, and would like to see the budget proposed different. Humphrey would prefer to see an accurate reflection of spending. Morris responds it is a challenge and they can't always predict mother nature. Palmer asks if we would need to reconvene the Committee to reduce specific line items. Noel indicates that we can make those changes during these hearings. Brakeman asks which line items are being requested to edit? Commissioner Boyd says, Contract Services and Drainage Maintenance Internal. Morris responds with specifics. **Palmer motions to edit right now, suggests the \$400,000.00 contract services line item be reduced to \$80,000. Commissioner Boyd seconds.** Brakeman would like to see it reduced to \$100,000 rather than \$80,000. Commissioner DeGroot agrees with Brakeman. Palmer would still like to see \$80,000.00. Morris thinks the \$80,000.00 would be fine. **Unanimous vote. Approved** Noel asks where to put the extra \$320,000, suggests operating contingency. DeGroot would rather see it go into reserve. Morris would defer to Noel. Committee agrees it should go into reserve.

Brakeman calls for Public Comment - None

Noel reads Resolution approving the Proposed Budget of \$3,200,000.00. Commissioner DeGroot motions, Palmer seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved

Noels reads Resolution imposing taxes, Commissioner Morris motions, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved

9:38am Brakeman closes Hearing

7. 9:30 Public Works

1. Weed Control - Operating/Equipment Reserve

Jeremy Morris addresses the Committee with details of proposed budget, struggling to hire chemical applicators, makes it difficult to fulfill third party contracts as well as keeping up with County properties. Commissioner Boyd questions decrease in retirement line item, wants to make sure there is enough in that line item. Noel responds and points out there is another retirement line item need to add the two together. Palmer ask if Morris has approached the BOCC for exceptions to the "norm" to make the chemical applicator position more attractive. Morris responds yes, multiple times, but has not formally pursued changes, they have done a wage study and the wage is comparable to other areas. Morris continues that licensing, continued employment and risk involved are the main challenges. Palmer says since we have no applicators we need to make some changes now, perhaps paying for the licensing or

putting them on partial pay while getting certified. Morris indicates we do reimburse for testing fees upon passage, this year they are going to have to use 2 of the Public Work employees to cover the work as they have their applicators license. Morris continues that we can look at applicator contracts through a third party. Brakeman asks how many private chemical applicator businesses are around? Morris responds 2-3. Palmer asks if they have talked to the aviation chemical spraying company. Morris responds that aerial spraying wouldn't work as the work is more spot spraying. Palmer indicates those companies may have the ability to do spot spraying. Morris says yes they are looking into that option, but Public Works already has already purchased the product and has the equipment.

2. Bicycle Trails

Jeremy Morris addresses the Committee with details of the proposed budget. Commissioner Morris comments that the Foothills Trail is fabulous. Brakeman discloses that she serves on the Roads Advisory Committee.

3. Klamath Falls Streets

Jeremy Morris addresses the Committee with details of the proposed budget, no proposed projects for this budget year. Palmer suggests keeping the account in the County and continue as is. Noel speaking as the Treasure, prefers to not act as a bank, but understands why the County wants to maintain control of the fund. Discussion about the account earning interest. Palmer is convinced the City is capable of controlling the funds, but just would rather see the County control the money.

4. Equipment Reserve / Operating / Federal Funds

Jeremy Morris addresses the Committee with details of the proposed budgets, proposed purchases and proposed projects. Discusses concerns of declining "Road Fund". Additionally discusses challenges of Public Works being 3 FTE short. Brakeman asks what the reason is behind putting 38 million in reserve line item rather than unappropriated line item. Morris responds and elaborates. Brakeman asks Morris to elaborate on the loan proceeds and revenue. Morris/Noel respond is a loan to City Schools with a 20 year term. DeGroot indicates there is a good chance a good portion of that loan will be paid back this year.

8. 10:10 Public Hearing - Klamath County Extension Service District

1. Received Budget Message Extension District

10:27 am Chair Brakeman opens Extension District Public Hearing.

Vickie Noel reads budget message.

Tracy Tracy addresses the Committee with details of budget and concerns about having to relocate the office by 2023. Commissioner Morris explains the lease is good through 2028.

Noel reads Resolution approving the proposed Budget. Commissioner DeGroot motions, Humphrey seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved

Noels reads Resolution imposing taxes, Humphrey motions, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved

10:50 am Brakeman closes Hearing

2. Extension

See above

3. Extension Reserve

See above

9. 10:30 General Fund Non-Departmental

Noel addresses the Committee with details of proposed budget: Expenses, revenues and transfers. Explains why we prepay districts that receive less than \$100,000 in taxes. Palmer questions donation line item? Noel responds/elaborates. Commissioner Boyd questions rental income? Noel responds US Cellular towers and rent on piece of land from City of K-Falls. Palmer discloses that he serves on the Senior Center Board.

10. 10:40 Justice Court

Karen Oakes addresses Committee with details of proposed budget. Commissioner DeGroot commend Oakes for working well during the pandemic, understands it was difficult.

11. 10:50 Treasurer

Noel addresses the Committee with details of proposed budget. Has concerns regarding lack of interest earnings/explains. Brakeman asks if most County's hire out for Consulting? Noel responds/explains. Palmer questions concerns about lack of interest and how do we move away from that? Noel responds/explains that no one is earning interest right now. Palmer questions amount we are investing? Noel breaks down the figures, decrease in interest revenue due to COVID and Fed's dropping rates. Boyd questions how much in State investment pool. Noel responds 53 million which generates about 26k a month. Noel further elaborates on the fees/expenses that come out of the interest revenue.

12. 11:00 State Courts

Noel addresses the Committee with details of proposed budget.

13. 11:05 Commissioners/Commissioners Misc. Grants/COVID Pandemic Grants

Noel addresses the Committee with details of proposed budget/no significant changes, Commissioners did decrease travel budget to accommodate the deficiency due to COLA and medical insurance increase. Noel further explains details of the different "Grants". Brakeman asks for details of both CDBG grants. Noel/Cox and DeGroot respond with

details.

14. 11:15 Water Master

Commissioner Boyd addresses the Committee regarding agreement with the State to provide an office and provide one employee for the Watermaster, rest of budget covers expense in the office. Brakeman questions training to deal with aggressive public? Commissioner Boyd does not believe so, most of the employees are out in the field, they can request law enforcement if needed. Brakeman questions if the State employees would be eligible for the County's EAP program? Morris responds, believes the State would have a similar program. Boyd further explains the the Watermaster herself is really the only one that has to deal with angry public.

15. 11:25 Other Funds

1. Equipment Reserve

Noel addresses Committee with details of proposed budget, and departments that participate to the fund. Reviews planned expenses. Brakeman questions Sheriff's office contribution? Noel responds.

2. County Schools

Noel addresses Committee with details of this pass through fund.

3. Tourism Competitive Grants

Noel addresses Committee with details of fund pursuant to Klamath County Code, explains process of the Tourism Grant Committee.

4. Economic Development

Noel addresses Committee with details of fund, explains that money comes from State Video Lottery. Palmer discloses that he serves on the Board of Directors for SCOEDD. Noel further explains the grant program, details annual funding requests from local entities. SCOEDD has requested an increase of their funding this year. DeGroot further elaborates on the County's economic development efforts, believes we need to give additional funds to the entities SCOEDD/10K, KCEDA/50k and Klamath Idea/2500 that help us with economic development. Commissioner Morris hasn't thought much about exact figures would like to think about that more, does believe we need to leverage more dollars to economic development. Commissioner DeGroot indicates we can do more with the ARA dollars. Brakeman questions what is before the Committee today? Noel responds an extra 10K to SCOEDD. DeGroot recommends we increase all three entities funding and take it from unappropriated fund balance. Commissioner Boyd does not agree, does not believe we are getting a good return on our \$200k investment from KCEDA, as far as SCOEDD another Commissioner recently suggested we not increase their funding as they have received a bunch of COVID funding. Commissioner Morris would like to discuss these contracts in a BOCC meeting rather than budget hearings. DeGroot suggests maybe allocating the money from unappropriated fund to contract services then the BOCC can

decide on contracts at a later date. Noel breaks down the asks from KCEDA, SCOEDD, Klamath Idea, Catalyze Klamath and the Grant program. Palmer comments that SCOEDD does not have an excess of funding, most of it is earmarked COVID money coming in and going right back out. Humphrey knows that SCOEDD does alot of outreach in our community. Brakeman agrees that SCOEDD has the greatest impact on our community, but is not big on giving money that has not been requested. DeGroot and Noel says we do have additional asks from KCEDA/100k and Klamath Idea/2500. Brakeman questions why such a big increase ask from KCEDA? DeGroot responds. Palmer agrees with moving the money to contract services and letting the BOCC decide how to distribute it. Humphrey believes all the entities do a lot of good for the community. SCOEDD asking for additional 10K, Klamath Idea asking for additional 2,500, KCEDA requesting an additional \$100k. Commissioner Boyd asks if KCEDA has formally asked the BOCC for an increase? DeGroot/Morris both say yes in a public meeting. Brakeman is comfortable moving additional 50k from unappropriated balance to contract services, bringing that balance to 107k for the BOCC to decide how to distribute. Humphrey motions to move additional 50k from unappropriated balance to contract services, Commissioner DeGroot seconds. unanimous vote. Approved

5. Taylor Grazing

DeGroot explains the pass through methods of this fund. Noel explains the "Act" requiring us to receive and distribute the money.

16. 1:00 Tax Collector

1. Tax Collector

Rick Vaughn addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Tax Collector department. Ms. Brakeman asks about the mobile home clean up funds. Mr. Vaughn explains.

2. Property Management

Rick Vaughn addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Property Management Fund for the Tax Collector department. Ms. Brakeman asks about the cleanup costs and process. Mr. Vaughn explains, we try to work with Community Corrections to have the work crews complete the work unless the cleanup project is too big then we would bid it out. Commissioner Boyd asks about the department of revenue liens. Mr. Vaughn said, these are all senior deferral leins, this is the amount we pay the State.

3. Transient Room Tax

Rick Vaughn addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Transient Room Fund for the Tax Collector department. He said, we have transient room tax pegged at 2 million dollars this year.

17. 1:20 District Attorney

1. District Attorney

Eve Costello addresses the committee to present the District Attorney Office's requested budget. She said, we are about \$125,242 short. Part of this is due to an increase in staff, DDA salaries, insurance and we are anticipating a cut with the drug court grant that we apply for through the Criminal Justice Commission. Mr. Palmer asks about the District Attorney's salary and how much comes from the State. Ms. Costello said, the majority comes from the State. I get a stipend from the County. Mr. Palmer asks, are you at a flat rate? Ms. Costello confirms, we are at a flat rate and have been for about 15 years because we are elected officials. Mr. Palmer asks about the District Attorney's health insurance and vacation/sick benefits. Ms. Costello confirms those are all paid for by the State. Ms. Costello explains, my stipend is included in the budget. Ms. Brakeman asks, the \$125,000 that your short, you said that's mostly due to staff increases after negotiations and health insurance? Ms. Costello said, yes and the approximately \$30,000 that we're not expected to obtain from the drug court. Ms. Costello explains the work that her office/staff does and details the 24/7 on call duties.

2. District Attorney Special Revenue

Eve Costello addresses the committee to present the District Attorney's Office Special Revenue Fund requested budget. Melina Johnson explains how the treatment courts were combined and how their funding works. There are no County funds expended for them, they are funded through grants. Ms. Noel said, in your special revenue budget, I don't see where you budgeted incentives. Ms. Johnson said, that is in contract services because our treatment provider puts that expense in an invoice. Mr. Palmer asks about measure 110 impacts on the District Attorney's Office. Ms. Costello said, we did get a notice today that the Oregon Health Authority will have money available through grants but those funds will be going to treatment agencies not law enforcement. We are expanding treatment court to include people that have drug related property crimes. The treatment programs are incredibly intensive. There is a lot more supervision than you would get with a regular supervisory sentence. The hope is that the money coming out for the treatment providers will make it easier for folks to go in for treatment than getting caught up in our criminal justice system.

18. 2:00 Juvenile

Dan Golden addresses the committee and presents the requested budget for the Juvenile department. He said, we are about \$231,000 out of balance due to three changes. The first is a policy change to include the commissioners' policy to cease paying stipends to non management employees doing management duties which caused a reclass of positions for a total increase of approximately \$32,000. The second increase is the movement of personnel from part time to full time for a \$140,000 increase. The third is an increase in medical insurance costs. Mr. Palmer thanked Mr. Golden for his sacrifice by deferring his step increase for the ninth straight year saving the department \$8000. Commissioner DeGroot said, I think these budget requests are appropriate and I think it should stay as proposed. Commissioner Morris said, yes much of the changes in his budget are because of decisions made by the Board.

19. 2:30 Assessor

1. Assessor

Nathan Bigby addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Assessor Department. This budget and the is fairly flat except for increase in staff costs due to reclasses.

2. Geographic Information Systems

Nathan Bigby addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the GIS department. This budget is fairly flat except for an increase in staff costs. Currently the staff is doing data migration from an analog to a digital system.

20. 2:45 Clerk

1. Clerk

Rochelle Long addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Clerk's department. She said, this year recording is up and needs to be accommodated so we worked to do that and we gave about \$70,000 back to the General Fund. Our budget has stayed pretty standard for this year. Commissioner Boyd asks, how is the staff reduction that we asked you to do back in 2019, is it working ok still? Ms. Long said, yes and we do bring in temporary staff occasionally for elections and will need to if the census redistricting goes through. Ms. Brakeman said, for disclosure, I have been a temporary staff for the Clerk's Office during election time.

2. Clerk Storage Fund

Rochelle Long addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Clerk's department Storage Fund. Ms. Brakeman asks, what are the plans for the storage this year? Ms. Long said, none at this time, I'm waiting on the State to decide on their new ballot system.

3. Clerk Overpayment Fund

Rochelle Long addresses the committee to present the requested budget for the Clerk's department Overpayment Fund. Ms. Brakeman said, is the intention to transfer that over to the General Fund? Ms. Long said, we can do that and probably keep \$600 in there just for the refunds.

21. Public Comment, General Discussion And Wrap Up For Day - * Public Comment Time Will Occur Immediately Following The Last Budget Presentation.

Ms. Brakeman asks if there is any public comment. There is no public present.

22. Adjournment

2:11pm Ms. Brakeman recesses the committee until tomorrow at 9am.

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.

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