

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF REEDSPORT APRIL 18, 2011,
7:00 P.M. AT CITY HALL.

PRESENT: Mayor Keith Tymchuk, Councilors Diane Essig, Bill Otis, Ginger Anderson, Kathi Wall-Meyer and Bill Walker (Councilor Mike Macho was absent)

Committee Members Aeron Blackman, Jackie Potter, Lee Bridge, Mark Bedard and Tammy Van Syoc

City Manager Scott Somers

OTHERS PRESENT: Floyd Dollar, Diane Novak, Deanna Schafer, Vera Koch, Mark Fandrey, Kathleen Miller

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. CITIZEN COMMENTS

This time is reserved for citizens to comment. Maximum of five minutes per item, please.

3. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Committee Member Tammy Van Syoc moved that the Budget Committee approve the Agenda.

Committee Member Jacque Potter seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the Budget Committee approve the Agenda.

VOTE:

A vote was taken on the motion with the following results:

AYES 10 NAYS 0

(Mayor Tymchuk, Councilors Otis, Essig, Anderson, Walker, Wall-Meyer and Committee Members Bedard, Blackman, Bridge and Potter voted in favor of the motion.)

Chair Mark Bedard declared the motion passed unanimously.

4. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Continue Review of Fiscal year 2011 / 012 Budget.

Finance Director Vera Koch and City Manager Scott Somers gave a brief explanation of how tax compression due to Measures 5 and 50 actually affect a person's property tax.

City Manager Scott Somers began the review of the budget document with a continuation of the Police Department section of the General Fund. He said that there has been a lot of discussion regarding this budget and the number of officers employed. The budget is proposing reducing the FTE to 9 officers which is comparable to other cities our size as shown on the statistical information that the Committee received the previous week. He said that it comes down to whom we want to cut in order to fund an additional police position. An additional \$75,000 would have to be found.

Somers said that he would like to talk about officer safety because that seems to be the main concern. He said that currently there is a lack of back up coverage between the hours of 4:00am and 7:00am. He also said that the Department has been operating with 8 to 9 officers for approximately a year due to officers being at the academy and in training. He asked Chief Fandrey if he felt the officers were unsafe at 9 FTE.

Chief Fandrey said that certainly higher numbers would be ideal but that it works with 9. He said that with the invention of tasers it is more practical for an officer to respond to a call when they face younger, more physical or drug enhanced suspects.

Somers asked if Fandrey there has been even a slight increase in the crime rates or unresolved crimes during that time.

Fandrey said that in a Department this size you will always have to deal with that. He said that the Department has to set priorities. Crimes against persons get the priority, property crimes come next. Basically nuisance calls or complaints are responded to when the officers can get to them. He said that there are days that the officers are overwhelmed and can't keep up and days that are slower and you try to play catch up.

Discussion of adding detective duties to the police force.

Chief Fandrey said that he would propose a traffic officer getting some training to respond to those types of crimes. He said that he needs all the officers to be on patrol and emergency calls.

Mayor Keith Tymchuk asked if it would be feasible to contract out for detective work.

Fandrey said that he has never seen that done, ideally it would be in house. He said that the fight against drugs and alcohol is a full time job and are related to 99% of our crime.

Councilor Bill Otis said that he believes that there is money that can be found in the budget to pay for an additional police officer.

Committee Member Lee Bridge moved that the Budget Committee amend the budget document to allow for retention of 10 FTE Officers in the Police Department section of the General Fund.

Councilor Bill Otis seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the Budget Committee amend the budget document to allow for retention of 10 FTE Officers in the Police Department section of the General Fund.

VOTE:

A vote was taken on the motion with the following results:

AYES 3 NAYS 7 ABSTAIN 1
(Councilors Otis, Wall-Meyer and Committee Member Lee Bridge voted in favor of the motion)(Councilors Essig, Walker, Anderson and Committee Members Bedard, Blackman, Van Syoc and Potter voted in opposition)(Mayor Tymchuk abstained from voting)

Chair Mark Bedard declared the motion did not pass.

Councilor Bill Otis addressed the issue of the cost of running a jail; he noticed that the FTE for the jail had been removed from the budget. He said that he thought that person should be charged to the jail to show true costs of having the jail.

City Prosecutor Dave Anderson said that approximately five years ago the City made the decision to not use the jail because of the costs associated with running it. He said that over the next 12 to 18 months the City saw an increased spike of crimes because the people that need to be detained were transported to Roseburg where they were promptly released within 30 minutes. Once the Court was able to start using the jail facilities, word got out on the streets and things began to calm back down.

Chief Fandrey said that the FTE has been moved because there is not a full time officer assigned to the jail. He said that he actually mans the jail from 8:00am - 5:00pm Monday through Friday so that his officers can be out on the road. He said that he would not be opposed to getting rid of the jail after doing babysitting and feeding inmates all day long but it is a necessary evil. He said that the jail actually does not cost that much and that this summer during the peak time he will have an officer out on Family Leave (FMLA) and so there wouldn't even be an officer to send to Roseburg to take people to the jail facility there.

Finance Director Vera Koch said that removing the FTE from the jail budget was a accounting issue and there was no intention of closing the jail.

City Manager Scott Somers said that this year several positions were consolidated rather than spread out among the funds as they previously have been.

Assistant Fire Chief Harold Rose asked about the electricity at the Fire Departments. He said that this is an area that they are working on, turning thermostats down and lights off. He said that in looking over the budget these numbers are rock bottom.

Councilor Bill Otis said that he had done some research concerning the animal control program that is operating in Lane County at Junction City. He said that Junction City generates approximately \$40,000 on licensing 1000 animals a year. He said that there are costs associated with the program but even if the City were able to generate half of that it would be more than we have now. Most of the current budget is generated by donations and the shelter is run by volunteers.

Committee Member Aaron Blackman moved that the Budget Committee suspend the meeting until the following Monday.

Committee Member Tammy Van Syoc seconded the motion.

MOTION:

that the Budget Committee suspend the meeting until the following Monday.

VOTE:

A vote was taken on the motion with the following results:

AYES 10 NAYS 0

(Mayor Tymchuk, Councilors Otis, Essig, Anderson, Walker, Wall-Meyer and Committee Members Bedard, Blackman, Bridge and Potter voted in favor of the motion.)

Chair Mark Bedard declared the motion passed unanimously.

5. MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS
(*Budget Committee Members, City Staff,*)

Committee Member Aaron Blackman asked if Councilor Otis had a recommendation as to where the cuts could be made in the budget to fund an additional police officer.

Councilor Otis said that he did not identify a particular line item.

Committee Member Lee Bridge asked if the money could come from turning off some of the street lights. He said that the lights cost \$65,000 and a big chunk of that could offset an officer. He said that he feels that people would rather be in the dark than without coverage.

Public Works Director said that you could potentially turn off half of them and save approximately \$32,000.

Finance Director Vera Koch said that the City has just recently turned the lights back on because due to cost saving measures several years ago half of the lights were turned off. The citizens were very unhappy with this situation and the Council passed an additional tax on the power bills to pay to have them turned back on.

Next meeting date will be April 25, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers to discuss the Capital Improvement Plan

6. ADJOURN

Mark Bedard, Chair

ATTEST:

Deanna Schafer, City Recorder