

JEROME COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Monday, July 23, 2019

PRESENT: Charles Howell, Chairman
Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman
John Crozier, Commissioner
Cy Lootens, Deputy Clerk

Meeting convened at 9 A.M.

PUBLIC DEFENDERS CONTRACTS

Rockne Lammers was present to submit for review a contract for his services as Public Defender. He stated that he works on cases in Child Protection, misdemeanors and Juvenile cases, as well as felony conflicts. He stated he submitted the basic contract he uses, and it is very similar to last year's contract. It however asks for a 3% increase, last year he did not ask for any increases. He stated that the money amount is not his take home pay. The amount requested in the contract is used to cover expenses as well. Rockne stated that his office is the first line in felony conflict cases. He is asking for \$65 per hour in any conflict case. He stated that is the same rate as the year before. Rockne also stated that since the implementation of the Odyssey program that his office's assistant has had to take on a lot more work. He stated that at the County and City level there is a lot more support staff to take care of the same amount of work that his one assistant handles. This year's contract asks for \$30,000 in additional money in order to hire another assistant.

Commissioner Crozier was excused at 9:35am

BUDGET WORKSHOP

Michelle Emerson and Tracee McKim were present for a budget workshop with the County Commissioners. First Michelle submitted county employee's wage changes for the new budget. Increases for employees were discussed per department. Commissioner Crouch noticed a correction that needed to be made based on previous discussions. The form submitted showed an increase of 3% for the Sheriff. Commissioner Crouch recalled an increase of 10% was agreed upon at the last meeting. Tracee stated she would make the correction. Next Tracee stated that the proposed increases are not set in stone at this point. The increases are just to allow the departments to receive that much money from the budget to allow an increase up to that point per employee, and the Commissioners will still need to approve wage changes by signing off on them at a later time. Next Tracee discussed the difference in the amount in the budget for this year. She stated that there was an increase of \$2.3 million dollars this year. And that \$2 million of that will be set aside for the new building. Next Tracee and Michelle stated that the highest increase that is allowed per year in taxes is 3% plus revenue from new construction. Tracee stated that Ag/Fair is near its total levy limit on increases. Next Tracee stated that the budget is intentionally submitted low in comparison to revenue in order to have the extra tax revenue saved for future projects in the reserve fund.

Commissioner Crouch asked how much of the levy money is not used. Tracee stated that all levy money is used.

Tracee stated that a total of approximately \$0.40 per \$1000 in property value will be the increase in taxes this year from last year. The budget will be updated to reflect the change to the salary of the Sheriff and then submitted to the County Commissioners. Tracee asked the commissioners if after the correction was made that it could be submitted to the County Department Heads at the next Commissioner's meeting. The commissioners agreed that would be acceptable. Tracee stated that the deadline for the budget is September 30.

Meeting recessed at 10:25am

Respectively submitted:

Cy Lootens, Deputy Clerk

Charles M. Howell, Chairman

A. Ben Crouch, Vice Chairman

John Crozier, Commissioner