

McLean County Commission Proceedings
Tuesday, September 22, 2015

A special September meeting of the Board of Commissioners was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairperson Barry Suydam. Present were Commissioners Suydam, Steve Lee, and Doug Krebsbach. Also present were Auditor Les Korgel, Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss, Deputy Auditor Nancy Leidholm, and Alyssa Meier of BHG News Service along with Verine Reimann, Claudia Volk, Donald & Di-Ann Seefeld, Rodney and Ann Peterson, and Terry Sawicki of Wilton; Gary St Louis and Gary Schell of Max; Sherwood Gibbs of Underwood; Tom Link, Mike Nelson, Kitty Tweeten and Tana Waldren of Washburn; Mike Zimmerman of Garrison; G. O. Philbrick and Lee Bergquist of Turtle Lake; and Myron Lick and Darcy Klain of Ruso.

Chairperson Suydam immediately opened a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. for review and acceptance of the Preliminary 2016 Budget. County Extension Agent Michelle Effertz, NDSU Southwest District Director Gerald Sturn, Land Use Administrator/Tax Director/Veteran's Service Officer Todd Schreiner, State's Attorney Ladd Erickson, Highway Superintendent Jim Grey, DES Manager Noelle Kroll, Recorder Beth Knutson, Water Board representative Perry Oberg, Sheriff J. R. Kerzmann, Chief Deputy Sheriff/E-911 Coordinator Richard Johnson, Senior Deputy Justin Krohmer, Assistant Jail Administrator Wade Krohmer, Captain David Pederson, Senior Deputy Curt Olson, Senior Deputy Cody Meadows, Detective Aaron Matties, Sergeant Gordon Malaterre, Sergeant Glen Wiest, and Donnell Preskey Hushka of NDACo were present. Korgel presented the preliminary budget requests and proposed mills along with guidelines for the budget process specifically what the process is for increasing and decreasing as per state guidelines prior to the final budget hearing.

Korgel then presented proposed mills and budget requests.

The Board reviewed the budgets for Board of County Commissioners, Clerk of District Court, County Auditor and States Attorney as submitted and no changes were made.

The Board then reviewed the budget for Tax Director/Land Use. Krebsbach questioned if the request for an additional assessor could be put off. Schreiner stated that the additional help is needed because of legislative changes and the fact that the county has so far added 9 additional townships and 1 city to their assessing responsibilities. Lee stated that this is by far the toughest budget he has ever had to deal with. Revenue sources have gone down and difficult decisions need to be made.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to remove the \$50,000.00 request for an additional assessor for the Tax Director/Land Use department. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the budget for the County Recorder as submitted and no changes were made.

The Board reviewed the budget for Computer Operations. Computer Operations Director Lori Foss recommended cutting the \$12,500.00 from the Capital Outlay line item for the upgrading of Tough Books as their warranties will continue well into 2016. They can be added to the 2017 budget.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Lee, to reduce the Computer Operations Capital Outlay line item by \$12,500.00 for the upgrading of Tough Books. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the budget for County Building & Grounds.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Lee, to reduce County Building & Grounds by \$35,000.00, specifically \$15,000.00 in the Building Repair line item; \$10,000.00 in Janitorial Supplies; \$5,000.00 in Lights/Tools/Miscellaneous; and \$5,000.00 in the Equipment Purchase line item. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the budgets for Election Expense, Non-Departmental Expenses, Employee Benefits, Utilities and Communications as submitted and no changes were made.

The Board reviewed the budget for the Motor Pool.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to reduce the Miscellaneous line item in the Motor Pool budget from \$3,000.00 to \$500.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board then reviewed the budgets for Veteran's Service Officer, Parole & Probation, Social Security and GIS Implementation as submitted and no changes were made.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to eliminate the LFAP line item in Dues/Memberships reducing that budget by \$1,000.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the E-911 Coordinator budget. Lee suggested reducing the Equipment Purchase line item from \$40,000.00 to \$20,000.00. Krebsbach questioned if the requested 5 Motorola radios could be purchased with \$20,000.00 to which E-911 Coordinator Richard Johnson responded yes. Johnson was also requesting an additional \$3,600.00 for Todd Schreiner who maintains the 911 addressing and GIS mapping for the department.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to reduce the Equipment Purchase line item in the E-911 Coordinator budget from \$40,000.00 to \$20,000.00 and to eliminate the \$3,600.00 salary request for Schreiner. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board went on to review the Employee Risk Management Program and Juvenile Court budgets as submitted and no changes were made.

The Board reviewed the County Sheriff and Law Enforcement Vehicle Expense budgets. Lee feels the department is doing a tremendous job. Korgel stated that line item Jail Nurse could be eliminated as it is budgeted for in the Prisoner Medical line item. Krebsbach recommended turning the county motor pool Chevy Blazer over to Detective Sam Lincoln, pushing his Ford Expedition out for patrol use and reducing the number of vehicle purchase requests from four to three. Lee agrees and has always been a promoter of reliable vehicles for law enforcement, but is looking at the bottom line for budget purposes.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to transfer the county motor pool Chevy Blazer to the Sheriff's department, equipping it for Detective Lincoln's use, thus pushing the Ford Expedition out for patrol duty, adding the necessary equipment. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Lee, to reduce the Capital Outlay/Equipment line item in the County Sheriff budget \$56,840.00, reducing the vehicle purchase request from four to three. Roll call vote: Aye: Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: Lee. Motion carried.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Lee, to eliminate the Jail Nurse line item as it is already included in the Prisoner Medical line item, reducing the County Sheriff budget by \$15,800.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Discussion followed regarding the \$93,260.00 Overtime line item and the request for an additional jailer/dispatcher at \$36,355.91 and additional detective for \$50,000.00.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to eliminate the Overtime line item in the County Sheriff budget reducing the budget by \$93,260.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee. Nay: Krebsbach and Suydam. Motion failed.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Lee, to eliminate the Additional Detective line item in the County Sheriff budget reducing the budget by \$50,000.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the budgets for Law Enforcement Vehicle Expense, County Coroner, Disaster Emergency Services and Jobs Promotion as submitted and no changes were made.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to eliminate the Advertising/Tourism budget of \$850.00. Korgel explained that the \$600.00 for Website Hosting/Maintenance was already included in the Computer Operations budget. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the budgets for County Park Board and Extension Agent as submitted and made no changes. Discussion took place regarding Extension travel while area farmers spoke of the benefits of having a good Ag Agent in McLean County. Krebsbach would like to see the county take the time to hand pick the possible next agent and Lee added that NDSU will have the final say.

The Board reviewed the Weed Board, Highway Administration, Highway Maintenance/Construction and Highway Maintenance Sheds budgets as submitted and no changes were made.

The Highway Shop - Washburn/Garrison budget was next. Discussion regarding the Lease Purchase Agreement for the purchase of the Swanson buildings/lot followed. Lee doesn't feel the county can afford the purchase at this time as we're not in the position to buy something we don't absolutely need to have. After touring the site, Lee stated that it is 40 years old and the owner says there may be a few leaks in the roof and the floor heat isn't working. Krebsbach disagrees and feel the purchase is a good fit for the highway department.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to eliminate the Lease/Purchase – Washburn line item from the Highway Shop – Washburn/Garrison budget reducing the budget \$150,000.00. Highway Superintendent Jim Grey feels the property is a perfect fit for the department as they are already short on space and need the additional room. Having more indoor space to park equipment would help with winter efficiency. Lee agrees that it could be good for the county but wonders if we can get by without it. Suydam feels it is conservative to buy a used building but wonders what the buildings life expectancy is. Lee wonders if running equipment in town is a good fit. He added that the annual payment does not include possible city specials, insurance, operating costs and maintenance, and doesn't feel the county can afford to put the money into it to keep it useable. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee. Nay: Krebsbach and Suydam. Motion failed. Suydam would like to see where the budget is at after tonight's budget cuts and look at it again at the final budget hearing on October 6.

The Board reviewed the Highway Equipment Expense budget.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to reduce the line item Fuel/Oil/Grease in the Highway Equipment Expense budget from \$490,000.00 to \$468,000.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach to reduce the Capital Outlay line item in the Highway Equipment Expense budget \$100,000.00. After discussion, Lee rescinded the motion.

Moved by Krebsbach, seconded by Lee, to reduce the Capital Outlay line item in the Highway Equipment Expense budget \$150,000.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Farm to Market Road, Superintendent of Schools, Social Services and Special Assessments budgets as submitted making no changes.

The Board reviewed the Emergency Fund budget.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to cut the Emergency Reserve line item of the Emergency Fund from \$165,000.00 to \$0.00. Roll call vote: Aye: Lee, Krebsbach, and Suydam. Nay: None. Motion carried.

The Board went on the review the McLean/Mercer Rescue Boat, McLean-Mercer Regional Library, First District Health Unit, McLean County Historical Society, McLean County Fair Board, Water Resource Board, Flexible Benefits – Medical & Child Care, Towing and Vehicle Impounds, South McLean Soil Conservation District, West McLean Soil Conservation District, Unorganized Township Road, and Senior Citizen Fund budgets as submitted making no changes.

Korgel will put together an updated budget so decisions can be made regarding salaries and other possible adjustments.

Commissioner Lee requested Chief Deputy Auditor Lori Foss to submit to the Board salary adjustment data utilizing a 1.3% performance based cap (versus the 2% cap as presented today) prior to the final budget hearing on October 6. The Board would also like to include the 1.7% Cost of Living Adjustment in the submitted data along with the bumps to minimum for all personnel who fall below the new minimums established by the recently completed salary survey.

Moved by Lee, seconded by Krebsbach, to accept the preliminary budget as presented with changes made during the preliminary budget hearing and to set the final 2016 budget hearing for 10:00 a.m. October 6, 2015. Roll Call Vote: Aye: Suydam, Lee and Krebsbach. Nay: None. Motion carried.

Chairperson Suydam closed the public hearing at 9:42 p.m.

There being no further business, the chairperson declared the meeting adjourned until the next regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, October 6. The commission minutes and agenda can be found on the county website at <http://www.mcleancountynd.gov/>.

Barry Suydam, Chairperson

Nancy Leidholm, Deputy Auditor