

Minutes For July 08, 2002, Budget Hearings 2002-2003

SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' MINUTES

July 8, 2002

The Solano County Board of Supervisors met in adjourned session on this day at 9:01

a.m. for the purpose of discussing the budget for Fiscal Year 2002/2003. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Kromm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence. Present were Supervisors Kondylis, Silva, Thomson, and Vice-Chairman Kromm. Chairman Carroll was excused.

PROPOSED BUDGET OVERVIEW

County Administrator Michael Johnson reviewed a visual presentation of the highlights of the Fiscal Year 2002/2003 Proposed Budget, incorporated herein by reference, noting the modest increase of approximately 2% in the budget totaling \$12.9 million, and assumptions that were made relative to State impacts on the County budget. Mr. Johnson reviewed additional revenue, and also noted the supplemental changes as recommended in the memorandum from his office dated June 26, 2002, incorporated herein by reference.

There was a brief discussion regarding the overall contingency and County reserves, and the potential for more dramatic cuts by the State next year.

Vice-Chairman Kromm expressed concern relative to the Board's goals and objectives not translating to the budget. Funds are not being allocated to what has been identified as our goals and priorities. The Countywide population has increase 13% over the last 11 years, and Countywide employees has gone up 43%, and budget spending has gone up 127% in the last 11 years. The Board needs to consider if we have been spending to fill resources rather than filling the needs of our population.

PUBLIC COMMENT

DONALD TIPTON, VALLEJO, EXPRESSED CONCERNS WITH CERTAIN BUDGET UNITS

Donald Tipton, Vallejo, commented regarding the following budget units:
1000 Board of Supervisors, voiced concern with the increase in wages and benefits, the \$5,000 promotional fund each Supervisor has, feels addressing the living wage should be added to the Goals and Objectives, loss of interest on loans to the City of Vallejo, and the need to add an 800 number for public access to County offices.
6550 Sheriff, voiced concern with insufficient numbers of officers, and with funding officer positions for only part of the year.
2910 Environmental Management, voiced concern with the Homeacres Rehabilitation Planning and Planning Agency Liaison, with the General Plan updates not being completed in Homeacres, and noted the need for ways to ensure code compliance is being done.
8220 Homeacres Loan Program, would like the goal of targeting homes that are in real need of repair and code compliance, and with increased awareness to generate more loans for the program.
9839-9846 Lighting Districts, with increased revenue to do multi year improvement plan, with the high cost of an improvement plan, and noted the light identification work already done by the Homeacres Improvement Association and the Neighborhood Watch Program. (There was a brief discussion regarding recruitment challenges)

STAFFING CHANGES REQUESTED FOR THE ANIMAL SHELTER BY CATHY BULLARD

Cathy Bullard, Solano County Animal Care Advisory Commission, voiced concern regarding the budget, 2850 General Service, for Animal Care Services noting the need to remove the inmates from working in the shelter and to increase the kennel staff. The cost increase would be addressed through increased fees. (It was noted additional funding was addressed in the Supplemental Budget request.)

VERNA BROOKS EXPRESSED CONCERN WITH THE OVERALL BUDGET PROCESS

Verna Brooks, Fairfield, voiced concern regarding the public process

relative to the budget, how the Board will ensure the needs and interests of the public are met, with the lack of public comment by the department heads, and how will the County Administrator ensure strong dedication to the County of Solano and the citizens that are served. (There was a brief discussion on the extensive budget process and availability of the budget document.)

CAL MCMURPHY EXPRESSED CONCERN RE LIGHTING DISTRICTS 9839-9846

Cal McMurphy, Vallejo, voiced concern regarding the consolidation of the lighting districts, with the high cost of a lighting plan, and that there is a large amount of money in the lighting districts and no lights are being put in. (Further discussion followed later in the meeting.)

FUNDING FOR SHERIFF'S SERVICES TECHNICIAN POSITIONS REQUESTED BY ART GRUBEL

Art Grubel, SEIU – Local 1280, voiced concern with the recommendation to not fund two additional Sheriff's Services Technician positions. This classification was created to reduce costs to provide some services in the jail. This position does some tasks to relieve Correctional Officers. This is a cost-effective way to address some of the jobs put in for this classification, and requested the positions be funded. (Further discussion followed later in the meeting.)

(Item 5) BUDGET STUDY SESSION

Discussions were held on the following budget units:

SUBSTANCE ABUSE (7560)

Supervisor Kondylis expressed concern regarding \$14,000 in cuts to the contract with BiBett Corporation who provides detox services. Substance Abuse Administrator Essie Henderson noted the contract to BiBett and contracts for other providers were cut due to significant cuts in State funding. Overall cuts are approximately \$107,000, and the cuts were

distributed according to the size of the vendor.

A discussion followed regarding maintaining programs, Proposition 36 funding, back filling with MSA funds, and the growing need for substance abuse services. A full report will be prepared by Health and Social Services regarding this issue.

COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM (CASA) - \$150,000 OVER 2 YEARS APPROVED

Supervisor Kondylis noted what an excellent program this is, the grant request that was not funded, and requested \$150,000 in funding over a 2 year period to run the program.

Supervisor Silva noted support for using MSA funds for this program.

Vice-Chairman Kromm noted support of the program, with funding out of the General Fund.

Supervisor Thomson noted he would not support funding this out of the General Fund due to the potential State budget problems.

STREET LIGHTING DISTRICTS (9839-9846)

County Administrator Michael Johnson discussed reserves in each of the County Service Areas, with Board direction to look at each district and develop a plan to enhance lighting and services and to spend the available funds, funds are being moved out of reserves and appropriated to each budget unit. Proposals will come back to the Board for these services.

Supervisor Silva further explained the actions that will be taking place in these districts.

Mr. Johnson briefly explained the tax revenue line and how the money got to the districts, enhancing services, and eventually consolidation for administrative purposes.

ESPD T AND CHILDENS MENTAL HEALTH

Supervisor Kondylis gave a brief description of the program, proposed growing the program in the County 20% to 25% above current levels, with the use of MSA funds.

Director of Health and Social Services Patrick Duterte noted the projected 13% growth utilizing reimbursement funds from previous years, and discussed the difficulties surrounding

this program. Mr. Duterte suggested growing the program as fast as possible, followed by a brief discussion on determining funding for that growth. Supervisor Silva suggested building the infrastructure, consider slow growth and to further consider additional funding at mid-year.

Supervisor Kondylis requested \$200,000 to expand the program, do a review at mid-year to see if additional increases are needed. Funding needs to be put aside from reserves for added funding if the Board decides to do that.

Vice-Chairman Kromm discussed Federal and State reimbursement funding, State budget repercussions, and feels the Board should wait until the State budget is finalized to consider increased funding.

Vice-Chairman Kromm noted this issue to come back at mid-year.

ANIMAL CARE SERVICES (2850)

Director of General Services Jim Werdell discussed the many improvements at the Animal Shelter, agrees that inmate labor is not ideal, development of a staffing plan, and revenue generating plans.

Responding to comments by Supervisor Kondylis relative to inmate labor, use as a job training program, Mr. Werdell noted the problems with utilizing this labor force, and could review a program for a job training program.

County Administrator Michael Johnson noted recommendations for Animal Control in the supplemental budget considerations memorandum, and suggested not eliminating inmate help at this time.

Supervisor Thomson discussed the need for increased fees.

Vice-chairman Kromm voiced concern with the 50% funding increase over the last 2 years.

There was a brief discussion regarding increased mandated costs, and with future fee increases.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT (6550)

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm regarding overcrowding,

staffing needs, and safety in the jail, Sheriff Gary Stanton noted ways he is dealing with over crowding, increases and decreases in inmate populations, and voiced concern with meeting the Board of Corrections staffing requirements, which incremental staffing increases will help.

Sheriff Stanton noted the care taken to ensure safe conditions in the jail.

There was a brief discussion of the advantages and disadvantages for the Sheriff's Services Technician positions.

PROBATION (6650)

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm regarding new automated system, Chief Probation Officer Gemma Grossi discussed development of criteria to capture specific data with the new automated system.

ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT (2910)

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm relative getting the department fully staffed, Director of Environmental Management Birgitta Corsello discussed recruiting efforts, back filling planner positions with contract planners, the selective hiring freeze process, and the positions requested for this department.

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF SOLANO COUNTY (1515)

Responding to questions posed by Vice-Chairman Kromm regarding moving the administration of the program from Vallejo to Vacaville, where vouchers most needed, Director of Environmental Management Birgitta Corsello noted the administration of the program was moved to Vacaville with the majority of the 250 Section 8 vouchers being utilized in the Dixon and Rio Vista area. The move of administration will better fit the needs of the clients.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS (1000)

There was a brief discussion regarding the \$5,000 discretionary fund per district.

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-146 ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE COUNTY OF SOLANO FOR THE 2002/2003 FISCAL YEAR

RESOLUTION NO. 2002-147 AMENDING THE LIST OF NUMBERS AND CLASSIFICATIONS OF POSITIONS WITHIN SOLANO COUNTY

\$150,000 OVER 2 YEARS APPROVED FOR FUNDING OF THE COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATE PROGRAM

County Administrator Michael Johnson requested the proposed budget and supplemental recommendations augmenting the budget be approved as outlined in the Supplemental Funding Recommendations Memorandum.

On motion of Supervisor Silva and seconded by Supervisor Thomson, the Board acted to adopt Resolution No. 2002-146 Adopting the budget for the County of Solano for the 2002/2003 Fiscal Year, to adopt the supplemental budget with the technical adjustments, to adopt Resolution No. 2002-147 Amending the List of Numbers and Classifications of Positions Within Solano County, to approve \$150,000 in funding over the next two years for the Court Appointed Special Advocate program utilizing MSA funds, with the exception of the Board of Supervisors Budget (1000) and the Fairfield Downtown Project (9148). So ordered by a vote of 4-0; Chairman Carroll excused.

On motion of Supervisor Silva and seconded by Supervisor Kondylis, the Board acted to approve the budget for the Board of Supervisors (1000) as proposed. So ordered by a vote of 3-1; Vice-Chairman Kromm voted no, and Chairman Carroll excused.

On motion of Supervisor Silva and seconded by Vice-Chairman Kromm the Board acted to approve the budget for the Fairfield Downtown Project (9148). So ordered by a vote of 3-1; Supervisor Kondylis voted no, and Chairman Carroll excused.

ADJOURN - This meeting of the Board of Supervisors adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

William J. Carroll, Chairman

Maggie Jimenez
Clerk to the Board of Supervisors

4