

MALHEUR COUNTY BUDGET BOARD MEETING

APRIL 23 - 24, 2019

The Malheur County Budget Board continued its meeting on April 24, 2019 with Judge Dan Joyce, Commissioner Don Hodge and Commissioner Larry Wilson present; Budget Board Members present were Richard Eiguren, Ron Haidle, and Rod Price; and Budget Officer Lorinda DuBois.

Also present was Larry Meyer of the Argus Observer.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Road Supervisor Dave Tiffany met with the Budget Board and discussed Page 31 - Marine & Park; Pages 38-40 - Road Fund; Page 41 - Major Bridge Fund; Page 42 - Road Equipment Fund; and Page 43 - Road Improvement Fund.

Page 31 - Marine & Park. Bully Creek Grounds and Herbicides/Fertilizers line-items were slightly increased.

Pages 38-40 - Road Fund. Sand & Gravel was left at last years' amount; chip sealing projects are planned for this summer. Weed Control Expenses was slightly increased in an effort to offset the costs of chemicals. Small Equipment is for an iPad for Jordan Valley.

Page 41 - Major Bridge Fund. A portion of the State Highway Tax Apportionment is transferred to this fund each year.

Page 42 - Road Equipment Fund. Grader in Jordan Valley may be the next needed replacement.

Page 43 - Road Improvement Fund.

Page 31 - Marine & Park; Pages 38-40 - Road Fund; Page 41 - Major Bridge Fund; Page 42 - Road Equipment Fund; and Page 43 - Road Improvement Fund were approved.

VETERANS SERVICE

Veterans Service Officer Connie Tanaka met with the Budget Board and discussed Page 30 - Veterans Service; and Page 65 - CVSO (County Veterans Service Officer) Expansion Fund. Mr. Tanaka assists the public with applying for veterans' benefits and aid for which they are entitled to. Funding is from the State and County. CVSO Expansion Fund is grant funds from the State through lottery dollars. Funds in this budget are to be expended each fiscal year; it may be possible to carryover some for a future vehicle purchase (Mr. Tanaka is still trying to confirm this). A part-time position may be implemented in the CVSO Expansion Fund. In 2017 over \$15 million came into the county in Veteran funds for disability compensation and pension. Veterans Court had its first graduate this year.

Page 30 - Veterans Service; and Page 65 - CVSO Expansion Fund were approved.

TREASURER/TAX OFFICE

Treasurer/Tax Collector Jennifer Forsyth met with the Budget Board and discussed Page 7 - County Treasurer/Tax. Small Equipment request is for a receipt printer. Ms. Forsyth requested the part-time (.4 FTE) position be increased to 3 days a week (.6 FTE). Ms. Forsyth explained the office is staffed by 2 persons and the part-time position which leaves a lot of days when there is only one person in the office (due to vacation/sick/training etc.); for safety reasons it is helpful to have two persons in the office as much as possible and increasing the part-time position to three days a week would help achieve that. It was also noted that the County Court recently approved changing the Accounting Tech position to a Management Assistant position.

CLERK'S OFFICE

Clerk Gayle Trotter met with the Budget Board and discussed Page 4 - County Clerk; and Page 68 - Clerk Records Fund. Presidential election coming in the next fiscal year; election costs continue to increase as more people are registered through the motor-voter law. Legislation currently being considered that would require the postage be prepaid on voted ballots. Permanent records are digitized/archived with funds in the Clerk Records Fund.

Page 4 - County Clerk; and Page 68 - Clerk Records Fund were approved.

SNAKE RIVER TRANSIT

Malheur Council on Aging and Community Services (MCOA&CS) Executive Director Loni Thomas and Transportation Project Manager Brittany White met with the Budget Board and requested funding to be used as match dollars for grants supporting the transit system in the amount of \$15,000. Ms. White reviewed the transportation services offered through MCOA&CS. Funding for the transit system 5311 Match is transferred from the Economic Development budget.

PREDATORY ANIMAL CONTROL

USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) APHIS (Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services)/Wildlife Services District Supervisor Patrick Smith and Wildlife Specialist Scott Phillips met with the Budget Board and discussed Page 19 - line-item 5-20-8020 Predatory Animal Control. Also present was public member Tom McElroy. Wildlife Services is requesting \$68,361.62 for the wildlife services program. It is unknown at this time if State funding will be received; without State funding there will be an approximate \$15,000 deficit. If funding from the State is not received a request may be made to the County for the funds in order to maintain the current level of 1 FTE. (Note: the County budget for Predatory Animal Control also includes the County's landowner match fly program of \$20,000.)

ONTARIO COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Ontario Community Library Director Darlyne Johnson met with the Budget Board and discussed Page 32 - Ontario Community Library. The library is requesting funding for Bookmobile services in the amount of \$6,000 for Bookmobile services outside the district's boundaries. The funds are transferred from the Economic Development budget to the Library budget.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

Ms. DuBois reviewed the transfers within the Economic Development Fund with the Budget Board.

The meeting recessed for lunch.

Commissioner Wilson left the meeting and was not present for the remainder of the day.

Budget meetings resumed after lunch.

FAIRGROUNDS

Fairgrounds Manager Lynelle Christiani met with the Budget Board and discussed Pages 54-55 - County Fair Fund. Also present was Advisory Board Member Josh Kreger. Ms. Christiani read the following prepared message: *As you know the Malheur County Fair Board is considered a "Department" within Malheur County's budget. However the Fair Board is required to operate financially independent of the County. Our Board relies on gate and vendor receipts from the County Fair, facility rentals throughout the year, as well as leasing the 'Horse' end of the facility to the Treasure Valley Community College's Rodeo Team. We receive monies from the State to facilitate the Board's ability to produce the County Fair. We also receive a small amount from the County Economic Development monies (10% or less of our budget), this gets rolled into our 'Maintenance' line item. **Any** and all projects or major improvements are dependent on volunteers, donations and grant monies. In the last few years grant money is over \$70,000. The Board has applied for grants and then put the grant money together with every spare penny we could justify spending from our maintenance line item and donations from the community to make the fairgrounds look as good as it does today. We believe it is important to reflect our pride and professionalism in our buildings and grounds. We have increased our facility bookings and are promoting the fairgrounds. Our Board is fiscally sound regarding day to day operations and in producing the annual County Fair.*

The Board is pleased that the facility looks better. However, please understand that under the paint lies OLD, rickety lumber. We would like to initiate a proactive maintenance program at our facility. However, without the support of the County Court and Budget Committee we cannot move forward with this process. We have put together a 5-10 year plan for the fairgrounds. However without your financial investment; this list is a just a wish list.

*We asked the Board to give an estimate of the number of hours they worked on the grounds this past year. The total number of conservative hours was 2000. 2,000 hours that these volunteers spent on the fairgrounds trying to make it safe and useable for the public. And make it look good for our community to use and be proud of calling this fairgrounds their fairgrounds. 2,000 hours that they didn't get to spend with their family. **IF** you were to pay the Board members \$10/hour for their work that would come to \$20,000. This figure doesn't include money out of our pockets that we donate. Machinery brought down to use to make a job easier. Nuts, bolts, wire, office supplies and water that is picked up for a project by Board members knowing there isn't money in our budget to reimburse them. **The Board does all these things because we have pride in our work and in our community.** We want the best for our kids coming to the Fair. We want the facility available for our community to utilize. We are willing to make sacrifices to make each*

*year that we are affiliated with the Fairgrounds a little better than the previous year. **Will you not step up and stand beside us as our partner to improve our fairgrounds and our community??***

*You may have heard the love of Agriculture is dying in our Country. Not so in Malheur County. There are 900 4-H & FFA (Future Farmers of America) members in the County. Our County Fair has the largest beef market show in the northwest. During our Fair all of our livestock barns are filled to capacity. The Fair Board is now working with the local Boys and Girls Club and other local groups to bring the urban kids into our Fair family. Our **Fair kids** are the next generation of community business owners and service club members.*

*In 2018 we had over 500 youth and adults participating at our Fair. The Junior Livestock Sale sold 240 lots, bringing into our community over \$535,000. That money will be **invested** in future projects, college and careers in Agriculture in our community. IF we don't take care of the fairgrounds where will these kids take their projects? The Boards' goal is to maintain and improve the grounds to assure future generations that our facility will be here to house their Fairs.*

*Being **'involved'** in the community is something that is taught to our youth by example. Our Fair Board is dedicated to be a partner in the community that helps to facilitate **'giving back'**. Currently our Fair Board has entered into a partnership with the 6 local FFA Chapters in our County to **design, build and replace** the existing 5 exterior gates at the Malheur County Fairgrounds. This project focuses on education in Agriculture. It also focuses on 'Community'. Our Board wants to be part of 'community pride' continuing. The Fair Board wants to create a vested partnership with these teenagers. These youth are the next generation of Fair Board members, City Councilman and County Commissioners.*

Unfortunately this year our budget was returned to us with some changes that we cannot work with. We are requesting the following:

The 'Power, Electric' Line Item we requested \$18,000 and it was returned to us at \$14,000. This year's budget is at \$15,000. With the addition of Girvin Hall and the Small Animal Barn that were only on the power bill for ½ the year and with the new lighting that we hope to have on the facility by Fair time, the \$14,000 will not cover our expenses. We request that the 5-20-4101 be put back at the requested \$18,000.

- The 'Gas, Utilities' Line Item we requested \$11,000 and it was returned to us at \$7,000. This year's budget is at \$8,000. Again, with the additional buildings on this bill we don't feel that the \$7,000 will cover the expense. We request that the 5-20-4102 be adjusted at the requested \$11,000.*
- The 'Maintenance' Line Item we requested \$38,000 and it was returned to us at \$30,000. This year's budget is at \$30,000. This year we will be beginning the 3-5 year maintenance barn improvement schedules that were suggested by Commissioner Wilson. This entails replacing uprights throughout the barns to facilitate building stability. It has also been brought to our attention that some of our facility is not ADA accessible. To become compliant this will also require expense. We request that the 5-20-4300 be put back at the requested \$38,000.*

- *This brings us to The 'Insurance, Bonds' Line Item. We requested \$2,500 (as discussed with Commissioner Wilson) and it was returned to us at \$19,000. The Board feels the liability insurance on County owned buildings should be paid for by the County. We request that the Board is only responsible for the contents insurance; line item 5-20-5200 should be \$2,500.*

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Ms. Christiani discussed the budget and answered questions. Commissioner Hodge requested a RV rent line-item be created rather than having it in the Stall Rent line-item. It was discussed that perhaps the facility rental fees should be increased to help offset the increased costs of utilities. The Boards 5-10 year project plan was reviewed. Ms. Christiani explained that the infrastructure of the facility is the focus right now rather than beautification. Members of the Budget Board expressed personal concern with holding events at the fairgrounds that promote cannabis; it was felt that events at the County fairgrounds should be family friendly events. It was also noted that cannabis is prohibited under Federal law; there may be a possibility that Federal funds the County receives could be impacted by engaging in cannabis activity. Commissioner Hodge stressed his thoughts that the participants who utilize the fair (4-H, FFA, etc.) should be volunteering more and partnering with the fair. It was discussed that the buildings and property belong to the County and the Board would like the County to pay the insurance costs on those building; however, the Fair Board has control and management of the buildings/property.

Ms. Christiani left the meeting and the Budget Board continued to discuss the budget. After discussion, consensus was to change Gas & Utilities line-item 5-20-4102 to \$9,000; Repairs, Maintenance to \$34,000; share the insurance costs between the County Insurance Budget and the Fair Budget - Insurance Bonds line-item 5-20-5200 to \$12,000; and Contingency 5-60-8080 to \$2,779.

Pages 54-55 - County Fair Fund were approved with the above noted changes.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Budget Board continued its review of Page 37 - Economic Development Fund. Appropriations from Technical Assistance, line-item 5-20-5405, approved were: SWCD \$10,000; Poverty to Prosperity \$5,000; and SREDA \$1,000; and transfers from the Economic Development Fund of: County Fair \$30,000; Extension Service \$20,000; Special Transportation Fund \$15,000; and Bookmobile \$6,000.

Page 37 - Economic Development Fund was approved.

LAW LIBRARY

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 47 - Law Library.

TAYLOR GRAZING FUND

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 51 - Taylor Grazing Fund.

SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND (STF)

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 56 - Special Transportation Fund. Revenue is ODOT (Oregon Department of Transportation) grant funds for transportation purposes and the County subcontracts with MCOA&CS to provide the services. The "5311 Match" for Snake River Transit is in this budget.

MENTAL HEALTH FUND

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 63 -Mental Health Fund. Funds are from the State and go to Lifeways for mental health services.

WOLF DEPREDATION FUND

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 72 - Wolf Depredation Fund. These are grant funds from Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA).

45TH PARALLEL FUND

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 76 - 45th Parallel Fund. Funds can only be expended upon agreement of the District Attorney and County Court.

BUILDING PROGRAM

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Pages 78-79 - Building Program.

INSURANCE RESERVE

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 81 - Insurance Reserve. The General Fund transfer to this budget is \$225,000. The County's portion of the Fair's insurance will be paid from this budget as agreed upon earlier in the meeting.

CARPOOL FUND

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Page 82 - Car Pool Fund.

GENERAL COUNTY EQUIPMENT FUND

The Budget Board reviewed and approved Pages 84-85 - General County Equipment Fund.

COUNTY COUNSEL

The Budget Board reviewed and approved the County Counsel budget. This is a newly formed budget; portions of the budget were previously in the County Court budget and the Non-Program Budget.

COUNTY COURT

Page 2 - County Court was approved with the changes that were moved into the County Counsel budget.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT

The Juvenile Department budget was again reviewed; consensus was to leave the Support Services line-item at the proposed amount of \$3,400.

Page 14 - Juvenile Department; Page 57 - Juvenile Crime Prevention; and Page 74 - MS 11 Detention Fund were approved.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

The Health Department budget was again reviewed; consensus was to leave the Office Supplies line-item at the proposed amount of \$15,000.

Pages 26-27 - Health Department; Page 28 - Medical Investigation; and Page 64 - Healthy Start were approved.

NON-PROGRAM

Page 19 - Non-Program was further discussed. A request was received from Community In Action for funding in the amount of \$5,000 to support the initiative of successfully implementing a day/warming shelter within Ontario city limits for the homeless. The shelter would provide relief from inclement weather, access to showers and laundry, a children's corner with educational material and games, and an adequate meal Monday through Friday. Consensus with to allocate \$1,500 in the Aid to Indigent line-item in response to Community In Action's funding request. The Dog Control line-item was approved to include Ani-Care Animal Shelter's request of \$2884.80 per month for the fiscal year. This budget also includes the requested funding for Predatory Animal Control.

Page 19 - Non-Program was approved.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

The Salary Supplement for the District Attorney was discussed. Consensus was to maintain the current supplement of \$8,000 for the fiscal year.

Pages 8-9 - District Attorney; Page 10 - VOCA Grant/DA; Page 11 - CAMI Grant/DA; Page 13 - CFA/DA; and Page 50 - DA Enforcement were approved.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE

The Sheriff's Office budget was discussed. Consensus was to leave the budget as proposed.

Pages 20-21 - Sheriff; Pages 22-23 - Jail; Page 24 - MCSO Communication Center; Page 25 - Emergency Management; Pages 45-46 - Community Corrections; Page 48 - Boat License Fund; Page 49 - Corrections Assessment; Page 52 - Task Force Fund; Page 58 - 911 Fund; Page 59 - Traffic Safety Fund; Page 66 - Search and Rescue Fund; Page 73 - Federal Forfeiture Fund; and Page 80 - Work Release Construction Fund were approved.

TREASURER/TAX COLLECTOR

The Treasurer/Tax request to change the part-time position from two days a week to three days was discussed. Consensus was to make the change as requested by Ms. Forsyth.

Page 7 - County Treasurer/Tax was approved with the OA II position changed to .6 FTE.

GENERAL COUNTY CONTINGENCY

The Budget Board approved Page 18 - General County Contingency as the amount to be calculated by Ms. DuBois after all agreed upon changes to the budget are made. Ms. DuBois explained that County Court has not set a minimum budget amount for Contingency but her goal is a minimum of 10 %. Agreed upon changes can be found on instrument # [2019-1726](#)

APPROVALS

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for the Malheur County Ambulance Service District for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in the amount of \$420,700. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed.

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for the Malheur County Agricultural Educational Extension Service District for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in the amount of \$874,420; and moved to approve property taxes for the 2019-2020 fiscal year at the rate of \$0.23 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes in the District Special Fund. Commissioner Hodge seconded and the motion passed.

Judge Joyce moved to approve the budget for Malheur County for the 2019-2020 fiscal year in the amount of \$32,789,015; and moved to approve property taxes for the 2019-2020 fiscal year at the rate of \$2.5823 per \$1,000 of assessed value for operating purposes in the General Fund. Mr. Price seconded and the motion passed.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Eiguren adjourned the meeting.