



COMMISSIONERS :
DENNIS HISEY (CHAIR)
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FINANCIAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT
BUDGET, FINANCE, & ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISIONS
NICOLA J. SAPP
DIRECTOR

SALLIE CLARK
WAYNE WILLIAMS
AMY LATHEN

CORRECTED MINUTES

Citizen Budget Oversight Committee (“CBOC”) Meeting

Friday, June 27, 2008 at 1:00 p.m.

Memorial Hospital Training Facility, 2420 E. Pikes Peak Avenue

Voting Members Present: Patrick Carter, Richard Williams, Teri Goodall, Katherine Oakey, Ken Kile, Stephen Meyer, Bob Shirilla, Vicki Taylor, Jan Doran, Scott Turner.

Absent: John Taylor, Terry Harris, Leslie Cook, Steven Schneider, Victor Andrews, Nancy Lewis, Michael League.

Non-Voting (Ex-Officio, Liaisons) Members Present: Jeremy Milliman, Thomas Rosazza, Jeff Eckhart, Jane Fredman, Dr. John Burrington, Nicola Sapp.

Absent: Steve Immel, Curtis Lorash, Ed Browne, Steve Sery, Jeff Greene.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 p.m. when a quorum was present. Prior to this it was determined by the County Attorney that if a quorum is not present for a meeting then discussions and questions can be held, but nothing should be posted or shared. Communication from the missing members can be done via email although any deliberations should be public and not in emails. The meeting should proceed as scheduled with the quorum that is present without the missing members.

II. MOTION TO ACCEPT LAST MEETING’S MINUTES

A motion was duly made and seconded and approved by a majority of the members present to approve the minutes from last week’s minutes as written.

III. STRATEGIC PLAN OVERVIEW

Nicola Sapp presented an overview of the County’s Strategic Plan with the seven goals being: Financial & Fiscal Sustainability, Trust & Confidence in County Government, Transportation & Infrastructure, Public Safety, Economic Vitality, a Better Place to Live, and a Healthy Community.

Also presented was the Mission to provide excellent County services that are valued by our residents, delivered in the most effective manner by a dedicated and productive workforce resulting in a financially sustainable government. The core beliefs are that we satisfy customers, are productive, have integrity, take responsibility, are innovative and we practice teamwork.

Q: There was a question as to the “generic-ness” of the plan and are there more specifics?

A: Yes, this was just a summary and the full document is much more specific to EPC.



IV. DISCUSSION AND RANKING OF PROGRAMS

There was discussion and some questions regarding the process for the ranking of EPC programs:

Q: Were any functions weeded out and not included in the programs?

A: No, not that I'm aware of. All functions should be included.

Q: Fleet has XX's under "Healthy Community" for Strategic Planning purposes whereas the Health Department has none.

A: For Fleet, such things as snow removal and drainage contribute to the environment and a healthy community. For the Health Department, all of the boxes on the ranking form should have X's.

Q: Isn't having the X's under each strategic goal (sustainability, healthy community, public trust, etc...) subjective?

A: Yes, it's a matter of interpretation.

Q: Could you clarify base budget vs. additional budget?

A: Base budget is the 2008 budget replenished to where it was before the initial budget cuts over the last few years. What is the core level of services that need to be provided? Additional budget is for 2009, new funding above and beyond the base including new requests and new services. Personnel inequities will be addressed by EBMS for all departments and the functions on the ranking sheet were presented aggregately to avoid inequities between departments.

Comment: A quote was read from the Pikes Peak Area Council of Government Executive Summary regarding Fort Carson's growth plan for the 38,000 soldiers and dependents that will move to our area and the impacts that this will have to our social services, public safety and emergency services. We should weigh this into our decisions as to the ranking of the County programs.

Q: How do we proceed with the ranking process?

A: Functions/Programs of each department should be ranked from 0 (not to provide) to 10 (most critical functions). The voting sheet should be completed and emailed to Sherri Cassidy by Monday, July 7th and she will compile the results into a spreadsheet for discussion in the meeting on Friday, July 11th.

DOT: Q: What is a truck string?

A: It is the heaviest equipment used for the shouldering, support, chip and sealing of the roads. Comprises approximately 30-40 vehicles.

Q: What is gravel maintenance vs. chip/seal maintenance?

A: Gravel is used with the graders for the dirt roads. Chip/seal is for road maintenance, but asphalt is permanent for new roads and pot holes.

Procurement: There were no changes to their budget and no questions from the committee.

Veterans Services: There are no changes to their base budget. The County is mandated by the State to have a Veteran's Services Department and it must be funded at the level necessary to take care of the individuals in the community that it supports.

Q: Are the services duplicated?

A: No, the EPC Veterans Services office has unique services that other entities do not provide. EPC has some of the largest volumes including number of claims filed and serviced.

Q: Could the office be a "volunteer office"?

A: Need some clarification on this, however in order to have volunteers in the office you would need staff to support and supervise the volunteers.

Sheriff: Q: What is the difference between the tiers of FTE's for the CJC Floor Security and Patrol items?

A: These are broken down into segments of the necessary FTE's needed to staff today.

Q: What is the difference between the CJC Floor Security items?

A: They are all additional budget items.

Q: Is the courtroom model mandated?

A: No.

Q: Any guidance for ranking these programs?

A: Should look by services and what are and what should be provided. It should be noted that any liability or risk for services not provided would need to be paid from the Self Insurance Fund.

Q: Has there been any public feedback from the parking of patrol cars?

A: The feedback has been all over the map. There seems to be declining revenue due to less tickets being written and there is probably a drop in the gas costs.

Environmental Services: Q: What is the budget for conservation easements?

A: It is not broken out that specific. We monitor but do not maintain easements, it is compliance enforcement.

Department of Human Services: Q: What happens to State and Federal money that is allocated to EPC if it is not spent?

A: If it is not spent or drawn-down it is redistributed to other counties at the end of the fiscal year ending June 30th and the next year's allocation is lower. For low income child care programs and temporary assistance for needy families, a maintenance of effort is required. Under spending can be put into reserves, but there is a state statutory limit on these reserves and it can only be spent for the original purpose.

Q: Does Fort Carson offer food stamp programs, etc?

A: No, this is done through DHS.

Q: Are there any fees for the Family Support Program?

A: Yes, \$25 fee which is good service for those with low income.

Q: What is the federal poverty level?

A: It's indexed each year and is approximately \$11/hour.

Parks: Q: CSU Administration is under Parks?

A: Yes, CSU Administration is a Parks function.

Q: There was a question regarding the proposed selling of the Parks.

A: If a park is solely named it could be sold. GOCO money makes it more difficult to sell and grant money sometimes makes it ineligible to sell.

Q: Was potential selling to the City as well as to developers discussed?

A: Both scenarios were discussed as well as the consideration to sell certain parts of the parks to each. Everything was an option on the table and there was the concern that the selling of the parks is a short term fix to remedy a long term problem and once the assets are gone, they are gone.

Q: What did the \$280K budget cut result in?

A: Five FTEs were laid off and there will be less irrigation and less maintenance.

Q: Is combining City/County Park efforts considered?

A: It probably wouldn't save any money. If a separate funding source was available, that would help greatly.

Justice Services: Justice Services would ideally like to have their 2008 budget back. The recent budget cuts resulted in the loss of the Director as well as 5 people being laid off. A message was sent to various departments such as District Attorney, Sheriff, and Judges to let them know what services could no longer be provided.

Q: How much more could be charged to be self-supported?

A: Currently we charge \$20 supervision and \$20 bond processing fees raising \$50-60K/year and would like to ask the BoCC if this could be increased to \$30 for supervision and \$30 for processing fees.

Security: There were no questions from the committee. One comment that the department presentation was one of the most efficient presentations.

Health Department:

Q: Is the base budget amount only the amount that EPC supported?

A: Yes, it does include the cuts made for 2008 but the one-time budget cuts are not included.

EBMS: Q: With the requested 10% increase in salaries, will time of service or long-term employees who have had salary freezes be looked at?

A: There are some long-term employees who have higher salaries but lower technical skills doing the same job as newer, lower paid employees with more technical skills. It will be looked at making the positions more equitable.

Q: With the overages in the Self Insurance Fund, have they looked at not being Self Insured?

A: There is an Advisory Board and a Trust Board and the BoCC can only control the contribution to the trust fund. The core services to be provided have been looked at, for instance, hiring MD's and keeping the clinics. We are also looking at limiting liability and providing incentives to retain employees.

Q: Are HSAs being looked at?

A: It would have to turn the process upside down. The County uses HRAs which uses the County's money and is funded when the expense occurs, a consumer-driven healthcare model.

Fleet: Q: Can the BoCC be convinced that it does no good to have high skilled machine operators if the machinery is broken down?

A: From a risk perspective, the liability issues will be looked at.

Facilities: Q: Could you make a guess as to when a catastrophic failure of a structure will occur?

A: Structurally, I'm not worried, however there could be equipment failures such as with the roofs, chillers, boilers, etc. It should be noted that the air conditioning costs in the summer are just as hard as heating in the winter.

Q: There was a question as to the status of the asbestos in the County buildings.

A: The old Courthouse has major problems and there is asbestos and lead based paint in almost all of the old County buildings, but it is in a stable state.

Q: There are 124 County buildings that are aging and not being regularly maintained. Could some be combined?

A: A five-year plan has been made and has many possible alternatives, opportunities, and good ideas.

* Reminder that the voting spreadsheet will be emailed to everyone to complete the ranking. The deadline to return this to Sherri Cassidy via email is Monday, July 7th and she will compile all of the rankings to be discussed in the next meeting on Friday, July 11th which will be at the Memorial Administrative Building, Classroom B, 2420 Pikes Peak Avenue from 1:00 – 5:00 p.m.

V. The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.