



Budget Committee Hearing
April 14, 2021~ 9:00 am ~ Room 219

4/14/2021 - Minutes

1. To Watch A Live Stream Of This Meeting, Click The Link Below Or Go To www.klamathcounty.org

2. To Join The Meeting Remotely Click The Link Below Or Calling: 833 548 0276 (Meeting ID 910 9633 7410), Passcode 896820)

3. Call To Order & Those Present

Commissioner Morris, Commissioner DeGroot, Commissioner Boyd, Ernie Palmer, Danise Brakeman, Brienne Humphrey, Sandy Cox, Haley Huffman/Admin Staff, Dale Geigle/Multimedia, Vickie Noel, Michelle Carpenter/Finance, Sheryl Hatcher/Surveyor, Chris Kaber, Shanna Renner, Brandon Fowler/Sheriff

4. Approve Minutes From Last Meeting

Palmer motions to approve minutes from 4/12/21 and 4/13/21 Budget Hearings, Commissioner Morris seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved

5. 9:00 Opening And General Discussion

9:07am Chair Brakeman opens Hearing, introductions

Noel comments on a correction that the additional amount the SCOEDD is requesting is 5k not 10k. Palmer clarifies that the Budget Committee has left the decision for additional funding to SCOEDD up to the BOCC at a later date. Noel agrees just wanted to clarify the amount.

6. 9:10 Surveyor

Sheryl Hatcher addresses the Committee with details of proposed budget. Commissioner Morris comments that this department has needed additional resources for quite some time. Hatcher further elaborates on the additional assistance the office needs. Brakeman asks for clarification on revenues or dependant on General Fund? Hatcher/Noel respond and elaborate, contribute maybe 25-30% and the rest is General Fund. Hatcher further elaborates on additional funding needed to get documents/maps/services to the public available online.

7. 9:20 Sheriff

1. Sheriff

Chris Kaber addresses the Committee. Presents document that explains each division of the department and the services that each division provides. Kaber explains that had originally wanted to propose a reorganization of the management team, but has scaled that back due to the expense associated with it. Brakeman asks for further clarification of what the ask is of the Budget Committee regarding the reorganization. Kaber responds.

Administration Division: Kaber reviews details of administration division, elaborates on adding a layer of supervision. Kaber comments that he believes the elected official stipend is about 10K too high. Noel elaborates further on the elected official stipend and that the figure is accurate, to be compliant with the statute. Kaber further elaborates that it has never been his intent to give himself a big raise in order to give the Lieutenants a raise. Commissioner Morris further elaborates that the BOCC is wanting to move away from stipends as stipends are supposed to be temporary, if they need a raise then the job likely needs to be reclassified. Kaber responds that will need to make additional adjustments. Palmer asks for clarification on the elected official compensation. Brakeman responds. Palmer asks if the Sheriff can elect to take less compensation/or donate funds from his salary back to the Sheriff's department? Commissioner Boyd doesn't see a problem if the Sheriff wanted to donate some of his salary back to the department. Commissioner Boyd questions the increase in salary line items from different divisions, reality is the overall budget only increases about 169k. Kaber agrees.

Patrol Division: Patrol is fully staffed. Brakeman asks if there are any new positions proposed? Kaber responds no. Plans on some movement of special revenue funds to equipment reserve, to keep up on the fleet rotation. Further elaborates that they have cut line items and believe they are running very lean. Commissioner Boyd comments on the PERS contribution increase, that is a State requirement. Palmer comments that yearly the Budget Committee has to allocate "road funds" to balance the Sheriff's budget, is that the case this year? Kaber responds that the last two years they have not had to use "road funds" as they were able to return those funds, but this year it's looking like they may need to use "road funds" in order to not cut multiple positions in patrol/jail. Noel responds and the figure is just over 2 million. Commissioner Morris elaborated that legislation has allowed those "Federal Funds" to be used for Sheriff patrol. Palmer comments that it is deeply disappointing in media has not reported that "road funds" were returned the last two years. Commissioner Boyd explains that the budget gets balanced with "road funds" on paper without an actual transfer but the Sheriff's Department uses General Fund first. Brakeman reviews figures over the last couple years of budgeted and actual "road funds" used because the County receives PILT money. Palmer agrees that if the Commissioners feel they are "Federal Funds" then there isn't much of a discussion. Noel explains that "Federal/Road Funds" have to be used for specific things. Commissioner Morris/DeGroot elaborate that the "Federal Funds" have been broken into 3 funds for their specific uses. Brakeman questions balances in each "pot"? Noel responds with figures for each pot, and we received an additional 3.5 million on Monday which appears may be a wash if we use 2.1 million this year with what the road department is proposing to spend with their projects. Brakeman questions if the road projects pull from

federal funds every year to maintain our roads. Noel/DeGroot elaborate that not all roads are federal and give some specifics. Commissioner Boyd further elaborates that is why we want to separate and track the funds. DeGroot further elaborates there are multiple programs/grants/dollars available to help with bridge projects etc. and staff has been good about securing those dollars. Brakeman questions revenue for third party contracts? Kaber responds and elaborates on contracts. Commissioner Boyd questions fuel budget, it has increased since Biden took office and may increase more, may not have budgeted enough? Kaber did cut that line item, but may have some extra funds in the materials and services category to help backfill that line item. Kaber explains changes in training over the last year, but will need to get that ramped up. Humphrey questions the internal services line item? Kaber/Noel explain.

Corrections Division: Commissioner Boyd questions supplies other line item significant increase? Kaber responds that kitchen supplies were separated out of the food line item and the food line item went down more due to less inmates due to COVID restrictions. Brakeman asks for clarification on medical services? Kaber responds that it is almost impossible to calculate any given day, explains the requirement to provide medical care which can change for each inmate. Brakeman questions figure so far this year. Renner responds may come in higher this year/elaborates why. Noel responds they have spent just over 2k for that line item this year. Kaber explains the jail is a major part of the criminal justice system and it's imperative the jail functions appropriately, there are many individuals that need services (mental health etc.) and they help facilitate those services with local entities. Palmer questions the new sobering station, will that have any impact on the jail? Kaber indicates it probably will as long as they have beds available for detox and mental health. Kaber further comments on the seriousness of individuals coming into the jail with alcohol poisoning. Palmer questions the recent bill that was passed that decriminalizes certain crimes. Kaber elaborates by decriminalizing certain crimes that prohibits any treatment options that may be available, doesn't like it. Brakeman questions any new positions? Kaber, no. Brakeman comments that she participated in a citizens committee in Jackson County, it was hugely eye opening asks is Klamath County has that option? Kaber, no, but would like to see that. Brakeman would like to see that here.

Civil Division: Not requesting to add any positions. Concealed handgun licenses have increased as well as serving civil documents. Any increases in the budget are related to salary increases.

Emergency Management Division: Has 1 FTE and 2 PT, explains the work. Fowler explains that there are now grants available for infrastructure through FEMA that were not available before because of the 242 fire, will be working with Public Works in the future to secure those funds. Commissioner Boyd questions the contract services line item? Fowler responds/elaborates. Commissioner Boyd questions management fee for managing the clean up projects etc? Fowler responds yes/explains. Brakeman questions increase in rent? Kaber responds that Emergency Department is housed at 911 office and they raised the rent, current Sheriff's office does not have the space to house Emergency Management. Brakeman questions County space somewhere else for them? Commissioner Morris indicates we are having space issues with many departments, we do not have enough space. Palmer comments on

the empty space in the new City Police building, have we talked to the City? Kaber responds no. Brakeman asks how long is lease agreement with 911? Fowler responds 1 year with an option for an additional year. Kaber explains they are trying to get some containers to place on the property to move storage in there and create more office space. Commissioner Morris comments that Fowler/Sheriff have done a great job with all the difficult things, COVID/Wildfires etc.

Animal Control Division: Took over this division 2 years ago, reluctantly agreed, and has managed with the staff allowed. Would like to see another Deputy added at some point, but not asking for a Deputy this year. They are very busy in that division the public love there animals and are very passionate, it can be very contentious at times. Brakeman questions the additional staff adding since the Sheriff took over. Kaber responds yes and explains that additional staff was part of the agreement with taking over the division. Brakeman questions a vacancy budgeted? Kaber responds there should not be a vacancy. Brakeman questions if still in same location? Kaber yes

Marine Division: Is about 2/3 covered by State Marine Board. Is a very robust unit, and includes volunteers. They did lose a position and haven't needed it due to the pandemic so there are some savings, but are currently filling that position. Explains they have some military folks so they deal with those absences as well. Boats and maintenance for the boats are provided by the Marine Board.

Search and Rescue Division: The volunteers for this division are incredible, it is truly amazing. Have acquired rescue snowmobiles, side by sides, snowcat/trailer (donated from Mid State Electric), horses etc. to help in the searches. Has been non stop this year. Renner elaborates on the funding stream. Kaber comments that the Side-scan sonar for recovering bodies from water is at the end of it's life and looking at replacement/50k. Commissioner DeGroot questions if 50k will cover the cost? Renner responds should be around 60k. Commissioner DeGroot would be willing to look for funding elsewhere if needed. Commissioner DeGroot comments on the success of this group and rescues in our community. Brake asks how many people involved? Kaber responds around 80 volunteers.

2. Sheriff Special Revenue

Kaber explains will be transferring some of these funds to equipment reserve just authorized to purchase jail van 60k. Palmer questions increase in supplies other? Shanna responds/elaborates. Kaber elaborates regarding expenses related to changes required due to the pandemic 130-150k of added expenses, will be looking at reimbursement from grant. Kaber further elaborates that a lot of the money in this fund is earmarked for specific things.

3. Sheriff Court Facility Security

Kaber details proposed budget, this is a mandated service. Explains services Security Officers perform on site at the Courthouse. Kaber elaborates on JRI Grant and what it funds. Brakeman question majority of this fund is General

Fund? Noel responds yes.

Unrelated discussion regarding the effects on the department if Warner Creek Correctional Institution in Lakeview closes.

8. Public Comment Will Be Immediately Following The Last Budget Presentation.

Chair Brakeman calls for public comment - None. Recessed for lunch at 11:25am.

1:04pm Reconvened for deliberation.

Commissioner DeGroot said, I believe we are budgeting appropriately for use of the road funds. We will receive dollars over the next biennium, I hate to speak in amounts as some of the formulas are still being worked on, we owe a lot of folks a thank you including Senator Wyden and his staff. They were able to get dollars included in the American Rescue Plan for fund sharing counties and we are one of the biggest in the country. I would see us using those funds first before the road fund dollars. I believe we can advocate for dollars to be sufficient at least for the next two years but I feel it could be even longer. Ms. Brakeman reviewed a graph of a projection of future projects and funding provided by Jeremy Morris. Commissioner DeGroot said, I think there are some specific holes that we should fill. Commissioner Boyd asks to review the internal service charges that are paid by each department. Ms. Noel reviews the spreadsheet of internal service charges. Commissioner DeGroot said, it's up 2.7% from last year. Commissioner Boyd said, it really hasn't gone up much. Ms. Noel said, most of the increase is personnel. Commissioner Morris said, we had some turnover that means we have lower paid people in some of the spots. I'm curious to remember where we have the holes. Ms. Noel said, the question is do we want to spend 2.1 million out of the road fund. Planning will need an additional \$21,194 from the General Fund that is not budgeted right now. We have to decide where to take it from. We need 4 million between operating contingency and reserve for future expenditures in order to have enough cash to get to November until property taxes are collected. Right now we have 3.5 million in reserve for future expenditures and \$500,000 in operating contingency in the General Fund. Commissioner DeGroot asks, what other holes need to be filled beside Planning? Ms. Noel said, there really isn't any. Commissioner DeGroot said, this is my thought, we are going to see savings within all of our departments. They all budgeted for directives the Board gave them for modernization and those expenses will be charged to the ARP so I would be perfectly fine with grabbing \$30,000 out of the contingency knowing we are going to get that back on the other side. Commissioner Boyd said, what if we pull that out of all the departments, and take less from the road fund. Ms. Brakeman said, I don't like that idea for two reasons legally and I think it minimizes the importance of the budget committee. Commissioner Boyd said, I appreciate that. Commissioner DeGroot said, just like these other dollars, I think budgeting out of the road funds is inappropriate. Ms. Brakeman said, I think it's the job of the Budget Committee to see if we can reduce costs where we can. **Commissioner DeGroot motions to reduce the operating contingency by the amount needed to fill the gap in the Planning Department by just under \$30,000. Mr. Palmer seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.**

Ms. Brakeman said, I have that IT needs \$40,000. Ms. Noel explains the gap and said it was my suggestion to Jessica that she ask for the \$40,000 to bring her materials and services up. Commissioner DeGroot said, there again there will likely be an opportunity

for her to bill the ARP funds. **Ms. Noel said the number she gave me was \$33,199. Mr. Palmer said, so moved. Commissioner Morris seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.**

Ms. Brakeman said, do we want to move on to elected official compensation? Commissioner DeGroot said, I'm happy to participate in the others but I always abstain from the discussion on ours. Commissioner Morris agrees. She said, I think we either take the recommendation of the committee or we don't as a slate, I don't really think we should single anyone out. **Mr. Palmer motions to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee at 3% for all the elected officials and approve that for this budget. Ms. Humphrey seconds. Commissioner DeGroot and Commissioner Morris abstain. Mr. Palmer and Ms. Humphrey vote in favor. Commissioner Boyd and Ms. Brakeman vote opposed. Motion fails. Mr. Palmer motions to accept the recommendation of the Compensation Committee for every elected official except the County Commissioners. Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Commissioner Boyd, Commissioner DeGroot, Mr. Palmer and Ms. Humphrey vote in favor. Commissioner Morris abstains. Ms. Brakeman votes. opposed. Approved.** Ms. Noel asks for clarification. Mr. Palmer said, we were talking about the 3% recommendation from the Compensation Committee. Ms. Noel said, so what I learned from your motion is all the elected officials other than the Commissioners would get an additional 1% on top of the 2% that is already in the proposed budget. Mr. Palmer said, yes. The committee was in agreement. Ms. Noel said, the other thing is how will we pay for that? My recommendation would be to lower the reserve for future expenditure instead of the operating. Commissioner DeGroot said, agree. Mr. Palmer said, second. Ms. Noel said, we'll have to figure out where the funds will come from.

Ms. Brakeman said, do we want to talk about the Sheriff? Mr. Palmer asks what was the transfer amount? Commissioner DeGroot said, \$2,192,897.00. Mr. Palmer said, I think the Sheriff should be authorized to hire another deputy in the Animal Control office so that office will be fully staffed. Commissioner DeGroot said, although I appreciate the sentiment and I have good optimism about our finances going forward, I would like to see us stay status quo personnel wise until next year when we see how some of these formulas come out. Mr. Palmer said, during the Sheriff's presentation he shared with us that the Animal Control Office only recently came under his umbrella and if I heard him correctly, he accepted it as long as staffing would be kept at that level. Ms. Brakeman said that's not the way I remember it. I think he was proposing for a second patrol deputy. Commissioner DeGroot said, we budgeted for two last year and he was unable to fill one and then we had to remove it to balance the budget last year. Ms. Brakeman asks about a clerk vacancy in Animal Control. Ms. Noel confirms they do not have a vacancy in staff. Mr. Palmer said, it's clear there's not consensus for the thought so let me withdraw the thought. Commissioner Boyd asks about moving to captains in the Sheriff's Office. He said, the personnel services went from 109 to 451 and is that because he moved them to captains? Commissioner Morris said, I thought he brought up the proposal related to captains and we gave him a number that was a 5% increase and told him he could do what he wanted with that. Commissioner DeGroot said, I don't believe this budget includes captains. Ms. Brakeman asks about the personnel. Ms. Noel said the sergeants received a 4.5% increase and that's not reflected in the budget. Ms. Brakeman asks, is that 8 employees? Commissioner DeGroot said, 7. Ms. Noel said, 3 in Corrections and 4 in Patrol. Ms. Brakeman asks do we know what the amount is? Ms. Noel said, \$27,000 approximately, I believe they will be able to absorb that this fiscal year. Was there discussion about next year? Commissioner DeGroot said, no we did no discuss next

year. Ms. Noel said, I think it will be able to be absorbed as well in the 21-22 fiscal year. Commissioner Boyd said, I'd like to go back to Ernie's Animal Control Officer question. The citizens want to have Animal Control and I know we are going to have to borrow road dollars to do this and I was elected to represent the citizens and the citizens want a beefed up Animal Control Office. Commissioner Morris asks about Animal Control response. Commissioner Boyd said, I have had people say they are professional and they come across as law enforcement but it sometimes takes a while for them to get out there. Mr. Palmer said, I see this as icing on the cake, the Animal Control Officers are trained as deputies and so in essence your not just getting and Animal Control Officer, you're getting an emergency deputy as well. Ms. Brakeman said, I think Animal Control is operating very well. Ms. Humphrey said, did having the deputy beef it up enough? Commissioner Boyd said, it did beef it up but the people I talk to said we need to increase our law enforcement in the county. Commissioner DeGroot said, I would be more comfortable having this conversation in October. In my mind, the way I have things projected out, I have the budget figured out without road dollars for the next twenty years. Mr. Palmer said, I'm simply saying with the money we have in hand, I think we ought to spend some of that money on another officer and if Rescue money comes down the pike, that's great, but let's not count on it. Commissioner Morris said the Rescue money that's coming in May is a definite, it's been appropriated. Commissioner DeGroot said, would the committee be willing instead of making a transfer from the road fund to the general fund making a loan instead. Commissioner Morris said, to your point about investing, I know the Sheriff did off-handedly say I would love another Animal Control Officer, he also said he'd love to have 24/7 patrol so does it make some sense to go that route instead? Commissioner Morris said, another way to look at it, could he hire another officer that is part time Animal Control and part time Patrol? Commissioner Boyd said, one thing we also need to consider, is do we have the equipment to back that up? Do we need another pickup or cruiser. Ms. Brakeman said, that's a good point and our law enforcement are our most highly paid employees. Commissioner Boyd said, the Sheriff's Department is the lowest paid in town as far as the PD and OSP. I understand your concern but if we're going to keep competent people in the Sheriff's Office we have to keep them well compensated. Ms. Brakeman said, I think adding another deputy is reckless and looks bad to the community. Mr. Palmer said, I would agree if we were talking about growing by someone who sits around and moves paperclips but we are talking about providing an essential service and looking at responding to animal abuse issues which the Sheriff testified are a huge problem in our county. I think this is a tiny little way to show we are doing we what we can to address it. Commissioner Morris said, none of us have a crystal ball in terms of what criminal justice will look like. It seems to be let's move more toward treatment and behavioral health and less toward criminal justice so we should be thinking about this. What does the DA and the Sheriff's Office look like then? Just another thought to be thinking of. Ms. Humphrey asks, is there a County department that responds to those types of calls. Commissioner Morris said, our community between law enforcement and KBBH, have worked together to have probably the best model in the state. They have behavioral health people there at the jail. Commissioner Boyd said, one thing we know we have areas in the County that it takes a while to get law enforcement to, north county, Beatty, Bly. I talked with the Sheriff, every single call that Animal Control gets is responded to the question is where there could be substantial lead time. There's also times there is no Animal Control Officer. The extra officer would reduce the lead time and allow for less times when there is no officer. He does have the equipment/vehicle for a second officer. Commissioner Morris said, there where things that we needed to increase in the Sheriff's budget in general, to get him stable so we have that issue and we have to talk about whether or not we want to do increases. Ms. Noel asks Shanna Renner what was the fiscal impact for the sergeants for the 21 year. Ms. Renner said, it's a two year impact. Ms. Noel said April 1, 2021 - June

30, 2022, \$32,500. Ms. Humphrey asks about the stipends. Ms. Renner said, the Sheriff wanted to propose the stipend in lieu of a pay raise. They are still getting the COLA. This was to keep them at pace with others in the industry and what has happened with the sergeants. Like he was saying, this is baby steps towards giving them more responsibility. Commissioner Morris asks about stipend and reclass and how reclass needs to be done in an Admin meeting. Commissioner Boyd said, I think the money side needs to happen in Budget Committee. Ms. Noel said there is policy that said you can't reclass in a budget committee, it needs to go to the Board. **Mr. Palmer motions that the Sheriff's budget be amended to include another Animal Control Officer at \$105,000 and that it also approve the transfer to the appropriate amount of money to balance the budget from the federal funds. Commissioner Boyd seconds. Mr. Palmer, Commissioner Boyd, Ms. Humphrey and Commissioner Morris vote in favor. Ms. Brakeman and Commissioner DeGroot vote opposed. Approved.**

Ms. Brakeman said, Vickie any other shortfalls? Commissioner Morris asks about the Assessor. Commissioner DeGroot said, we balanced that in the workshops.

Commissioner DeGroot motions that we increase from the federal reserve an amount equal to what is needed to cover the increase for the sergeants, the Planning Department, the 1% for electeds, and the Animal Control Officer and make an equal deduction from the General Fund Non Departmental in order to maintain the carry over. Commissioner Morris seconds. Mr. Palmer, Commissioner Boyd, Ms. Humphrey, Commissioner DeGroot and Commissioner Morris vote in favor. Ms. Brakeman votes opposed. Approved.

Mr. Palmer said, this cannot continue. We need a public safety levy that will pay for all the public safety. I urge you strongly, to do what you need to do so that at the appropriate time you can encourage the citizens to approve a public safety levy. Commissioner Morris said, I feel strongly it should be citizen driven because they have to have the buy-in. It needs to be a collaboration. Mr. Palmer said, I agree and sometimes the citizens need to be led. Ms. Brakeman said, but if we keep taking from the road funds, the people won't see the need. Commissioner Boyd said, I think most of the citizens are on Ernie's page. They realize we have to have a levy or something in order to support public safety within the County and I agree with Ernie, if Klamath County, me, Kelley, Derrick, the Sheriff and the DA get together and go out there, that's how we get it done. That doesn't mean that elected officials have to run it, but I think Ernie is saying to me, Donnie as an elected official I want you to go out to the citizens and say it's time and it's needed. Ms. Brakeman said, I don't disagree with you and I don't disagree with the levy but I think the majority of the citizens don't know and don't care so there would have to be quite a bit of public outreach. Commissioner Boyd said, absolutely and that money would have to come from the citizens but I think we could get it done. Ms. Brakeman said, back to the medical expenses in the Sheriff, this year they proposed \$30,000 and \$25,000 for next year and historically they've been between \$3000-\$5000. I think we could pull \$10,000 out of that and that still leaves them with \$15,000. Commissioner Boyd said, I'd like to leave it at \$25,000 and hope they underspend it. I think it's insurance in my mind. Commissioner DeGroot said, I see both arguments but I would agree with Commissioner Boyd because you just don't know what you don't know and if you over spend you have to go looking for the money somewhere. Ms. Brakeman asks, does anybody want to talk about any of the other funds for the purpose of reducing costs?

2:43pm Ms. Brakeman asks for public comment. None. No public present.

Ms. Noel reads the Resolution to approve the Klamath County budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 in the sum of \$226,588,925.00. Mr. Palmer motions to approve the Resolution. Commissioner DeGroot seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

Ms. Noel reads the Resolution to impose ad valorem taxes at the rate of \$1.7326 per \$1000.00 of assessed value for operation, \$0.05 per \$1000.00 of assessed value for the museum levy and approve the categorization of the taxes as follows: for the General Fund \$1.6861 per \$1000.00 of assessed value, for the Veterans Fund \$0.0465 per \$1000.00 of assessed value and for the Museum Fund \$.05 per \$1000.00 of assessed value. Commissioner DeGroot motions. Mr. Palmer seconds. Unanimous vote. Approved.

Ms. Brakeman thanks everyone for their work and said as this is the end of her term, she appreciates working with everyone. The Committee thanks Ms. Brakeman.

9. Adjournment

4:09pm

Audio recordings of all proceedings are available at the County Commissioners' office. The meeting facility is handicap accessible. Persons needing materials in alternate format or communication access, should telephone this office at 541-883-5100  (voice/TDD) or the ADA Coordinator at 541-883-4296  at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled meeting.

Klamath County Commissioners' Weekly Calendar is subject to change without notice.

305 Main Street 2nd Floor, Klamath Falls, OR 97601

E-mail: bocc@klamathcounty.org Website: www.klamathcounty.org