

CITIZEN'S BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – 02-18-2019
Holbert Building – Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

Members present:

Kathryn Dennis (Chancellor)
Greg Bell, Chair (Lee Hill)
Richard Thompson (Courtland)
Karen Adams (Alt. Lee Hill)
Dawn Napper (Battlefield)
Tim Bryner, Secretary (Livingston)
Scott Phelps (Alt. Courtland)
Amanda Blalock (Berkeley)
Shawn Davis, Vice Chair (Salem)

Call to order: 6:36 PM

Pledge of Allegiance: Shawn Davis

Invocation and Moment of Silence for Chief Brooks: Tim Bryner

Determination of Quorum

Meeting Minutes for February 4, 2019:

Minutes were reviewed. Amanda Blalock motioned for approval of the meeting minutes. Kathryn Dennis seconded. Approval of the meeting minutes passed unanimously.

Old Business:

Kathryn Dennis brought up allowing public speakers and this had been voted on a few meetings ago and she had been only one to vote against it. Discussion ensued about whether this had occurred at a prior meeting and no one could remember it happening. Kathryn Dennis will look into this to confirm or deny if this topic was discussed and voted on at a prior meeting.

A presentation by Chief Cullinan (FREMS) and Major Carter Wells (Sheriff's Office) on the Public Safety Pay Compensation Plan was done.

Richard Thompson inquired about who goes to the law enforcement academy and also asked about the starting salary for firefighter's.

Kathryn Dennis spoke some on her support for this pay plan.

Kathryn Dennis inquired about staffing which Chief Cullinan and Major Wells provided some insight on.

Richard Thompson brought up the solar farm and asked Chief Cullinan about this impact.

Dawn Napper asked about the cost to implement the pay plan. Chief Cullinan conveyed \$1.5 million for fire and rescue, \$1.3 million for Sheriff's Office, and about \$300,000 per year, per department after that.

Kathryn Dennis brought up career development and discussed this with Chief Cullinan and Major Wells.

Amanda Blalock brought up the cost of compression and how it could be offset by retaining people.

Chief Cullinan indicated he has been directed to working on compensation for the county overall.

Kathryn Dennis brought up benefits and spoke on education credits.

Amanda Blalock suggested data be kept once this program is implemented.

New Business:

Greg Bell opened up discussion on the county and school FY2020 budget recommendations.

Tim Bryner asked about the across the board pay increases from the schools versus the way the county handled pay increases.

Dawn Shelley (from the School Board) mentioned it would have been significant to get people to midpoint. Due to increase in insurance the 4% was given, except to administrators. This year the 5% is for the SOQ positions, which is in the budget for the governor; this only covers SOQ positions; there is a smaller amount coming from the county to do the match.

Scott Phelps asked a question and Dawn Shelley needed further clarification so she asked Scott Phelps to send the question.

Dawn Napper asked about the large increase in the Executive Services section. Mary Sorrell spoke on this. Mary Sorrell also mentioned there will be an insurance increase.

Dawn Napper brought up the increase in public safety and Mary Sorrell spoke on this.

Kathryn Dennis spoke on the public safety increase also.

Mary Sorrell also spoke on the placeholder in the budget for OPEB.

Dawn Napper spoke on the Board of Supervisors' expectation of an increase in things in the school budget but set aside for schools was actually less from County Administration. Mary Sorrell spoke on this and then a discussion ensued about this topic.

Tim Bryner brought up the across the board raises in schools and the way the county has been implementing increases.

Dawn Shelley spoke on compression in the schools and the 5% SOQ funding from the state and that this increase is going statewide.

Discussion occurred between Kathryn Dennis and Dawn Napper on the Evergreen study and pay increases.

Greg Bell spoke on his experience going to the county schools.

Kathryn Dennis brought up the Board of Supervisors' discussion on the donation to the YMCA for racquet ball courts, one time funds.

There was a discussion with Dawn Shelley on tuition reimbursement in the schools.

Some member of CBRC wanted time to review the YMCA donation before discussing,

Kathryn Dennis brought up some other points which led into Mary Sorrell speaking on bond referendums.

Mary Sorrell clarified what a fund balance actually is.

Mary Sorrell clarified bond referendums and spoke on transportation, which was a follow up to some questions from Kathryn Dennis.

Dawn Napper spoke on school enrollment in the future and had a discussion with Mary Sorrell about this; Dawn Shelley provided some clarification on some projects and referendums.

Amanda Blalock mentioned the Strategic Plan is a fluid document and this led into a further discussion about this.

Kathryn Dennis brought up concerns about students being carried up stairs and this led into a discussion on that topic, some further clarification was provided.

Greg Bell brought up having a CBRC meeting on Monday, March 4. He wanted to have a draft on March 4 of the presentation. He wants input from everyone. Some discussion revolved around the presentation. Shawn Davis said send what you want to him and Greg Bell so they can have a generalized draft by the March 4 meeting. Kathryn Dennis also brought up CBRC is not just here for cutting but to suggest allocations where needed. Amanda Blalock conveyed CBRC presentation should be based on what CBRC's findings have been and things like YMCA, that are on the table.

Kathryn Dennis had questions about association fees and Mary Sorrell provided information on this.

The next date CBRC agreed to meet was on March 4.

Shawn Davis said if you have input send it. A suggestion was made that slides be made by Scott Phelps and Kathryn Dennis on County Administration, Amanda Blalock on Parks and Recreation, Dawn Napper on the Planning Department, and Greg Bell on Social Services.

Motion to Adjourn:

Dawn Napper motioned to adjourn and Amanda Blalock seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:35PM.