

CITIZEN'S BUDGET REVIEW COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes – 02-04-2019
Holbert Building – Board of Supervisors Meeting Room

Members present:

Dawn Napper (Battlefield)
Tim Bryner, Secretary (Livingston)
Shawn Davis, Vice Chair (Salem)
Scott Phelps (Alt. Courtland)
Samuel Johnson (Alt. Berkeley)
Amanda Blalock (Berkeley)
Kathryn Dennis (Chancellor)
Richard Thompson (Courtland)
Karen Adams (Alt. Lee Hill)
Greg Bell, Chair (Lee Hill) – arrived at 6:53 PM

Call to order: 6:42 PM

Pledge: Tim Bryner

Invocation: Amanda Blalock

Determination of Quorum

Meeting Minutes for October 15, 2018 and November 19, 2018:

Minutes were reviewed. Amanda Blalock motioned for a block vote on both meeting minutes. Kathryn Dennis seconded. Dawn Napper brought up some typos in the November 19, 2018 meeting minutes. Approval of the meeting minutes passed unanimously with the amendments to the November meeting minutes.

New Business:

Amanda Blalock provided clarification on the School Superintendent's proposed budget versus the School Board's adopted budget. The School Board vote is February 11. The deadline puts CBRC in a crunch. Mr. Bell and Mr. Davis are set to present the same night as Dr. Meyers and Dr. Baker.

Mary Sorrell spoke about the CRBC presentation night to the Board of Supervisors, which was February 26. It is not official but it appears the agenda will be cleared on February 26 for solar panel hearing. The presentation for CBRC will be on March 12 at Board of Supervisors meeting. In April budget is approved due to School's needing the budget by May and for tax bills. Mary spoke more on the public hearing for the budget and the tax rate. What the CBRC tells the Board of Supervisors is beneficial.

Greg Bell arrived around this time.

Mary Sorrell mentioned the CBRC can make a request to change the bylaws and spoke on this some.

Kathryn Dennis made a motion to amend the bylaws to be able to do the CBRC presentation the second meeting after the County Administrator's presentation of the proposed budget. A discussion ensued about the motion. Mary Sorrell brought up the process to amend the bylaws. Shawn Davis suggested the motion be tabled. Ricard Thompson seconded the motion. Richard motioned to table and Kathryn Dennis seconded the motion to table. The motion to tabled passed unanimously.

Shawn Davis opened up the floor to discussion of the School Superintendent's recommended budget.

Kathryn Dennis said a lot of good things are in the budget. Kathryn Dennis spoke on the proposed pay increases.

Greg Bell had a question on how the pay increase was going to be phased in.

Kathryn Dennis spoke on some new initiatives. Kathryn Dennis asked about the teacher prep program and asked Mrs. Blalock if she could provide information and Mrs. Blalock indicated she needed to look into.

A discussion came up about having a liaison come in and Ms. Shelley was brought up and having her at the next meeting.

Further discussion occurred on programs.

Kathryn Dennis continued to speak on her opinion on the proposed budget and her support for the raises.

A discussion occurred on professional development.

Shawn Davis recommended questions be submitted to the Chair by February 12 for the school liaison.

Mary Sorrell spoke on the availability of the county budget.

Greg Bell spoke on the school's budget availability and the schools wouldn't be able to provide physical copies but would be available on the website.

Greg Bell will follow back up with Ms. Shelley for hard copies of the school budget.

Mary Sorrell will have the county budget on February 12 for those who go to that meeting.

Shawn Davis opened up discussion on what the CBRC would like to see in the presentation. Greg Bell wanted to address areas of concern, if any. Shawn Davis agreed if there is something of concern to mention it.

Bryner clarified for CBRC the proposed pay step system the county is looking into.

Kathryn Dennis spoke more on public safety.

Dawn Napper provided information on the school's compensation and raises.

Discussion ensued over the Evergreen study and the budget between Kathryn Dennis and Dawn Napper.

Bryner spoke on concerns over the across the board pay increases proposed in the school's budget and this not addressing compression.

Dawn Napper spoke further on the raise issues within schools.

Richard Thompson spoke on raises.

Amanda Blalock spoke on what she wants to see in CBRC presentation. Talk about all the reports CBRC did. The comparisons CBRC made. The trends CBRC sees.

Amanda Blalock brought up concerns about paying for experience with the fire department and this moved into a discussion about the county in general and paying for experience.

Amanda Blalock had to leave around this time.

Greg Bell asked Mary Sorrell if a representative from the Sheriff's Office and Fire Department could come to the next meeting and do a presentation. Mary Sorrell will look into.

Mary Sorrell spoke on county compensation and what they have been directed to do.

Kathryn Dennis asked about Mark Taylor's proposed budget and Mary Sorrell spoke on this.

Shawn Davis spoke further on compensation.

Richard Thompson asked if people leaving was just because of money or other reasons and a discussion ensued on this.

Kathryn Dennis also brought up looking at benefits.

Karen Adams brought up contracts for new hires.

Dawn Napper clarified newer health insurance benefits for schools.

Shawn Davis advised to send questions to the Chair.

A discussion on meetings occurred and Greg Bell suggested this be discussed at the February 18th meeting and Mary Sorrell will check on date availabilities.

Karen Adams inquired about looking at other things and it was brought up this would be done once get passed budget season.

Kathryn Dennis mentioned needing cost areas on google forms.

Karen Adams did bring up concerns about animal shelter.

Greg Bell advised to send questions to Shawn and him to forward to the schools. Richard Thompson wanted some clarification on this.

Motion to Adjourn:

Kathryn Dennis motioned to adjourn and Richard Johnson seconded. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.