

Budget Workshop
April 23, 2019

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this date in a Budget Workshop in the Commission Chambers with the following members present:

Bobby LeDoux, Chairman
Landon Newton, Vice-Chairman
Roy Fernandez, Member
Terrance Kamm, County Attorney

Also present were: Mary Lou Kern, County Manager; Sara Torres, County Chief Deputy Clerk; and Joana Apodaca, Financial Specialist.

Chairman LeDoux called the workshop to order at 11:50 a.m. The purpose of the workshop was to review the budget for 2019-2020.

Others in attendance were: Amanda Segura, Leonard M. Baca Jr., Kristi Graham, Glen Stevens, Robert Thompson, Andy Muniz, Lydia M. Garcia, Nick Cardenas, Thomas Vigil, Carol Bridge, Mike Thomason, and Rose Bernal.

Discussion during the workshop included:

Financial Specialist Joana Apodaca presented to the Board the 2019-2020 Preliminary #1 Budget Request Recapitulation, Budget Transfers, Projected Costs, Projected Revenues, Property Tax Rate in Mills, and Salary Schedule for discussion. She stated the changes made to the Budget will modify the General Fund. Joana presented the Salary Schedule and stated there are numerous increases. She stated there are considerable changes in Retirement and Health Insurance due to the increases made by PERA Legislature House Bill 501. Joana stated the increase is for the Public Employer portion which increased to .25% but it does not include the employee portion which will remain at 10.65% and Law Enforcement at 13.85%. She stated Health Insurance rates increased 5% but most of the cost was consumed by the County. Joana stated there are no salary increases for employees. She stated there are changes in budget for the increase to 36 employees at VMDC and for the additional position at the Sheriff's Department to accommodate the agreement with District Court for additional security. Joana asked if there were any questions. Commissioner Newton questioned if there is a total number of the increase for the additional positions concerning VMDC. Joana stated it is shown on the expense under expenditures. Joana stated a flat budget was recommended from the direction of County Manager Kern, but there was a cost of living increase last year. Chairman LeDoux questioned the amount of the increase. Joana stated the cost of living increased by 3%, Sheriff's Office increased by 10%, and Maintenance increased by 5% last year. There were no further questions.

Joana presented the 2019-2020 Projected Revenue and Certified Property Tax Rates worksheets. She stated the totals are based from the percentage of collection, tax rates, and 2018 evaluations for the calculated tax collection amounts. Joana stated the difference in tax collection percentage went from 91% to 92.34% for a difference of \$55,154.00. She stated according to DFA the property tax collection average for three years increased in 2018. Joana stated she increased Payment in Lieu of Taxes due to the amount received last year for a difference of \$15,000.00. She stated Interest on investments and checking accounts increased due to the Treasurer's Office commendable performance of increasing Investment Returns for a difference of \$20,000.00 on investments and \$12,000.00 on checking accounts. Joana stated Bailiff Receipts increased due to the agreement made with District Court for an additional bailiff for a difference of \$30,000.00. She stated refunds and reimbursements increased due to the reimbursement contract for Attorney Fees from the DA's Office in the amount of \$4,750.00 monthly for a difference of \$112,000.00. Joana stated there is an increase of \$60,000.00 to assist with the construction to house the DA and Magistrate Court. She stated rental of County property increased due to the rental agreement with Magistrate Court for a difference of \$70,000.00. Joana stated the total increase in the General Fund Revenue is \$315,654.00 from last year. She stated Additional 1/12th GRT was decreased due to what is projected on collections for a difference of \$10,000.00. Joana stated transfers are made from the General Fund to VMDC's Corrections Fund and they are included on the Projected Revenues worksheet. She is seeking direction from the Board whether to omit the line item or change the amount of \$30,000.00 budgeted for Inmate Housing non-County. Joana stated VMDC cannot collect on this amount due to the current construction. The Board directed Joana to omit the line item. Joana stated most of the projected revenues are consistent with last year's budget with