

WORKSHOP

April 26, 2016

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this day for a workshop session in the Commission Chambers at the Colfax County Courthouse with the following members present:

William E. Sauble, Chairman
James Landon Newton, Vice-Chairman
Roy Fernandez, Member

Also present were: Mary Lou Kern, County Manager; Cheryl Navarette, Assistant County Manager; Linda Gallegos, Assessor; Thomas Vigil, Emergency Management; Jonni Valdez-Silva, Assistant County Manager; Rick Sinclair, Sheriff; Leonard Baca, Undersheriff; Craig Mulford, Road Superintendent; Robert Thompson, Road Foreman; Neil Segotta, Colfax County Seniors; Kathy M. Trujillo, Treasurer; Rebecca Hoy, Clerk; Joanna Apodaca, Manager's Office; Gabe Sandoval, Detention Administrator; and Boe Lopez.

Chairman Sauble turned the meeting over to Cheryl Navarette to discuss the budget for 2016-2017. Ms. Navarette reported the Budget recap is a two piece report, and the first being the General Fund is over spent by \$594,000, but with the additional 1/12th gross receipts and hold harmless, we are over spent by \$182,000. Besides what is being brought in under the 1/12th and hold harmless, we are able to cover the debt of \$435,000 and the remainder in the required reserve. So we need to find out how we can find \$182,000 reduction in General Fund to balance the budget. Did not change much in the projected revenues since there was not an updated Treasurer's report for March, but here is very minimal changes.

Ms. Navarette stated the Expense Budget as Preliminary #1 & #2 will have an increase of 1% for group health insurance and that will be for all departments. As for the Commissioner's budget, Chairman Sauble stated he would like to see the Attorney's fee dropped significantly. Clerk Hoy stated she pays for an attorney thru the Clerk's affiliate and would like to continue because he has been a great help to her office this last year. Commissioner Fernandez stated that Manger Kern had spoken with Donald Gallegos, District Attorney Office, which by statue the Attorney General's office should provide legal counsel without a fee.

The Manager's budget should see a decrease of 5.63% due to the status of managers, but an increase due to the hiring of a full time IT person. Once the telephone transition is completed, the phone bills should be lower due to unused lines, but are being charged \$10.00 per line per month. Maintenance was not aware of the 3% reduction, but their budget is always close and don't know where they would cut cost.

The Clerk's office had reduced expenses, but now was wondering if there would be enough money to get her thru the General, a Special, and School elections for the upcoming year. Clerk Hoy also asked to have someone explain why when an entity is charged for an election, it comes out of the Clerk's budget, but when they are reimbursed for those charges, it goes straight to the General Fund, and by the next election the budget is going to be short. Ms. Navarette stated it needed to be done this way to show the true revenue and expenses. If a department had an increase, it was brought back down to a flat. Some offices had not decreased their budgets because they were not at the last meeting and had not been told. On the Clerk's recording side, the budget will need to be increased because records will be going on line July 1 and will know how much as soon as she gets a figure.

Assessor Gallegos had made a decrease before she submitted her first budget. Chairman Sauble asked Ms. Navarette if a 3% budget cut would be enough to cover the \$182,000 deficient or would the need be to go 5%, and she said she would have to check in to it more. Manager Kern stated that 35-40% was salaries and therefore only about 60% can be cut.