

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

January 05, 2010

A Finance Committee meeting was held Tuesday, January 05, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. in the County Administration Building, Quorum Court meeting Room, 215 East Central, Bentonville, Arkansas.

Committee Members Present: Wozniak, Wolf, Moore, Douglas, Stephenson
Absent: Brown

Others Present: Comptroller Richard McComas

Tabatha Hunter – Benton County Daily Record

JP Moore called the meeting to order

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

Grants Administrator Report

Comptroller Richard McComas stated that there was nothing out of the ordinary on the Grants Administrator's report, but if there any questions they can be answered at the January 12, 2010 Committee of Thirteen meeting, or they can call the office.

Sales Tax Numbers

Richard McComas stated that \$8.2 million was projected for 2009, and we have collected \$8.194 million to date, so we have missed the projection by \$6,000. He added that they have also projected \$8.2 million for 2010. He stated that the next three months' numbers will enable them to tell if we are still in a recession or if we are coming out of it.

Jail Collections

Richard McComas stated that we have received the December payment from the State, and have collected \$1.564 million for the year, which puts them \$364,000 over the projection in jail receipts. JP Douglas asked what was budgeted for the jail in 2010. Richard McComas replied \$1.4 million was budgeted for 2010.

Fuel Summary

Richard McComas stated that there is another month of fuel costs to add to the fuel analysis, but the departments have done well for the year. JP Moore asked what the projected returned appropriation is. Richard McComas stated there will be about \$175,000 from the Road Department and another \$90,000 from the Sheriff's office. He added that they have budgeted \$3.20 per gallon for fuel next year, which is 80% of the \$4.00 per gallon that we had budgeted for 2009.

Monthly Expenditure Report

Richard McComas stated that there will be some adjustments to be made, as there still are some expenses to come in for this year. He added that in the salary section, there are a couple of areas over 100%, due to paying out vacation and overtime to employees that have left. He stated that the Health Insurance Fund will have to be adjusted with an appropriation, but as far as dipping into our reserves, we are right at the crest. Richard McComas stated that it will not be necessary to dip into the reserves because we took in as much revenue as we had in expenditures; we just did not appropriate enough. He said that the money has been received but not appropriated, and added that there is still \$2 million in reserves in the Health Fund. He stated that District Courts are over budget because of the adjustment made on the judges' salaries in mid-year, and that will be adjusted out at the end of the year. He added many of the changes can be made with court orders between services and supplies, but the ones that affect Capitol and Personnel costs will have to be done by ordinance, which we will do when the year is closed out.

Richard McComas stated that we did receive the FEMA money from the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management, and we did get the full collection of 12½% from the State on reimbursement for the ice storm. JP Douglas asked what the ice storm clean up ending up costing the county. Richard McComas stated that the ice storm cleanup cost the county between \$400,000 and \$500,000.

Richard McComas stated that that returned appropriations will be over what was projected, and although some 2009 expenses will come in the next two months, they will not use up the \$1.9 million left or the amount left in the Road Department.

JP Moore asked if this money is still going to be moved to Capitol Projects. Richard McComas stated that they have already put \$2 million in the Census Reserves, so any excess monies above the \$9.5 million for Capitol Reserves will be put in Capitol Projects, except for some final settlement money, and that will be held back as that is 2010 money.

Other Business

Richard McComas stated that we are in the process of putting numbers together for the building program and the architectural fees, but do expect to have them in time for the February 2, 2010 Finance Committee meeting. He added that this is for all building projects and after it is done, the next process for the jail barracks will be the bid process.

JP Moore asked at what point we will need to start looking at hiring personnel for the jail. Richard McComas stated not until they get the building project started. He added one other thing that he wanted the committee to think about is that when it comes time to pay for the jail barracks, some of the money is coming out of Capitol Projects, but that the rest will be financed. He said he would like to look at financing the remaining amount out of our own reserves as opposed to going to the bank. He stated that rather than borrowing from the bank, we can borrow from our own reserves, pay ourselves back, and eliminate paying interest. He said that would be a good way to save the county more money.

JP Moore announced that the next Finance Committee meeting will be Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 5:30 p.m.

Upon motion and second the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.