

July 25, 2019
HAND COUNTY COMMISSION
Board of Commissioners
MILLER, SOUTH DAKOTA

The Hand County Board of Commissioners convened at 10 A.M. on Thursday, July 25, 2019, for a special meeting to review budgets submitted by department heads. Members present were Chairman J.D. Wangsness, Commissioners Greg Palmer, Jim Jones, Luke Wernsmann, and Gib Rodgers.

The Pledge of Allegiance said aloud.

Mike LeBrun, Dice Financial Services, met with the commission to review proposed changes to the county's health insurance policy. LeBrun explained that the county currently has a three-tier platform with varied deductibles. The lowest being \$1000, the middle being \$2500 and the highest being a Health Savings Account (HAS) with a \$4000 deductible. LeBrun had predicted an 11% increase in premiums which was provided prior to budget preparations and figured into the budgets presented today. Commissioner Jones took issue with LeBrun's presentation and was very upset in how Avera provides the health care and provides the insurance coverage. Jones depicted it as self-serving.

The commissioner reviewed the premium increases and decided to have LeBrun return to the August 6th, 2019 commission meeting with a new presentation which detailed the county's contributions assuming they pick the middle tiered plan with a premium cost of \$844.59 and having an option for employees to buy up (at their own cost) to the lower premium and finally how it would impact those with an HSA who get the difference deposited directly to their HSA account.

The Commissioner then met with department heads to review their individual budget requests. The auditor explained that several departments had either no increase or actually a reduced request. Those departments were not invited to the meeting but those which had any size of increase were.

Suzy Wernsmann, Register of Deeds, met with the board and explained that her budget increased 14.26% to accommodate the move of her deputy registrar from $\frac{3}{4}$ time to full-time. Randy Peck, Weed and Pest, had a budget increase of 21.52% which he attributed to a request to replace two utility vehicles. The commission reduced the plan to one vehicle in 2020 and encouraged him to use his current budget to purchase the other in 2019. The commission also lowered the supply budget by \$14,500. Doug DeBoer, Auditor, presented the budget for elections which showed an increase of 652.29% which is attributed to the fact there was almost no election expenses in 2019 but a general election will be held in 2020 and based on historical spending, the request was in line. The commission did not change the request.

Elton Anson, States Attorney, met with the board to discuss the 11.91% increase in his budget. Anson explained that he was requesting a pay raise for his paralegal employee and for himself because they were not awarded raises two years ago when other departments were. Anson also said the cost of evidence collection, increased witness and juror fees has caused his spending to increase. The commission agreed and did not change the budget request.

Terry Augspurger, Assessor, explained his 3.62% increase was attributable to inclusion of longevity pay in his payroll expenses where it had not been in years past. The commission agreed and did not change the request.

Mike Moncur, for 4-H / Extension, explained the 20.86% increase in the budget was because of the possibility of employing someone full time as director and most notably that this person would probably be receiving health insurance which accounts for nearly \$12,000 of the projected increase. The commission did not change the request.

Shane Croeni, Sheriff, met with the board to explain the 12.42% increase in his budget. The increase is the result of a calculation error in group insurance. Croeni later came to the commission and said his budget should have included the replacement of a vehicle. The commission requested the budget be amended for review at the next meeting.

Sheriff Croeni also addressed an increase of 4.21% in the jail (prisoner care) budget. Croeni said the increase is the result of increase contract cost for housing prisoners. Auditor DeBoer pointed out that the \$45,800 budget request is still lower than historical figures where it was \$52,600 for a number of years. The commission did not change the request.

Terry Augspurger rejoined the meeting to address the 23.71% increase in the zoning budget. The increase reflects an increase in publication expense and a request to raise his stipend from \$156 to \$200 a month. The commission agreed and did not change the request.

Will Page, Custodian, met with the board to discuss the 38.47% increase in his budget. Page explained a series of costly building repair projects (parking lot, painting of interior, tuckpointing and elevator replacement) are on the agenda in the coming years. The commissioners worked with Page to reduce the budget but left in plans for the second payment on the roof and \$27,000 in improvements for 2020. The commission also requested the creation of a "capital improvement fund" for the remaining projects which will follow in future years.

Jeff Hargens, Rubble Site supervisor, was unable to attend. Auditor DeBoer explained that the rubble site budget was increased by 1.57% which attributable to wages. The small size of the rubble site budget means this was about \$300 in change. The commission noted that it is time to study dumping fees at the rubble site.

Jeff Hargens, Highway Superintendent, was not present so Auditor DeBoer presented his road and bridge budget which went up 0.61%, most of which is attributed to wages and group insurance. The commission did not change the request but did spend time discussing the need for a project plan, equipment replacement, capital improvement plan and generally how they want to be more informed of projects, projected costs and expenses.

Auditor DeBoer presented the 911 budget which showed an increase of 4.92% which he attributed to an increase in contractual costs with the 911 answering center in the Huron Police Department. The commission did not change the budget.

Arlen Gortmaker, Emergency Manager, met with the board to discuss the 20.52% increase in the budget. Gortmaker explained that 12.6% of the increase is attributable to the wages (part of which is reimbursed by a federal grant) and the remainder was for accessories to the vehicle to protect them from the environment. An increase in utilities was justified because the AlertSense notification program has a yearly subscription of about \$1500. The commissioners did not change the request.

Sheriff Croeni returned to discuss the 24-7 sobriety program budget which increased 257.14 percent, from \$1400 to \$5000. The increase is directly related to more drug arrest from the sheriff's

office and increase participate on urine analyses and formal testing by various labs. The 24-7 program is self-funded at this time because the individuals pay for the tests in order to stay out of jail. The commissioners did not change the request.

At the conclusion of the departmental examination, the commission held a brief discussion about the insurance costs, building improvements and plans for spending. The board also spoke on the upcoming zoning meeting and the format for the hearing to take place. No decisions were made but it was reiterated that the topics of discussion are confined to those listed in the published notice.

No one offered comment during the Period for Public Comment and no executive session was requested or held. It was moved by Rodgers and seconded by Wernsmann to adjourn. The chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 1 P.M.

James D. Wangsness, Chairman
Hand County Board of Commissioners

(Attest)

Doug DeBoer, Hand County Auditor

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