

**MADISON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**BUDGET HEARING MINUTES**  
**September 2, 2009      8:00 a.m.**  
**COMMISSIONERS ROOM**

**Present:** Commissioner Robert Hansen, Chairman, Commissioner Kimber Ricks, Commissioner Jon Weber, Clerk Marilyn R. Rasmussen, Attorney Troy Evans

Also Present: Treasurer Sherry Arnold, Fire Chief Corey Childs, Mike Walker and Lionel Koon

Commissioner Hansen opened the Budget Hearing at 8:00 a.m. and asked if anyone present had questions.

**Treasurer Sherry Arnold** asked why the Commissioners had not taken the 3% increase they could have taken. Commissioner Ricks explained that the Commissioners felt it was a time to be frugal, given the economy and the County should show fiscal restraint.

Treasurer Sherry Arnold asked if anyone had been promised a raise at the present time or throughout the year. The Commissioners answered that no one had been promised an increase. Commissioner Weber stated that the only increase that had been discussed was in the IT Department. Paul Sorensen and Jason Povey had done work for the County phone system which was on top of their job description and the amount of compensation for that work was being reviewed. He explained that he had heard talk about Brent McFadden, Planning and Zoning Administrator receiving an increase, but had discussed this with both Brent McFadden and Commissioner Hansen and had noted that only eight permits had been issued to date and about half of their work was contracted outside of the department and with those facts it does not add up to justification for an increase in salary. He also stated that one person could not be compensated without looking at the big picture of what the other employees were doing. Commissioner Hansen stated that the County is in the process of doing job descriptions and this will give them an understanding of where salary ranges should be for each classification.

Commissioner Weber stated that we are in a situation not only in the County, but in the State and Nation where we see people stressed over poor economic circumstances. Due to the present conditions it would be hard to take the full 3% increase because of watching our fellow citizens struggling.

Treasurer Sherry Arnold asked if Wendell Roth, Solid Waste Supervisor, was being given compensation for retiring. The Commissioners answered that he was not getting additional compensation. She noted that if compensation is given to Mr. Roth, then the same should be done for Dusty Cureton. At this time this would set a precedent that the County cannot afford.

**Lionel Koon:**

He expressed concern about the time of the meeting. He also wanted to know what the County was going to do with the old co-op property. There was a good bid received by the County and it was turned down and he asked why. The Commissioners explained to him that Spectrum Properties did not know that the property had environmental issues and when they learned of the extent of the problems they withdrew their bid. The Commissioners determined it was in the best interest of the County to re-open the bid for an additional 30 days with specific conditions.

Mr. Koon asked if all of the Offices and Departments were staffed adequately. Commissioner Hansen replied that the County was conducting a survey that would help determine if seasonal help could be used year around rather than pay unemployment and they were encouraging more cross training between departments. One area where the County could be understaffed was in the Courts, but in most cases it was felt the Offices and Departments were staffed adequately.

Mr. Koon asked if there were funds left over from the current year to go into next year and would the levy decrease. Commissioner Weber stated that they are watching the spending closely and they will end the year in the black. With the increase in market value for agriculture, commercial and residential, it is felt the levy should decrease. Mr. Koon asked if all of the property was now on the tax rolls and Commissioner Weber said that they had Mr. Saurey report to them about every time that they met and they feel confident that he does have all properties on the tax roll.

Commissioner Weber reported that two weeks ago the Commissioners had gone through the budget page by page and after the review and changes had been done, a copy had been given to each Department Head and Elected Official. He asked the Clerk, Marilyn Rasmussen if the budget had changed since that time. The changes that were made were the following: 1) Courts: Tri-County Budget was decreased from \$45,400 to \$15,504 and the \$29,896 funds were transferred to the 5-County Juvenile Detention line. 2) One correction still needs to be made for Juvenile Probation in the salary lines, but it will not increase their budget. 3) The Sheriff had a correction from \$300 to \$3,000 in one line item but it still did not increase the bottom line of the budget.

Lionel Koon said that he had heard concerns in the County regarding expenditures and felt it was better to ask questions in person, than complain. Commissioner Weber stated that if there are concerns they would like to have the opportunity to explain why they made a certain expenditure or decision. Commissioner Weber stated that there are some positive items in the budget as no one has been laid off, we are financially in better condition than we were a

couple of years ago and they are restructuring departments to meet the public needs.

Lionel Koon asked if we were holding prisoners in our facility from outside of the County and if so, are we charging those Counties and State a sufficient amount of money to pay for their keep. Commissioner Hansen stated that we now have a federal contract and the County does charge the fee prescribed by the State for all other prisoners.

Commissioners Hansen stated that we now have a full time Weed and Mosquito Department Administrator and those budgets have been increased to meet the public needs.

Commissioner Hansen closed the time for questions at 8:55 a.m.

The following motions were made:

**Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the 2010 Budget for Madison County, Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.**

**Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the 2010 Budget for the Ambulance District, Commissioner Hansen seconded and voting was unanimous.**

**Commissioner Weber made a motion to approve the 2010 Budget for the Mosquito District, Commissioner Ricks seconded and voting was unanimous.**

**Commissioner Ricks made a motion to approve the 2010 Budget for Madison Memorial Hospital, Commissioner Weber seconded and voting was unanimous.**

Approved:

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Robert Hansen, Chairman

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Kimber Ricks

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Jon O. Weber