

Tuesday, June 11, 2002

The Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, and ex-officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts for which said Board so acts, met in regular adjourned session at 9:00 A.M..

PRESENT: Supervisors Harry L. Ovitt, Peg Pinard, K.H. 'Katcho' Achadjian, and Chairperson Shirley Bianchi

ABSENT: Supervisor Michael P. Ryan

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG LED BY CHAIRPERSON BIANCHI.

SUM AGN

1 BH This is the time set for continued consideration of the Proposed Budget and Supplemental Document for Fiscal year 2002-2003.

Ms. Gail Wilcox: Assistant County Administrative Officer, addresses additional action they would like the Board to take with respect to a hiring freeze.

(SUPERVISOR MICHAEL P. RYAN IS NOW PRESENT.)

Supervisor Achadjian: questions the impacts of this with respect to positions previously approved but not filled, with Ms. Wilcox responding.

Mr. Eric Greening: questions the effectiveness of a recruitment process when positions will not be filled; indicating he is particularly concerned about the positions in Planning that need to be filled.

Board Members: address various issues, comments and concerns regarding: exceptions for essential services; positions needed in both County Fire and Planning.

Ms. Wilcox: if positions are revenue offset then it is up to the department head as to whether they will be filled.

Mr. David Edge: County Administrative Officer, addresses the backlog impacts in the Planning Department; suggests the Board can adopt their recommendations and make exceptions for certain departments.

Matter is discussed and thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Achadjian, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt, with Supervisor Ryan casting dissenting a vote, motion carries and the Board tentatively approves the Administrative Office recommendations that no new positions contained in the recommended budget will be filled until staff has figured out the impacts of the State's first cut (the budget they adopt this summer); and, in light of the growing consensus that the "really bad news" won't come until after the November election, the Board directs all department heads to review all vacant or vacated positions and fill only those that: a) provide critical public services (e.g., the absence of the position in question directly jeopardizes the health and/or safety of the public); or, b) are specifically tied to revenue receipts. Additionally, when revenue offset positions are vacated, departments will make every effort to fill those positions with existing staff who occupy positions that are funded with discretionary money and do not provide critical public services.

PUBLIC PROTECTION Budget Units 2006 - Contribution to Court Operations, 2550 - Public Defender, 2560 District Attorney, 2561 - Child Support Services, 2562 - Victim/Witness Assistance, 2570 - Grand Jury, 2590 - Sheriff-Coroner, 2840 - Animal Services, 2660 - Probation, 2790 - Emergency Services, 2945 - Waste Management and 2670 - County Fire, are presented.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian and unanimously carried, the Board tentatively approves Budget Unit 2006 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Supervisor Ovitt: questions overtime for Budget Unit 2550, with Mr. Edge responding that the County is obligated to pay whatever bill the public defenders submit.

Supervisor Pinard: questions the increased cost in funding when cases are sent out of the County and local staff hasn't fought to keep the case here.

Mr. Gerald Shea: District Attorney, states with respect to the case being discussed, the District Attorney's Office, which was representing the People of the State of California, did oppose moving the case out of the County and won that issue at the local level; it was then appealed to the Appellant Court which overturned the local decision and the case was moved out of the County.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2550 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Mr. Phil Lowe: Child Support Services Director, states this is the first year this budget has been independent of the District Attorney's office; explains the budget and it being 100% revenue offset.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Achadjian, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, the Board tentatively approves Budget Unit 2561 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Supervisor Pinard: questions the increase in employees for Victim/Witness, with Mr. Vince Morici, Administrative Office, explaining the various grant programs and staffing needs for the same.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Achadjian, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2562 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Pinard and unanimously carried, the Board tentatively approves Budget Unit 2570 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian and unanimously carried, the Board tentatively approves Budget Unit 2590 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Supervisor Pinard: questions the "modest" increase to the Animal Services budget and doesn't believe that is true for the department; addresses her concerns with respect to this department.

Deputy Chief Nick Marquart: Sheriff's Department, addresses the position they are requesting, indicating it is a reclassification of an existing position and not a new position.

Mr. Edge: clarifies what is being recommended for approval versus what staff requested.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian, with Supervisor Pinard casting a dissenting vote, motion carries and the Board tentatively

approves Budget Unit 2840 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Supervisor Pinard: questions Probation's grant programs and what preparations the Department has made if they lose any or all of this grant funding; questions children with mental health needs.

Ms. Kim Barrett: Interim Chief Probation Officer, responds as to how they are monitoring the various grants and they do have plans in place to address any loss of funding; speaks regarding juvenile halls becoming a de facto mental health facility for children; the inability to address mental health needs/medications in 72 hours which has required that some of these children be sent out of county to other mental health facilities; states they could have handled some of these children in-county if they had more beds, but still would have had to send them elsewhere if they required a stay that was more than 72 hours.

Ms. Wilcox: indicates that Ms. Barrett is to be commended for finding a way to keep the drug court program operating (within existing funds) after the State cut their funding for this program.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ovitt, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2660 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2790 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Supervisor Ryan: questions the Performance Measurements for Waste Management and suggests the numbers don't accurately reflect what the County is doing; suggests that the Performance Measurement target should be higher than 50%.

Mr. Noel King: Public Works Director, responds outlining what they will be doing this next year.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, the Board tentatively approves Budget Unit 2945 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Mr. Ralph Allison: states he moved to Heritage Ranch three years ago; speaks to the new fire station that was built; comments on the fire that occurred, burning down two homes, on a day when the fire station was not manned; presents a petition with 746 signatures requesting that adequate fire services (full time staff) be provided for this station.

Supervisor Achadjian: questions the lack of paramedic services in South County.

Chief Dan Turner: County Fire/CDF, indicates there is a need for these services and their mission is to provide the highest level of service they can.

Supervisor Ryan: questions the funding for paramedic services and \$16,000 coming from the General Fund.

Chief Turner: states the funding is adequate to keep the services available 24/7 and will also be filled with existing staff.

Supervisor Ryan: questions responding with a fire engine versus a transport vehicle and the cost differences for using an engine versus San Luis Ambulance purchasing another ambulance for the area.

Chief Turner: responds and further addresses the one time expense of purchasing the

necessary equipment for the paramedics.

Mr. Vince Morici: Administrative Office, suggests this deals with more than one time purchases as this will increase levels of service where none currently exists.

Supervisor Ovitt: questions the different paramedic needs Countywide; further, presents information on Heritage Ranch Fire Station and statistics on the increase in population and emergency calls; states he is requesting that County Fire's budget be augmented to allow funding for three additional firefighting personnel to provide 24 hour staffing seven days a week.

Mr. Edge: states, while it may be necessary, the cost of firefighter services is expensive; suggests this is a Board policy issue so staff has not taken a position for or against this.

Supervisor Pinard: addresses her concern to some areas being charged for services such as paramedics and fire and others having the service provided by the County; is concerned that folks in one area are expected to pay for services being provided in another area.

Chief Turner: addresses the Ambulance Provider Operations Committee (APOC) and the recommendations from this group to provide the Paramedic services in the South Zone from Nipomo and Mesa Fire stations; addresses current service levels in other parts of the County.

Supervisor Pinard: suggests this issue needs to be looked at on a Countywide basis and should come back as full discussion instead of dealing with one request; wants to see the implications of this as it relates to all areas of the County.

Supervisor Ryan: addresses fire needs around the County and the differences in how they are handled area to area.

Supervisor Ovitt: feels there aren't any choices with the changes occurring around the County and the changes that need to occur are mandatory.

(SUPERVISOR MICHAEL P. RYAN IS NOW ABSENT.)

Supervisor Pinard: believes both requests are important and need to be addressed through a policy by the Board; **(SUPERVISOR MICHAEL P. RYAN IS NOW PRESENT.)** suggests the various areas need to assess themselves for these services which is what the current policy is based on.

Chief Turner: states the proposal for Nipomo is consistent with the current policy.

Supervisor Pinard: states she doesn't doubt the need but wants to know what "pot of money" is to be used to pay for this.

Chief Turner: feels that he and the Board members are saying the same thing and the number one priority is the saving/protection of life.

Chairperson Bianchi: states she supports moving forward with the proposal for Nipomo but that no more of these requests be approved until the Master Plan comes back for the entire County.

Mr. Morici: indicates the responsibility for preparing the County Fire Master Plan would be done by County Fire, with Chief Turner indicating that preparing/updating this Master Plan will take approximately a year.

Supervisor Pinard: questions if this would be the first CDF Paramedic in the County, with Mr. Morici responding that it would be the first.

Supervisor Pinard: states if this is approved then the whole bar for the County will be changed.

Supervisor Ovitt: further addresses his staffing request for Heritage Ranch Fire Station by having it staffed 24/7 instead of approximately 96 hours; breaks down the current staffing costs for Current Staffing, Seasonal Staffing, Full Time Transitional Staffing and Full Time Staffing; states he is recommending that they approve full time transitional staffing at \$387,344.

Chief Turner: indicates this was the number one request in their proposed budget; outlines the three budgets they were directed to prepare; highlights what they proposed for staffing needs at this Station; indicates this area is projected for future growth with the new developer that has purchased land in this area.

Supervisor Ovitt: indicates the developer purchased vested, approved maps and the County can't go back to collect fees unless there are significant changes to these existing maps.

Board Members: address various issues, comments and concerns regarding: why the responsibility for these positions isn't the full responsibility of CDF versus County Fire; questions costs associated with fire protection for CSA #9-I and Avila Beach.

Mr. Edge: indicates the issue of CSA #9-I is on the agenda for discussion next week; based on a recent election, the voters said they didn't want to pay for these services anymore; this requires a discussion regarding the termination of the existing contract with the Los Osos Community Services District (South Bay Fire).

A motion by Supervisor Ovitt, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian to add 1 Engineer and 2 Firefighters (bringing the staffing up to 1 Captain, 2 Engineers and 2 Firefighters) at the Heritage Ranch Fire Station for a total of \$206,442; increase expenditures by \$171,000, increase revenues by \$154,800 (including \$90,000 from the Fire Equipment Replacement Reserves) to purchase equipment and pay salary incentive and training costs for the establishment of fire-based paramedic services at the Nipomo and Mesa County Fire Stations in the Nipomo area and tentatively approve Budget Unit 2670 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as amended by this Board, is discussed.

Supervisor Ryan: asks if the motion includes substantially funding this from other than the General Fund, with Supervisors Ovitt and Achadjian agreeing to include that in their motion.

Supervisor Pinard: questions whether APOC receives money from the General Fund, with Chief Turner indicating they don't as their funding is generated from ambulance services.

Matter is fully discussed and thereafter, on motion by Supervisor Ovitt, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian, with Chairperson Bianchi casting a dissenting vote, motion carries and the Board adds 1 Engineer and 2 Firefighters (bringing the staffing up to 1 Captain, 2 Engineers and 2 Firefighters) at the Heritage Ranch Fire Station for a total of \$206,442; increase expenditures by \$171,000, increase revenues by \$154,800 (including \$90,000 from the Fire Equipment Replacement Reserves) to purchase equipment and pay salary incentive and training costs for the establishment of fire-based paramedic services at the Nipomo and Mesa County Fire Stations in the Nipomo area, and substantially the funding for this is to come from other than the General Fund and tentatively approve Budget Unit 2670 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as amended by this Board and as outlined in the Proposed Budget and Supplemental documents.

LAND BASED Budget Units 2730 - Agricultural Commissioner, 2800 - Planning and Building, 2085 - Community Development, 2900 Public Works, 2141 - Road Impact Fees, 2179 - Operations Center, 2240 - Development Services, 2290 - Services to Special Districts, 2920 - Roads and Special District Budgets, are presented.

Mr. Bob Kober: Union Asphalt Inc., states they own and operate several mining operations in the County; supports approval of a Geologist Inspector position; addresses time savings for applicants if this position is approved; comments on changes occurring at the State level and

wants to keep this process local.

Mr. Louis Wheeler: urges the Board to continue funding the Planning Department; addresses the need for funding for more Code Enforcement Officers and the importance of the job these Officers perform; suggests if the Board wants to cut funding elsewhere to pay for these positions they could cut money for the proposed Oceano Community Center.

Mr. Eric Greening: questions what local cuts will occur if the State cuts funding for the Williamson Act program; suggests the County should be ready to challenge the EIR being prepared by the State for the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter; the County should be rethinking which programs are and are not essential; supports keeping staffing levels up in Planning so the various long-range programs they are working on get done.

Ms. Leslie Halls: SLO Builders Exchange Executive Director, speaks in support of adding two Building Inspector positions for Planning; indicates these positions will help get projects through the system quicker; also, supports one of these positions being more of a Code Enforcement type.

Ms. Linda Hall: suggests the need to continue consolidating more like budget types into one budget unit and uses the example of the Agricultural Commissioner and Wildlife and Grazing budget units.

Mr. Woody Woodruff: addresses the effective and positive way the Planning Department runs, indicating this is an easy and pleasant group of folks to work with; supports the addition of two Building Inspector positions.

Mr. George Moylan: SLO City Housing Authority, supports the two additional positions for Planning and also supports the Senior Planner position.

Ms. Cindy Jacinth: People's Self Help Housing, reads a letter from Scott Smith, Deputy Director of People's Self Help, urging support of the staff requests for staffing and presents a copy of the letter for the record.

Mr. Edge: addresses the proposed cuts, by the State, to the Williamson Act indicating it basically is eliminating the Open Space funding; states this will not change the contracts and explains.

Supervisor Ryan: explains why he believes the Governor will not follow through on this cut to the Williamson Act.

Ms. Wilcox: explains that the Wildlife and Grazing budget is not part of the Agricultural Commissioner's budget and outlines the requirements and where funding for the Wildlife budget come from.

Mr. Richard Greek: Agricultural Commissioner, gives an update on the EIR process for the Glassy-Winged Sharpshooter; addresses Federal funding for pesticide prevention and coming back to the Board in the future with more information on this.

Supervisor Pinard: addresses the Performance Standards for the Agricultural Commissioner and her concern that the last three have a target to "meet/exceed" the Statewide standard and her concerns regarding this.

Mr. Greek: states that Supervisor Pinard raises a good point and since they are exceeding that Statewide standard they should move their percentage level up.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, the Board tentatively approves Budget Unit 2730 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Supervisor Ovitt: questions whether fee increases are expected to cover the cost of the additional positions for Planning.

Mr. Victor Holanda: Director of Planning and Building, responds and addresses their request for the positions as outlined on page B-14 of the Budget document; comments on current vacant positions indicating they have done the recruitment and are ready to hire.

Mr. Edge: states that if the vacant positions have been offered to individuals the hiring freeze doesn't apply, but if they haven't been offered they are frozen positions.

Supervisor Ryan: questions whether departments can hire for positions that are revenue offset, with staff responding that they can.

Supervisor Pinard: addresses her concerns to Planning's fees not meeting the cost for services currently and based on this wants to know how the requested positions are revenue offset.

Mr. Bryce Tingle: Assistant Director of Planning and Building, states they are currently 75% revenue offset and 25% General Funded; addresses changes that will occur in fees effective July 1st; states that all the requested positions are revenue supported and explains.

Mr. Edge: indicates that if the Board wants to approve these positions and fill them now then the motion should include exempting the positions from the hiring freeze.

Mr. Tingle: responds to further questions regarding costs and staffing by addressing those applicants that are charged through "real-time" billing contracts and those applicants charged the regular processing fees.

Supervisor Ryan: questions the policy regarding filling positions.

Mr. Edge: indicates that the policy says if the position is revenue offset they can be filled, but if they are funded by the General Fund they are frozen.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt, with Supervisor Pinard casting a dissenting vote, motion carries and Budget Unit 2800 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document. Further, the Board directs that the positions as outlined on Page B-14 of the Proposed Budget document are exempt from the hiring freeze and can be filled now.

Supervisor Pinard: states her concern to money being found for certain items/positions but no money is available for nuclear issues.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2085 is approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Chairperson Bianchi: addresses her prior abstentions to issues relating to the road she lives on, but will not abstain this time as there are two bridges on this road that need work.

Supervisor Pinard: comments on road improvement fees and her concern that these fees don't go far enough to address cuts in the roads by utility companies; speaks regarding paving that occurred on Los Osos Valley Road and right after that a utility company came in and tore it up for their work.

Mr. Noel King: Public Works Director, states they do have a fee for road cuts that will go into effect on July 1st.

Supervisor Pinard: states she wants to see fees/programs that mirror the San Francisco model.

Mr. Paavo Ogren: Public Works, states the fees that will go into effect July 1st will mirror the San Francisco model.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Achadjian, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt, with Supervisor Pinard casting a dissenting vote, motion carries and Budget Units 2900, 2141, 2179, 2240, 2290, 2920 and Special District Budgets are tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget and Supplemental documents.

COMMUNITY SERVICES Budget Units 2700 - Wildlife and Grazing, 2710 - Fish and Game, 2950 - Airports, 4000 - Library, 4030 - Farm Advisor, 4125 - Parks and 4161 - Golf Courses, are presented.

Ms. Doris Bolef: a member of the San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library, thanks the Board for their past support of libraries; **(SUPERVISOR HARRY L. OVITT IS NOW ABSENT.)** addresses computer usage and access to the same at libraries; comments on the need for additional full time staff in the Reference Department of the Library.

(SUPERVISOR HARRY L. OVITT IS NOW PRESENT.)

Mr. Thomas Bader: a member of the Cambria Friends of the Library, speaks in support of the requested budget for the Library.

Ms. Sally Marchand: President of the South Bay Friends of the Library, supports additional staffing for the libraries and the need for more open hours at the various libraries.

Mr. Walter Wager: a member of the San Luis Obispo Friends of the Library, supports comments by prior speakers and the staff recommendations.

Mr. Eric Greening: thanks the Board for their past support of libraries; urges support of the staff recommendation as this is an essential service that is being provided.

Ms. Linda Hall: speaks to the Cambria Library and her concern regarding the policy that a person can only use a computer for 30 minutes a day, even if no one else is there to use it; suggests that if the Wildlife & Grazing and Agricultural Commissioner budgets are separate the Wildlife budget is still overseen by the Agricultural Commissioner.

Mr. Edge: states the Wildlife and Grazing budget is funded through the Taylor Grazing Act and is separate from the Agricultural Commissioner.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2700 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Achadjian, seconded by Supervisor Pinard and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2710 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Pinard, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 2950 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ovitt, seconded by Supervisor Achadjian and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 4000 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 4030 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 4125 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, Budget Unit 4161 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget document.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Ovitt and unanimously carried, the Board continues said hearing to June 12, 2002 at 9:00 a.m..

On motion duly made and unanimously carried, the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, and ex-officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts for which said Board so acts, does now adjourn to Wednesday, June 12, 2000 at 9:00 a.m. to continue hearing the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2002-03.

I, **JULIE L. RODEWALD**, County Clerk-Recorder and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, and ex-officio clerk of the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts for which said Board so acts, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a fair statement of the proceedings of the meeting held Tuesday, June 11, 2002, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Luis Obispo, and ex-officio the governing body of all other special assessment and taxing districts for which said Board so acts.

JULIE L. RODEWALD, County Clerk-Recorder
and Ex-Officio Clerk of the Board of Supervisors

By: /s/Vicki M. Shelby,
Deputy Clerk-Recorder

DATED: June 14, 2002
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