

Monday, June 11, 2001

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 Shirley Bianchi, Michael P. Ryan and Chairperson K.H. 'Katcho' Achadjian

ABSENT: Supervisors Harry L. Ovitt, Peg Pinard

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG LED BY CHAIRPERSON ACHADJIAN.

SUM AGN

1 BH The Board does now meet for the purpose of considering the Proposed Budget for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

Mr. David Edge: County Administrative Officer, introduces the item and commends staff, particularly Ms. Gail Wilcox and Ms. Cecilia Fontes for all their work on the budget and budget documents.

Ms. Gail Wilcox: Assistant County Administrative Officer, gives an overview of the Proposed Budget; the recommended budget is at \$384 million which represents an \$81 million or 27% increase over the 2000-01 budget; addresses the increase in Capital Projects Financing primarily due to the new Government Center; the creation of two new budgets to reflect Public Facility and Traffic Impact Fees; the increased cost of maintaining existing service levels and staff; new staff/services are recommended at \$4.5 million; 36 of the 105 new positions requested are being recommended; addresses the 13.6% increase in population from 1990 to 2000, with a 2.5% County staff increase during the same time period; outlines the approach used by staff to prepare the budget; states the Board needs to accept the Supplemental Document and make it a part of the official record for the public hearings on the 2001-02 Proposed Budget.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Bianchi, with Supervisors Ovitt and Pinard being absent, motion carries and the Board accepts the Supplemental Document and makes it a part of the official record for the public hearings on the 2001-02 Proposed Budget.

Chairperson Achadjian: opens the floor to allow the public to make general comments on the Proposed Budget.

Mr. Eric Greening: questions the procedure for the Consent versus At-Issue items and asks for an update on Supervisor Ovitt's condition.

Supervisor Ryan: indicates Supervisor Ovitt is still in serious condition and his infection is being monitored.

Mr. Gregg Fiegel: representing the Board of Directors for Friday Night Live, thanks the Board for their continued support and funding; outlines what they have been able to do to improve the programs they offer.

Mr. Michael Kovacs: asks if a copy of the entire budget could be left in the Board Chambers for the public during these hearings; addresses the County's Mission Statement and the Budget policies, specifically #10 regarding consolidating programs; questions why more consolidation of departments has not occurred.

(SUPERVISOR PEG PINARD IS NOW PRESENT.)

Mr. Edge: responds to questions by Mr. Kovacs and indicates that copies of the budget are now in the Chambers for the public.

Ms. Wilcox: indicates staff is watching what is occurring at the State level with respect to anything that could impact the County's budget.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.

Budget Units 3000 - Public Health Department, 3070 - Mental Health, 3075 - Drug and Alcohol Services, 4040 - Drinking Driver Program, 3285 - Law Enforcement Medical Programs, 3286 - County Medical Services Fund and 3288 - California Healthcare Indigents Program, are presented.

Mr. David Broadwater: addresses the land application of sewage sludge in the County; indicates Kern County has an ordinance prohibiting this and last week Riverside County adopted a similar ordinance; indicates there are a number of issues going on in the County relating to this issue and hopes the Board will continue funding this issue.

Ms. Rae Belle Gambs: Chair for the Mental Health Advisory Board, thanks the Board for their support of Mental Health Services; addresses the need to provide more services to the mentally ill; speaks to this department being historically underfunded.

Mr. Michael Kovacs: speaks to the Health Agency having eight subdepartments and the County's Mission Statement suggesting consolidation of departments; questions why Medical Services is not part of this budget and why Drug and Alcohol and the Drinking Driver programs aren't one department; questions when he will see streamlining/reductions.

Mr. Eric Greening: states he is a member of the Biosolids Task Force and outlines the various issues they have been looking at; speaks to the need to have this task force continue; asks that the Board direct Environmental Health to not disband this group.

Ms. Wilcox: responds to questions, indicating that page S-11 of the Supplemental Document outlines the positions that the Health Agency is cutting from their budget; states that Drug and Alcohol Services and the Drinking Driver Program are one department, just have separate budgets.

Mr. Paul Hyman: Drug and Alcohol Director, addresses the issue further.

Mr. Curt Batson: Environmental Health Director, addresses the Biosolid Task Force and states they have no intention of disbanding it but they will meet less often than previously.

Supervisor Bianchi: questions the Crisis Residential Program, outlined on Page B-126, with Dr. Dale Wolff, Mental Health Director, responding.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Bianchi, with Supervisor Ovitt being absent and Supervisor Pinard casting a dissenting vote, motion carries and Budget Units 3000, 3070, 3075, 4040, 3285, 3286, 3287 and 3288 are tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget and Supplemental documents.

Budget Units: 3200 - Social Services Administration, 3240 - Foster Care,

3250 - CalWORKs, 3290 - General Assistance, 3330 Veterans Services, 6000 - Medical Services and 3280 - Medical Assistance Programs, are presented.

Mr. Michael Kovacs: questions the increase in the Social Services budget, indicating it has quadrupled over the years; questions why there has been such a large increase in the number of employees; questions where is the streamlining of services.

Mr. Lee Collins: Social Services Director, explains the changes in staffing due to the Welfare Reform requirements by the State.

Mr. Edge: comments on the Veterans Services budget, stating that it has increased \$700 over the past 10 years and is functioning with four employees.

Mr. Bill Simpson: Veterans Services Officer, states he is available to answer questions.

A motion by Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian to tentatively approve Budget Units 3200, 3240, 3250, 3290, 3330, 6000, and 3280 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget, fails with Supervisors Pinard and Ryan casting dissenting votes and Supervisor Ovitt being absent.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Bianchi, with Supervisor Pinard casting a dissenting vote and Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and the Board tentatively approves Budget Units 3200, 3240, 3250, 3290 and 3330 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian, with Supervisor Ryan casting a dissenting vote and Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and Budget Unit 3280 is tentatively approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget.

A motion by Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian to tentatively approve Budget Unit 6000 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget, is discussed.

Supervisor Ryan: indicates he will not support this budget as he believes the County should be looking at closing General Hospital; believes the County is “pouring money down a dark hole.”

Supervisor Bianchi: states the Board previously gave direction that General Hospital had three years to do a turnaround and the Board should honor that time frame before looking at closure.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian, with Supervisor Ryan casting a dissenting vote and Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries the Board tentatively approved Budget Unit 6000 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget.

ADDED (All requirements of the Brown Act were met as this was posted prior to the 72-hour noticing requirement.)

I. PENDING LITIGATION (Gov. Code §54956.9) It is the intention of the Board to meet in Closed Session concerning the following items:

A. Conference with Legal Counsel - Anticipated Litigation (Gov. Code §54956.9) (4) *Significant exposure to litigation (Gov. Code §54956.9(b))* No. of cases: 3. Facts and circumstances not known to potential plaintiff which indicate significant exposure to litigation. (5) *Initiation of litigation (Gov. Code §54956.9(c))* No. of cases: 2.

Chairperson Achadjian: opens the floor to public comment.

Mr. Matt Bousman: representing Whitaker Contractors, addresses letters they have sent the FAA that included more information regarding minority (MBE) requirements, relating to the bid award for the SLO County Airport Project - Runway Extension,; addresses their commitment to these requirements; indicate they would like a meeting with the FAA regarding their denial and prior to the Board awarding this contract; presents a copy of Title 49 - Transportation.

Mr. Rick Jackson: A.J. Diani Construction Co., addresses their understanding of the “CFR’s.”

Thereafter, pursuant to the requirements of the Brown Act, County Counsel reports out on the items discussed during Closed Session as follows: the Board continued this item to 1:45 p.m. today and the Board goes into Open Public Session.

3 CS The Board announces it will be going into Closed Session regarding:

I. PENDING LITIGATION (Gov. Code §54956.9) It is the intention of the Board to meet in Closed Session concerning the following items:

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Thereafter, pursuant to the requirements of the Brown Act, County Counsel reports out on the items discussed during Closed Session as follows: the Board continued this item to Wednesday, June 13, 2001 along with its companion item D-1 “Submittal of a bid opening report for the construction of the final phase of the San Luis Obispo County Regional Airport runway extension; All Districts. (RECOMMEND APPROVAL AND INSTRUCT CHAIRPERSON TO SIGN CONTRACT DOCUMENTS WITH A.J. DIANI CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. IN THE AMOUNT OF \$4,326,736).” (All requirements of the Brown Act were met as this item (D-1) was posted prior to the 72-hour noticing requirement.)

(SUPERVISOR MICHAEL P. RYAN IS NOW ABSENT.)

4 BH This is the time set for continued consideration of the Proposed Budget and Supplemental Document for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

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

Mr. Gary Fowler: addresses the Probation Department budget and the need to improve the living/working conditions of the staff offices; feels the current building is far from adequate; addresses vehicle registration fees and the recent refunds received by the public; urges all law enforcement agencies to actively pursue registration enforcement as these fees come back to the county they are collected in.

Mr. Michael Kovacs: questions why Emergency Services and County Fire couldn't be combined into one department as they both perform emergency functions; **(SUPERVISOR MICHAEL P. RYAN IS NOW PRESENT.)** speaks to the District Attorney's budget and the improvements they have made to their services over the past few years; addresses his concern to the 80% aggregate budget increase in the District Attorney's budget over the past seven years and questions why this has occurred.

Ms. Linda Hall: addresses the County Fire budget and states that 95% of their calls are not fire related; questions what actions were taken by the Board this morning, whether there were any cuts made or if the Board is just approving budgets as recommended by staff.

Mr. Eric Greening: speaks to the Emergency Services budget and questions whether there is any offsite nuclear preparedness funding; speaks to an upcoming Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) meeting and hopes that County staff will be at that meeting; questions the availability of potassium iodide.

Mr. David Edge: County Administrative Officer, indicates that Emergency Services is not a separate department, but rather is under the Administrative Office; outlines the duties of this division versus those departments that handle daily emergencies; explains that the recommended budgets before the Board today are based on the review and balancing of these departments request by his staff.

Mr. Vince Morici: Administrative Office, explains the difference between County Fire and Emergency Services; indicates Emergency Services does not have any field staff to handle day to day emergencies; they will have staff at the NRC meeting; addresses the issue of independent radiation monitoring and how it is handled by the State.

Mr. Ron Alsop: Emergency Services, addresses the policy on Potassium Iodide and indicates they are waiting for direction from the State with respect to distribution; comments on the Safety Plan and the work they are doing that will include emergency planning for tsunamis; further, explains the role of Emergency Services.

Chief Dan Turner: County Fire/CDF, indicates that 15% of their emergencies are fires and 85% are non fire and explains the various types of emergencies they respond to.

Supervisor Ryan: questions the goals of County Fire with respect to response time.

Chief Turner: explains the different response times relate to stations that are fully staffed versus those that are fully volunteer.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Supervisor Ryan, with Supervisor Pinard casting a dissenting vote and Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and Budget Units 2006, 2550, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2570, 2590, 2840, 2660, 2670, 2790 and 2945 are approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in

the Proposed Budget and Supplemental Document.

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. Gail Wilcox: Assistant County Administrative Officer, indicates that Budget Unit 4125 - Parks has an At-Issue item with it.

Chairperson Achadjian: states they will deal with the other budget units first then take up the At-Issue item dealing with Parks.

Ms. Mary Ann Rutshaw: San Luis Obispo Botanical Gardens, speaks in support of the Parks' request for additional funding.

Ms. Ann Calhoun: presents two letters for the record regarding the Parks and Library budgets; states these are two of the County's "most public" services and urges full support for both.

Mr. Eric Greening: questions why there was no request to increase the Library's budget; comments on the needs of libraries in Atascadero and in other areas, which includes the need for more hours and more space.

Ms. Linda Hall: agrees with Mr. Greening's comments regarding libraries; feels the majority of the budget process is done out of the purview of the public and should have more Board involvement; speaks to the contract for two County hunters and the lack of accountability regarding the activities of these two positions.

Ms. Cheryl Villaran: representing the Nipomo Recreation Center and a resident of the City of San Luis Obispo, addresses the Parks' budget, the great parks and facilities that currently exist and the need for more.

Ms. Bonita Borgeson: questions why there isn't any funding in Capital Projects to improvement/create libraries; speaks to the need to support all libraries at a higher funding rate; wants the Board to commit to increasing the funding for libraries in the future.

Mr. Ed Callahan: addresses the issue of parks and the need to increase their funding.

Mr. Larry Virhiglis: President for the Nipomo Native Gardens, urges the Board to fully fund the Parks' budget.

Ms. Patty Hawes: questions how maintenance of service can occur without fully funding a division; asks that the Parks' budget be fully funded.

Ms. Kathy Longacre: SLOPOST, speaks in support of the Parks' request to increase their funding; addresses the types of uses occurring at the parks.

Mr. Bob Roos: speaks in support of the Parks' request to increase their funding.

Ms. Barbara Carrey: Oceano Community Center, speaks in support of increasing the Parks' budget.

Mr. Edge: responds to public comment and the discussions he has been having with Mr. Brian Reynolds, Library Director, regarding long-term capital project funding needs for the Library and Mr. Reynolds will be coming back late summer with a report to the Board.

Mr. Reynolds: states they have a reasonable budget, he is glad to hear the continued support from the public for libraries and he will be returning in the late summer, early fall with a report for the Board's consideration.

Supervisor Ryan: comments on discussions with Mr. Reynolds regarding the Atascadero, Creston and Templeton libraries; discusses the project that is underway to replace the library in Creston; the work is being done in conjunction with the school district and community funding; states he wants to add \$25,000 for the Creston and Templeton libraries.

Chairperson Achadjian: speaks to the request by the Nipomo library for \$69,409, for adding hours to their operation.

Supervisor Pinard: suggests continuing this to the afternoon session, to allow the Supervisors to see something in writing with respect to these additional funding requests.

Supervisor Bianchi: addresses the budget on page B-197; addresses the Library in Los Osos; comments on the report Mr. Reynolds will be bringing back and one of the goals of the Department is to create a strategic plan for all the libraries.

Supervisor Ryan: addresses the Creston library project further, indicating the addition of \$25,000 will allow them to get the contracts signed to get this replacement library completed; addresses the funding the community has already raised, the matching funding amount, the commitment by volunteers for construction and the school district's involvement; the school district needs to see this funding so the job can be finished.

Matter is fully discussed and thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Supervisor Ryan, with Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and the Board tentatively approves Budget Units 2700, 2710, 2950, 4000, 4030 and 4161 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget. Further, the Board adds \$25,000 for the Creston Library with the funding to come from Library Reserves and to be placed in the appropriate budget unit.

At-Issue Budget Unit 4125 - Parks, is presented.

Mr. Duane Leib: General Services Director, introduces the item giving the history on the Parks budget; indicates the request is to keep the division whole.

Mr. Pete Jenny: Parks Manager, presents the staff report; addresses the change from this budget being a General Fund budget to being a Special Fund budget; addresses the reductions in funding from the General Fund over the years; comments on the additional functions/facilities that have been added to this budget since 1993-94; the need to have approximately \$200,000 added to maintain all their services; addresses looking for a funding mechanism they can be tied to for future budgets; speaks to the programs they will have to cut if they don't receive the additional money; states they also need to address unfunded programs that they provide; addresses the request for a new Park Ranger position.

Mr. Edge: states there is a legitimate policy issue with respect to the level of support needed for the public through this budget; expresses his concern to the request for a new position that was not in their original budget request; also, is concerned about the services, which are very high profile services, they will cut if they don't receive this money; responds to the concern that

Parks will not meet the ongoing needs of the division without additional funding; outlines what he feels the Board should do with respect to this request.

Mr. Gere Sibbach: Auditor-Controller, comments on setting up a separate budget unit for Parks in the 1993-94 budget, indicating it was originally done to allow them to receive tax monies; there have been changes and that tax funding is no longer there; addresses his concern to putting this budget unit on some type of an “escalator” funding scale for future funding.

Supervisor Pinard: speaks to State mandated programs and reductions in funding by the State from year to year, leaving counties to fully fund these mandated programs; addresses her concern to the request to increase the funding; the largest portion of this budget is for salaries and benefits; the need for proportionality with respect to Parks; the need for all services to be equally distributed among the districts; and, her concerns about Parks not wanting to take over the Avila Beach park when it was ready, with staff responding.

Supervisor Ryan: questions the loan from the General Fund for Dairy Creek Golf Course, with Mr. Leib responding.

A motion by Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian, to transfer \$200,000 from General Fund Contingencies but not fund the Park Ranger position but use that funding amount for development of a Comprehensive Plan for Parks, is discussed.

Supervisor Ryan: states he wants to leave the funding out for the Park Ranger position and look at funding only services and supplies in the amount of \$146,500; feels they already have a study on parks.

Supervisor Pinard: addresses why she will not support this motion.

Supervisor Bianchi amends her motion to use the amount listed for the Park Ranger position to fund completion of the Recreation Element Update and also directing staff to work with the Administrative Office on how to fund the Parks budget in the future, with Chairperson Achadjian agreeing to amend the motion.

Matter is fully discussed and thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Bianchi, seconded by Chairperson Achadjian, with Supervisor Ryan casting a dissenting vote and Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and the Board amends the At-Issue request by approving \$200,000 from General Fund Contingencies; the Park Ranger position is not approved but the funding for this position is to be used to complete the Recreation Element Update; further, staff is directed to work with the Administrative Office on how to fund the Parks budget in the future.

A motion by Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Bianchi to approve Budget Unit 4125 as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget and as amended by this Board, is discussed.

Mr. George Sullivan: District 5 representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission, speaks to the folks here today in support of the Parks budget; addresses the need for discretionary funding for this budget.

Ms. Katie Boeck & Ms. Krystal Sulon: speak to the need for more baseball fields, specifically softball, in Nipomo; indicates there is one field currently used by six teams.

Ms. Dorothy Jennings: District 1 representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission, speaks in support to the funding request by Parks; suggests the fairness issue relating to parks needs to be addressed Countywide.

Ms. Nancy Conant: states she is working on the dog park in Los Osos, and they are raising money to create this park; supports the Parks' request.

Mr. Eric Greening: thanks the Department for going At-Issue on this and the Board for their support of the request; there is a need for more park lands in the County.

Ms. Marian Gautier: states they are forming a group to assist in providing more recreational areas for older folks; urges the Board to find a way to fund this budget in the future.

Ms. Ann Calhoun: speaks to the issue further and in support of Parks.

Mr. Rolf Monteen: District 3 representative on the Parks and Recreation Commission, feels this budget should be prorated; speaks to the number of visitors to the parks and various facilities and to the number of volunteer hours yearly.

Ms. Kathy Longacre: speaks further to the use of parks and the volunteers who assist.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Bianchi, with Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and Budget Unit 4125 is approved as recommended by the County Administrative Officer and as outlined in the Proposed Budget and as amended by this Board.

Thereafter, on motion of Supervisor Ryan, seconded by Supervisor Pinard, with Supervisor Ovitt being absent, motion carries and said hearing is continued to June 12, 2001 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 Tuesday, June 12, 2001 at 9:00 a.m. to continue consideration of the Proposed Budget and Supplemental Document for Fiscal Year 2001-2002.

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 Monday, June 11, 2001, 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, 2001
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