

Budget and Finance Committee Meeting Minutes

September 26, 2022

Members Present: Lynn Sebourn, Tina Reed, Dennis Hunt, Joey Hobbs, Laura Nettles, Tim Brown, Tim Stubblefield, Missy DeFord, Benny Jones, and Marianna Edinger

Visitors: Sally Singles, Michael Bonner, John Coffelt, Holly Jones, Sarah Bradley, David Pate, John Dickson, Veronica Patterson, Scott Hogue Courtney Mercuion, Scott LeDuc, Ron Fuller and his wife

First Business was to elect a chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. Joey Hobbs made the motion to nominate Lynn Sebourn. Benny Jones seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Motion was made by Joey Hobbs to elect Dennis Hunt for vice-chairman and Missy DeFord seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Lynn Sebourn explained the ins and out of the Budget and Finance Committee, since it had mostly all new members. Lynn wants to make the general rule for future B&F meetings to bump items on the agenda up for people in the audience who may be waiting on a specific item.

Lynn explained the work on this committee all depends on the members. He explained Marianna Edinger is budget coordinator. She has had not audits or findings in her budget over the last several years. Lynn explained to the committee members how we are still held under the arm of the state government and there are things we can and cannot do. The B&F committee sets the county budget, but the elected department heads have the authority to set their own pay scale. Lynn explained the checks and balances of the along with coordination between the departments.

Chairman Seaborn went over the agenda and request a motion to approve it. Tim Stubblefield made a motion to approve the agenda and Benny Jones seconded the motion. Motion carries.

Marianna Edinger went over some items in the budget book with the committee. She went over funds and explained how they are voted on. This was shown on page 9 in the budget book. It shows how taxes are broken down within the county. She went over page 10 where it shows where property taxes come in. She explained how the county general fund is the largest fund. Marianna broke down the major revenue sources including sales tax and the way it was distributed between the two cities and county.

Marianna presented a budget amendment for the Manchester Library. The library agrees to use \$59,450 of donated money to use for labor to remove carpet and move furniture. \$50,000 to come from unassigned fund balance that was approved at the May 2nd, 2022, meeting. She also said Mayor's office needs new computers, printers, etc. Also, on the budget amendments were the installation for new communication equipment in the committee meeting rooms that will record the meetings. The total budget amendment was \$74, 500. Motion was made by Joey Hobbs to approve the budget amendments and was seconded by Tim Stubblefield. Motion carries.

Courtney Mercuion presented the committee requesting permission to apply for a \$5000 grant for digitalizing old, reel newspaper records. This is a non-matching grant. They're 28 reels that need to be digitalized for a time span of 14 years. Chairman Sebourn ask for approval. Motion was made for approval by Tim Stubblefield and seconded by Laura nettles.

A Presentation was made by David Pate, the founder of The Family Counseling Center, on a 1st responder assistance program. He wants to do something for 1st responders including the volunteer fire departments and rescue squad. He has met with all the department heads about this issue. Veronica Patterson spoke on the mental health issues involving first responders and they needed a system in place to seek help, if needed. She would like to see this program get started in Coffee County. Scott Hogue spoke on the "Wellness All Around," program. He advised many 1st responders do not have access to counseling. They need a program in place before the problem arises. The plan will cover the employee and anyone living in the employee's household. It's referred to as "under the roof," program. He advised counseling visits can be in-person or set up by zoom. They also offer marriage and financial counseling. The mental health counseling can be same-day or immediate appointments, if a 1st responder needs help. They also have a rapid response team. This is a team that would be called out by a department head in case of some type of mass, tragic incident that a department or individuals may need counseling on. The benefit would offer six annual counseling for everyone under the employee's roof. They do not turn anyone down. An employee will have unlimited access to a 24-hour hotline. He advised they also have employee "hire-right" resource services available. He explained the prices for the county and the cost for the rapid response team, which is separate. They will hold a new employee benefit's session. Director of Coffee County Consolidated Communications Center, Scott LeDuc spoke on why it is needed at the E911 Center. He said they receive calls his employees need counseling on. Chief Michael Bonner with Coffee County EMS spoke on the devastation that his employees deal with on a daily basis and how this program could be very beneficial to them. Chairman Sebourn asked Mr. Pate if they could keep up with the workload in our county and he responded "yes." Mr. Pate advised he is from Coffee County and would like to get the program started here for our 1st responders first then has some other counties in line. No one else locally is offering this service. Chairman Sebourn thinks this program is a good idea. Commissioner DeFord also spoke and advised while she worked at Coffee County E911 in the past that they never had any kind of counseling services for tragic calls they received. She thinks its very much needed for 1st responders. Chairman advised there is a big need for 1st responders and that the mayor may later add all county employees to this program. Marianna will have to amend the budget for this contract. The motion was made to pass this 1st responder program by Commissioner Stubblefield and seconded by Commissioner DeFord. Motion carries

Chairman Sebourn checked with the committee on the Budget and Finance Committee meeting times. It was determined by all the meeting time will be on the 4th Thursday of the month at 5pm. The next meeting will be October 27th, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned around 6:25pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Commissioner Missy DeFord