

**MINUTES
BOX ELDER COUNTY COMMISSION
OCTOBER 28, 2008**

The Board of County Commissioners of Box Elder County, Utah met in an Administrative/Operational Session at the County Courthouse, 01 South Main Street in Brigham City, Utah at 5:00 p.m. on **OCTOBER 28, 2008**. The following members were present:

Jay E. Hardy	Chairman
Clark N. Davis	Commissioner
Rich VanDyke	Commissioner
LuAnn Adams	Recorder/Clerk

The following items were discussed:

1. Agenda Review/Supporting Documents
2. Commissioners' Correspondence
3. Staff Reports
4. Correspondence
5. Assignment Review
6. Discussion of Medical Bill – Sheriff Yeates

The work session adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

The regular session was called to order by Chairman Hardy at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present, constituting a quorum:

Jay E. Hardy	Chairman
Clark N. Davis	Commissioner
Rich VanDyke	Commissioner
LuAnn Adams	Recorder/Clerk

The prayer was offered by Commissioner VanDyke.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2008 WERE APPROVED AS WRITTEN ON A MOTION BY COMMISSIONER VANDYKE, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DAVIS AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED.

AGENDA: ATTACHMENT NO. 1

PRESENTATION OF TENTATIVE BUDGET – TOM BENNETT

County Auditor Tom Bennett said a report was recently made on the investigation of the transparency of budgets. There were only five counties in compliance, and Box Elder County was one of them. He said we are trying to have transparency of government and hoping citizens understand county government. Mr. Bennett said in accordance with state code a balanced budget will be adopted and the citizens can give input on the budget. Also in accordance with the law, the county auditor is required to submit a budget message. All of this needs to be done at least 10 days before the public hearing which is scheduled for December 9. The 2009 tentative budget along with the budget message and financial policy and also a list of the estimated capital projects will be on the auditor's website.

Tom Bennett then touched on important facts of the 2009 budget. He said the budget is listed by fund number and all of the funds need to balance and all transfers must equal and all revenue and expenses need to balance. He said some changes in the 2009 budget have added some additional lines and combined some lines. One Mr. Bennett noted is gas and fuel costs have been separated from maintenance and operation to keep better track and clean up. He said a lot of department heads and public may see some differences in the lines. He said there will be an increase in PILT. One major change in the budget is the RDA project areas are broken into three projects areas and will all have separate budgets. Another major change is the library is now under the direction of the county. The capital projects will no longer be a line item in the departments' budgets. They will be funded out of the capital project fund and part of the budget includes a tentative capital project list. Mr. Bennett noted that his budget has set aside \$1M for capital projects and the requests were \$2.8M. The Commissioners and the Capital Projects Committee will try and decide which projects to fund. The tentative budget will be located on the county website under auditor. Mr. Bennett hopes people will take the opportunity to familiarize themselves with it. Box Elder County is trying to be one of the leaders in the transparency of county governments, and this is a good step.

The Commissioners pointed out that the county's budget is \$20-\$25M. Property tax is around \$5M. The other money comes from state and federal money and revenue generated by the county.

Mr. Bennett said copies of the budget will be available in the Auditor's Office and the Recorder/Clerk's Office.

The Commissioners said more than 50% of the county's budget is made up of personnel. Peggy Madsen said the county has approximately 200 employees. There are 165 full-time employees. There were a number of requests for new positions, and the Commissioners elected to not have any new positions. They wanted to give the current employees a cost-of-living adjustment. Ms. Madsen said the county had good utilization on their insurance, and have implemented wellness programs so the insurance went up very little. The county also had some dental insurance money to offset the increase. The employees will receive a 4.5% cost-of-living increase. This increase was based on May's consumer price index. Insurance is a huge part of expenses, but it is important to get good insurance coverage for the employees and their families. She said the employees should be complimented on their insurance usage.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner Davis to accept the budget as prepared by the County Auditor for review and to come back in a subsequent meeting for adoption. The motion was seconded by Commissioner VanDyke and unanimously carried.

Commissioner VanDyke said the budget process of the county is monumental and he appreciates the efforts that have been done.

The Commissioners will schedule some work sessions during the next two weeks to review the budget.

INDIGENT ABATEMENT REVIEW – TOM BENNETT

This item was cancelled.

BOARD OF EQUALIZATION – MONTE MUNNS

County Assessor/Treasurer Monte Munns said his office is charged with the annual updating of values each year. They have until May 22 to update the values. After May 22 the rolls are closed, and they are not able to update the values. In order to get all of the work done, any updates must be approved by the Board of Equalization so they can continue to do appraisals or when they are made aware of any corrections or other issues that need to be taken care of. Mr. Munns presented the Commissioners with a list of changes that need to be approved. Mr. Munns said there will be some additional changes coming from the Board of Equalization Hearings.

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner VanDyke to accept the changes made by the appraisers after the tax roll closed from 5/23/2008 through 9/26/2008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously carried.

(See Attachment No. 2 – List of changes.)

BOTHWELL RIFLE RANGE – COMMISSIONERS

This item was cancelled.

SET PUBLIC HEARING DATE FOR EAST CORINNE RE-ZONE – TAMARA WRIGHT

County Planner Kevin Hamilton said the county received a request from several property owners in the East Corinne/West Brigham City area to have their property rezoned from one unit per 20 acres to one unit per half acre. The request went to the Planning Commission, and a public hearing was held. The Planning Commission recommends approval. He said the next step is to set a public hearing.

The Commissioners want to hold off on making any decisions until the Planning Commission addresses the issue of the entire area being rezoned.

WESTERN COUNTIES ALLIANCE UPDATE – KEN BROWN/MARK WALSH

Mark Walsh said he and Ken Brown are here to present an update on the Western Counties Alliance and some of the things they have been involved in. Mark Walsh said congress passed full funding of PILT on October 3 as part of their bailout bill. It takes effect in Fiscal Year 2008. A makeup payment will come to the county. It will be mailed November 13. The makeup payment will be for \$1,035,067. The county has already received \$1,705,761. The total payment will be \$2,740,828. The fully funded amounts are through Fiscal Year 2012. There will be an increased adjustment of 3-4% each year. The amount could also change as population increases. There is a population ceiling when the population reaches 50,000. When the county reaches that ceiling, the PILT payment will go over \$3M.

Mr. Walsh said the other thing that happened is the Rural School Funding was reauthorized to be funded through Fiscal year 2011. The money Box Elder County received this year was forest receipts, and that was 25% because the secure rural schools program that was enacted in 2000 expired in September 2007. This money will be used as an offset for payment in lieu of taxes. The county will get about \$81,000 to be used for roads and the other \$81,000 will go to the schools. The part the county gets to use for roads at this point will be used as a prior year reduction for figuring payment in lieu of taxes. The state law that enacted the rural schools money was enacted by the legislature in 1972. He said you need to go back and look at tweaking the state statute enacted in 1972 dividing the forest money 50/50 and requiring that this SRS money go into those districts. He said it has to be used for roads. The Commission will set the district up and appoint the administrative board and give them their authority. The Commission will basically control the districts except they will not have the majority vote on them. This money in that district will also shield this money as a prior year payment. Mr. Walsh said the Mineral Lease Board can be used. Mr. Walsh suggested putting the Secure Rural Schools money in the district and uses the same district and same administrative control board. They will be required to keep a paper trail on the use of the money and make certain that they only use it for roads. This money will be audited by the forest service.

Commissioner Davis asked if the county can conduct their own census. Mr. Walsh said the county could conduct a census to see if it qualifies for the 50,000 population in order to receive additional funding.

The County Commission will talk about joining the Western Counties Alliance and retain Mark Walsh to make sure Box Elder County is in compliance.

INSURANCE ISSUE – PEGGY MADSEN

This item was cancelled.

COMMUNICATIONS BUDGET SHORTAGE – SHERIFF YEATES/SCOTT WOLFORD

Sheriff Yeates and Scott Wolford informed the Commissioners there will be a shortage of \$75,000 in this year's communication budget due to the fact that the state is on a July 1 Fiscal Year, and they raised the budget amount.

The Commissioners will make the adjustment and make sure it is covered under the 2009 budget.

WARRANT REGISTER – COMMISSIONERS

The Warrant Register was signed and the following claims were approved for payment: Claims 59953 thru 60064 in the amount of \$190,781.75. Claims 59146, 59373, 59447, 59681 and 59801 were voided.

PILT MONEY

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner VanDyke to approve Resolution No. 08-20, a resolution opting in/out of HR 1424 (PL 110-343-Sect.601(a), Division C) Safety Net. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously carried.

(See Attachment No. 3 – Resolution 08-20.)

MOTION: A motion was made by Commissioner VanDyke to approve Resolution No. 08-21, a resolution designating 15% to 20% of the safety net full payment amount to be allocated to local projects and specifying the percentage of funding to be allocated to Title II and III Projects. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Davis and unanimously carried.

(See Attachment No. 4 – Resolution 08-21.)

LETTER

Reggie Petersen emailed a letter to the Commission and asked that it be part of the minutes.

(See Attachment No. 5 – Reggie Petersen Letter.)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Davis to adjourn. Commissioner VanDyke seconded the motion, and the meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.

ADOPTED AND APPROVED in regular session this 18th day of November 2008.

Jay E. Hardy, Chairman

Clark N. Davis, Commissioner

Rich VanDyke, Commissioner

ATTEST:

LuAnn Adams, Recorder/Clerk