

March 11, 2002

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order this 11th day of March, 2002, in the conference room of the County Office Building by Chairman George Skinner. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

George Skinner, Chairman
DeWayne Beggs, Vice-Chairman
Dorinda Harvey, Secretary
Saundra DeSelms, Member
Bill Graves, Member
Denise Heavner, Member
Leroy Krohmer, Member

Member Rhonda Hall was absent.

Others present were: Roy Bugher, Tammy Howard, Donna Roberts, and Cathy Steincamp.

After the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of February 25, 2002, and there being no additions or corrections, Bill Graves moved that the minutes be approved. Leroy Krohmer seconded the motion.

The vote was: George Skinner, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; Saundra DeSelms, yes; Bill Graves, yes; Denise Heavner, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes.
Motion carried.

Bill Graves stated that he had information on the NACO Conference that will be held July 12 through 16, in New Orleans this summer if anyone wanted it.

A discussion was held on House Joint Resolution #1048 that passed the House of Representatives with a vote of 57-40 the resolution in part reads "the maximum amount of ad valorem taxes which may be levied against any locally assessed real property shall be equal to the highest amount of ad valorem taxes levied against the property during the five (5) assessment years preceding the year in which the determination is made plus one percent (1%)". It was agreed that the county needed to contact the different State Senators on this. Denise Heavner, County Assessor, stated that she had a copy of the CODA Plan and that the Assessor's Association is looking at an alternate plan and she explained it. Denise stated that this plan has several parts: (1) Limiting the increase 3% instead of 5% on assessed value, not on taxable, (3% on homestead property so it doesn't affect every piece of property); (2) Changing the homestead amount over a four year period 250 per year and then it would be a 2000 assessment savings; (3) trying to connect the freeze for senior and additional homestead to the Hud index. Tying it to the Hud index would not hurt the small or large counties. It was mentioned how it would affect the schools bonds and the county if the county had any bonds.

Mr. Krohmer stated that the Board might need to write a letter to the State Senators that represent Cleveland County. It was decided that at the Cleveland County's Business & Industry Council Breakfast on Wednesday March 13, 2002, the State Representatives and Senators would be there and we could talk to them at that time.

Chairman Skinner asked about purchase orders in the Clerk's Office that need to be paid. Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk, explained that there are several purchase orders, mostly blankets, and several that were encumbered way back on July 1, 2001, that have had nothing paid on them and if any work has been done please turn in the paper work in order that it can get paid. Mrs. Harvey stated that she would make a printout for each office so that could see their outstanding purchase orders. More discussion took place as to purchase orders that have not been used that were in prior years.

DeWayne Beggs stated that there is a Senate Bill #113 dealing with at will employees and CODA is also against it. The bill has to do with after six (6) years of employment Sheriff's can't get rid of an employee without just cause and you don't want to get rid of people without just cause but, it's like becoming the Governor of the State and you couldn't change out your cabinet. DeWayne Beggs stated that if a sheriff got elected then he/she could not change the people who worked for the former sheriff if this is passed. Right now the bill just has to do with the Sheriff's but that doesn't mean it won't trickle down to the rest of the elected officials.

DeWayne Beggs also asked about an additional deputy for courthouse security and explained why he needs this, with different judges now doing a lot more work and at different places like the Alan J. Couch Center.

Denise Heavner asked if the courts could not pay for some of the expense.

Leroy Krohmer doesn't think that the courts pay for security and Bill Graves stated that this is something that could be looked into.

This will be put on the agenda for the next Budget Board Meeting.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Leroy Krohmer moved that the meeting be adjourned. Bill Graves seconded the motion.

The vote was: George Skinner, yes; DeWayne Beggs, yes; Dorinda Harvey, yes; Sandra DeSelms, yes; Bill Graves, yes; Denise Heavner, yes; Leroy Krohmer, yes.

Motion carried.