

CLEVELAND COUNTY BUDGET BOARD

MINUTES

MONDAY, MARCH 20, 2017

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. this 20th day of March 2017 in the Conference Room at 122 E. Eufaula, by Chairman Harold Haralson. Linda Atkins, Deputy County Clerk/Secretary, called roll and those present were:

Harold Haralson, Chairman
Jim Reynolds, Vice-Chairman
Tammy Belinson, Secretary, arrived shortly after roll was called.
Rod Cleveland, Member
Sheriff Joseph Lester, Member
Darry Stacy, Member
David Tinsley, Member
Marilyn Williams, Member

Others present were: Assistant District Attorney Heather Darby, Linda Atkins, Melinda Duke, Bryan Jenkins, Christi Morren, Doug Warr, Joy Hampton and Rock Richardson.

A. Items of Business:

Jim Reynolds said that Jerry Guy is semi-retiring and wants to introduce the new person that is taking his place. He will continue to stay involved to some degree until the end of the year.

1. Chairman Haralson called for discussion, consideration and/or action on review of Sheriff Department's FY2016/2017 Budget.

The Sheriff submitted color coded break down of his accounts. He said that the numbers have changed from last week. Where it says restricted on the accounts that means just what it says. He said their restricted accounts cause confusion since it makes people think they have cash stashed around.

Sheriff Lester discussed the second group which is outstanding Purchase Orders and he said if the P.O.s were cancelled it would only total about \$40,000.00. For the month of March, the jail averages were (559) five hundred and fifty-nine. He passed on to the Board his conversation with Commissioner Cleveland last Friday that they got a bill in from Turn Key Health. The law requires them to provide jail medical to the prisoners. The cost of that has risen this month another \$6,000.00. That does not help their budget situation. Prisoners must have so many calories of food per day. The transfer of \$350,000.00 to detention payroll will be gone on the 1st of April 2017.

He went over the M & O Accounts and discussed the cost of all items to finish the year and said that they figured the reimbursements into the Payroll Account.

Chairman Haralson asked if they could have a monthly billing flow sheet.

Sheriff Lester said that would be in the deposits and the Treasurer would have that.

Chairman Haralson said that he is talking about the total estimated monthly billing such as for the City of Norman. He wanted numbers to look at.

Sheriff Lester said that he can give numbers each month, but he knows that Moore is not going to have as much as they usually do.

Jim Reynolds asked for a report on the number of DOC prisoners beginning in July 1, 2016 to present day.

Rod Cleveland said that the Sheriff's Department used to do a report on that every week in the Board of County Commissioner's meeting.

Jim Reynolds asked if the Sheriff would take the lead in trying to figure out how to control the prison population.

Sheriff Lester said that he would and added that there are two big issues and the immediate one is getting the 70 DOC Prisoners out of jail as soon as possible.

Jim Reynolds said they are paying customers.

Sheriff Lester said they pay \$27.00 per day.

David Tinsley said it costs more than that to house them.

Marilyn Williams said it costs \$48.00 per day to house them and the county gets \$27.00.

Jim Reynolds asked how much does it cost to house a prisoner.

Marilyn Williams said the Judges assess the cost of incarceration at \$48.00 per day.

Jim Reynolds contended that once the 3rd POD is open the only additional cost is food and medical which is \$6.00 per day.

Sheriff Lester said, "But the other prisoners there are not being funded at \$48.00 per day. Do you understand that?"

Jim Reynolds said he understands that they could pick a random number and say it is \$48.00 a day.

Rod Cleveland said, "It is \$21,100.00 per day to run that place."

Jim Reynolds said, "Okay."

After a brief discussion on costs, Sheriff Lester said the law mandates the County to have a jail.

Darry Stacy said the number one concern is trying to cut the cost.

Jim Reynolds said he is asking the Sheriff to take the lead in getting those numbers down.

Darry Stacy said to cut cost these numbers need to come down and it is what they are trying to do. He said that Judge Stice was working on it as well, but they never could get down to the magic number.

Rod Cleveland presented a proposed solution to the problem. He said that with Tammy's assistance they put together proforma ledgers and went over the figures with the Board.

Sheriff Lester said that he wants a commitment that if it comes up short in the M & O that more of that money comes out of the General Account.

Jim Reynolds asked, "Have you taken any active steps to save a dollar?"

Sheriff Lester said, "Here are the active steps that I took, (7) seven years ago, \$1,553,000.00 out of my Ad Valorem money was removed. Rod and I discussed this last Thursday. One million of it went to build a new entryway on the north side of the Courthouse. The \$553,000.00 out of that went to building this new parking lot over here and the remainder to make it \$1,750,000.00 was taken out by the other Budget Board Members, four of us were in that meeting where that happened. And the next year I was told that all money was put back in our regular budget. Rod

Cleveland told me last week that this is \$12,500,000.00 that sits over here in this special account. I think the citizens of this county want a safe county, they want officers and they want deputies. They want a jail to put bad people in. I think it is all of our duties as elected officials to do our constitutional duties. Now with that being said, I make a **motion** that we transfer whatever money out of that back into here. If that board needs to meet and says we are in agreement and if not vote it down.”

Tammy Belinson said they are out of immediate danger to get the payroll paid and nothing is pressing at the moment.

After a brief discussion, Jim Reynolds said that he has the floor and is tired of being interrupted. He said that the Sheriff is saying that when he voted all these years to approve the budgets, in his mind he did not believe that the jail was fully funded and he was not doing his constitutional obligation.

Sheriff Lester said the State Auditors require him to sign the budgets.

Sheriff Lester asked Tammy Belinson if she said that they will work with him, because he is not funded and they have to fix the funding.

Tammy Belinson said that she says that every year to calm him down to let him know it is okay and they are going to work it out.

Sheriff Lester asked, “And have we?”

Tammy Belinson said, “We are trying.”

Sheriff Lester said, “I guess we go back to taking money out of the fund.”

Jim Reynolds said that stating for the record he believes the jail is funded constitutionally.

Chairman Haralson asked if there is a second to Sheriff Lester’s motion.

Tammy Belinson asked him to restate his motion.

Sheriff Lester said that he didn’t make a motion but went on to say, “I make a motion that we take the money out of the General Fund, not take it out, but to transfer employees over there to make payroll from now to the end of the year, along with providing any unexpected repairs and maintenance.”

Harold Haralson said that the motion died for lack of a second.

Chairman Haralson recognized Joy Hampton from the Norman Transcript in response to her questions regarding the jail.

More discussion followed regarding jail numbers and cost of housing prisoners.

- B. **No new business** was presented to the Board for discussion.
- C. There was no **Board Members** discussion about **County Business** at this time.
- D. **No comments** from the **public** were made.
- E. There being no further business to come before the Board, Jim Reynolds moved that the meeting be adjourned at approximately 10:28 am. Tammy Belinson seconded the motion.
The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Sheriff Joseph Lester, yes; Darry Stacy, yes; David Tinsley, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes.
Motion carried.

BUDGET BOARD
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA

Harold Haralson
Harold Haralson, Chairman

ATTEST:

Tammy Belinson
Tammy Belinson, County Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Minutes Prepared by: Linda Atkins
Deputy County Clerk

