



CLEVELAND COUNTY BUDGET BOARD

MINUTES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 09, 2019

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order at 10:30 a.m. this 9th day of December 2019 in the conference room located at 122 East Eufaula, by Chairman Harold Haralson. Tammy Belinson, County Clerk/Secretary, called roll and those present were:

Harold Haralson, Chairman
Jim Reynolds, Vice-Chairman
Tammy Belinson, Secretary
Rod Cleveland, Member
Sheriff Todd Gibson, Member
Billijo Ragland, 1st Deputy, represented Douglas Warr, Member
Marilyn Williams, Member

Members, Darry Stacy and Douglas Warr were absent.

(Clerk's Note: Proxy is on file in the County Clerk's Office for Billijo Ragland.)

Others present were: Assistant District Attorney Jim Robertson, Assistant District Attorney Abby Nathan, Linda Atkins, Alison Vinson, Brian Wint, Bryan Jenkins, Jacob McHughes, John Roberts, Kathy Singer, Melissa Nies, Melinda Duke, Shannon Largent and Daniel Thatcher.

After the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of the **November 12, 2019** and there being no additions or corrections, Sheriff Todd Gibson moved that the minutes be **approved**. Jim Reynolds seconded the motion.

The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Billijo Ragland, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes.
Motion carried.

A. Items of Business:

1. **Chairman Haralson called for discussion and/or action on an IT/Project Manager for Munis.**

He said that the Munis people and the State Auditors have recommended having a separate IT person for the County's system. He said that with all the problems they have had in the past a project manager is needed to work with Daniel Thatcher and Munis and the other elected officials. He said that they need to have a better understanding of Munis than anyone else does.

Sheriff Todd Gibson asked, "Didn't Munis say that they could provide a list of candidates that would be familiar with their system as consultants?"

Chairman Haralson said that they had consultants if the County desires to go that route.

Sheriff Gibson asked if they are required to hire someone that knows Munis. Chairman Haralson said, “I would say so, yes, based on what we have seen so far.” Jim Reynolds said that they can hopefully find someone with Munis experience. It is a nationwide company with a lot of people out there. He said that the main thing is the County has to have some help. He made the observation that each office is disjointed with different needs, so it is necessary to have someone that is a take-charge person and take the reins over Munis and hit the ground running. Chairman Haralson asked if they need a consultant or a full-time employee.

Tammy Belinson said a consultant may be enough. The consultant will make sure that when a new employee comes on board they will have their correct roles assigned to them and if they leave then they will suspend their roles to maintain separation or segregation of duties from the County Clerk’s Office.

Jim Reynolds said that this is going to take a year to get going and recommended someone full-time. However, they can look in both directions and see what is out there.

Tammy Belinson agreed.

Sheriff Gibson asked for clarification as to the oversight of this person; the Budget Board or the Board of Cleveland County Commissioners.

Jim Robertson said that he would have to look into that.

Sheriff Gibson said that he preferred that the BOCC had the oversight of that person.

Jim Reynolds moved to **recommend** to the Board of Cleveland County Commissioners to go forward with having HR explore options in hiring an IT/Project Manager for Munis. Marilyn Williams seconded the motion. The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Billijo Ragland, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes. Motion carried.

2. Chairman Haralson called for **discussion, consideration, and/or action on Employee Dependent Medical Insurance** where the County will pay 80% and the employee will pay 20% of the cost of Medical Insurance only on their dependents for the 2020 Calendar Year. He said that he asked HR to check on the market on this item and give the Board an update today. Alison Vinson said that the majority of companies she contacted would be in line with other corporate, counties and state agencies. Chairman Haralson passed out some packets with some numbers that Alison put together for the officials based on their current utilizations. For the Sheriff’s Department, it will run approximately \$151,000.00 for the cost of coverage. For all the rest, it will run about \$200,000.00. He put all that on a spread sheet to break out the cost to the county for an 80/20 split for a total cost of \$281,000.00. Currently, \$170,000.00 was set aside and it can be set up in Munis to handle dependent care.

Commissioner Cleveland stated that he thought this was irresponsible as a government entity to be discussing this now without having a complete definite plan. He said that because of certain limitations, they can pay more in benefits than in salaries, but until the county owns a plan with numbers this is irresponsible.

Marilyn Williams asked if they could lower the percentage ratio and suggested a 50% ratio. Then they could wait to see if there is enough to cover that amount.

Chairman Haralson said that parts of the issues are that the objective is to help the Sheriff's Department in maintaining employees while competing with the marketplace. He said that it may be possible to set up two plans; one for the employees and one for the law-enforcement. Some may not consider that fair, but that is the dilemma they find themselves in. The question they are faced with is how to help the Sheriff's Department with their immediate needs.

Sheriff Todd Gibson said, "So, you are concerned that if we make this move next signing period and we have just an onslaught of people signing up, we really don't know the financial impact that would be, right?"

Commissioner Cleveland said, "Yes." He repeated that at the current time it is irresponsible.

Chairman Haralson said it is decided that any employee's spouse that is covered under another plan is not eligible for this plan and will keep the cost down.

Jim Reynolds discussed his concerns by saying that this is a substantial commitment that the county is making and added that there are a lot of things as a Board that they need to look at before a decision is made.

Tammy Belinson said that whatever they start with they cannot go back on. She said that the 80/20 worries her; because they will have many employees sign up for next year and suggested a more reasonable percentage.

Rod Cleveland moved to strike this item from the agenda and revisit this in the next Fiscal Year.

Tammy Belinson and Sheriff Gibson asked for the opportunity for further discussion.

Sheriff Gibson said that this issue is like the proverbial can that gets kicked further down road without dealing with it. The Budget Board must make some type of decision to show the employees that this is not just discussion, but they are making every effort to make positive progress in this direction regardless of the percentage amount. He said that anything is better than what they had. He understands the need for Fiscal prudence but does want to discuss this a year from now.

Commissioner Cleveland said the Budget Board heard from two companies that came to a meeting to make proposals back in July 2019; one being Benefits Consultants and the Board had the option to name one of those as an agent of record. He stated that they need professional help in coming up with a plan.

Jim Reynolds wanted confirmation on the amount set aside for this benefit.

Chairman Haralson said that the numbers that he came up with 80%, it would be \$281,000 if they did an 80/20 ratio this year. He said if there is \$240,000 it leaves a shortage of \$35,000. He said the money is committed in doing that and they need to discuss if there are any reasons preventing him from doing that. The Sheriff can pay that out of his general fund.

Assistant District Attorney Jim Robertson said, "If that is what he wants to do."

Commissioner Cleveland disagreed by saying it has to go to everyone or it goes to no one.

Tammy Belinson brought attention to the accounting issues it would cause as well.

Sheriff Gibson asked if it is known they have the \$240,000 and if they could shoot for a January 1, 2020 start date.

Tammy Belinson said, "The sooner the better on committing, so I can get Munis in and get that one segment reprogrammed. I have a question. The sales tax, I didn't realize that it wouldn't pay for benefits. So, just an idea..."

Jim Robertson said that he is confident that is the case. He is trying to get a determination on that.

The Board discussed some figures at 60/40. Sheriff Gibson suggested starting with 50/50 with the buffer amount.

Tammy Belinson said they would have to rerun the numbers again and up that a little bit on the dependent side.

Commissioner Cleveland asked for the high side in case every single employee had some spouse to sign up. There was no answer to that question. He asked again what is the maximum number. He suggested that it could \$2.0 million to \$3.0 million and added that it cannot be put out there for the employees and then say "sorry" because there is not enough money.

After much discussion, Assistant District Attorney Jim Robertson said, "I would point out a restriction on the agenda item. It only has the 80/20 for the 2020 calendar year and any further option needs to be discussed; you can discuss, but the motion is restricted to the agenda item."

Marilyn Williams asked if they could amend the agenda item.

Jim Robertson said they could not do an amendment.

Sheriff Todd Gibson seconded Commissioner Cleveland’s motion to **strike**.
The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes;
Rod Cleveland, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Billijo Ragland, yes; Marilyn
Williams, yes.

Motion carried.

3. Alison Vinson updated on the HR Department. She said that Cleveland County was chosen to be in a pilot program for next year for members that are part of Health Choice. It is using an easier and more modern way for Health Choice to successfully get what they need since it is an app that goes on their phone that provides 24/7 access to a live person and information and it will help steer them toward a way to provide direct, lowest cost possible providers and navigates the complex Health Care System.
4. Melinda Duke updated on the Purchasing Department. She said that the only thing to report on is the auction with Purple Wave that is currently taking place. At the moment it is at \$56,000.00 and will close on December 17, 2019.
5. Harold Haralson moved, seconded by Marilyn Williams, to **approve** the following **Cash Fund Appropriations**:

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|----|------------|
| a. Bridge Capital Improvement | \$ | 56.19 |
| b. County Clerk Lien Fee | \$ | 13,072.07 |
| c. Co Bridge & Road Improvement | \$ | 62,044.31 |
| d. Commissioners Bldg Fund | \$ | 410.69 |
| e. Court Clerk Revolving Fund | \$ | 10,528.87 |
| f. DA Revolving Fund | \$ | 482.07 |
| g. District Court Rev Fund | \$ | 10,211.20 |
| h. Drug Court Contribution/Donation | \$ | 1,078.74 |
| i. Fairgrounds | \$ | 25,089.54 |
| j. Health | \$ | 7,637.93 |
| k. Highway | \$ | 641,576.01 |
| l. Juvenile Drug Court Revolving Fund | \$ | 2,582.50 |
| m. Sales Tax | \$ | 833,293.53 |
| n. Sheriff Federal Share Revenue | \$ | 3.67 |
| o. Sheriff Criminal Alien Asst. Grant | \$ | 13,711.00 |
| p. Sheriff Service Fees | \$ | 123,546.69 |
| q. Treasurer Certification Fee | \$ | 5,050.00 |

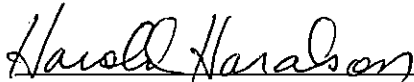
The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Billijo Ragland, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes.
Motion carried.

B. No new business to present at this time.

- C. During **Budget Board Members discussions concerning County Business**, Jim Reynolds asked to get together before their conference call with Munis.
- D. No **Comments** from the **Public** were made at this time.
- E. There being no further business to come before the Board, Jim Reynolds moved that the meeting be **adjourned** at 11:46 am. The motion was seconded by Marilyn Williams. The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Billijo Ragland, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes. Motion carried.


(Clerk's Note: The agenda was posted December 6, 2019 @ 11:37 A.M.)

**BUDGET BOARD
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**



Harold Haralson, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tammy Belinson, County Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Minutes Prepared by: 

Deputy County Clerk

