



CLEVELAND COUNTY BUDGET BOARD

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2019

The specially scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order at 2:00 p.m. this 16th day of December 2019 in the Cleveland County Office Building, Suite 200, 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
Sheriff Todd Gibson, Member
Darry Stacy, Member
Douglas Warr, Member
Terri Morrow, a 1st Deputy, represented Marilyn Williams, Member

Rod Cleveland and Marilyn Williams, Members, were absent.

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

Others present were: Assistant District Attorney Jim Robertson, Assistant District Attorney Abby Nathan, Linda Atkins, Brian Wint, Bryan Jenkins, Jacob McHughes, John Roberts, Kathy Singer, Shannon Largent, Billijo Ragland, Earl Cox, Undersheriff Blake Green, Denise Ellison, Brenda Hill, Melinda Duke, and Daniel Thatcher.

A. Items of Business:

1. Darry Stacy asked legal counsel to make a statement as to the legality concerning taking action on the **County Financial Contributions to Dependent Medical Care Coverage**. Assistant District Attorney Abby Nathan said, "I have advised the Board after reviewing the Minutes and Agendas from previous Board Meetings and the materials that were provided to the employees of the County in open enrollment. I do believe that if the County has committed to funding some portion of the Dependent Medical Care Coverage during the open enrollment period for this past year, I think that given that commitment, that letter sent out is an indication that the county would be providing funds that this Board does have a duty and is within its rights to make a motion to hopefully approve some form of financial contribution to its Dependent Medical Care Coverage. I have conferred with outside counsel on this as well with Madalene A.B. Witterholt, Crowe & Dunlevy, she agrees as long as it was made available to employees during the employee open enrollment they were allowed to enroll. They just didn't know how much it was going to be. I think it is incumbent upon us to take the action regarding this issue."

Assistant District Attorney Jim Robertson said, “She also indicated everybody should be treated equally.”

Commissioner Stacy said, “I would like to make a motion and if I get a second on it, we can discuss because the Sheriff is prepared to tell us exactly how he came up with those numbers if we need to. I would start by saying; **I have a motion to provide Dependent Medical Care Assistance to employees that have Dependent Medical Care Coverage in an amount up to \$250.00 per month but not to exceed the cost of Dependent Medical Care Coverage from January 1, 2020, through June 30th, 2020.**”

Sheriff Todd Gibson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Stacy said, “The thing I would say about this is originally we had a discussion and I think this is a very conservative amount to start with and we determined how much interest we have in moving forward. There is enough money that is left at this amount for people that have changes in life circumstances or new employees to come on to be added at this amount as well with Dependent Medical Coverage, but allows others during this six months of remaining fiscal year to be a part of it as well.”

Sheriff Todd Gibson said, “I don’t want to belabor the topic if we are ready to vote, but I appreciate the Board’s action about this and how it affects the Sheriff’s office and our recruiting and retention. Going off of Ms. Belinson’s numbers on FY18/19, she provided a number of \$171,076; FY 19/20, she said that the current number is at \$242,576.00. I think that is accurate. I think this is a great first step that is very cautious, very conservative and very sustainable. So, we take the \$242,000 and Mr. Reynolds, in one of our previous meetings, I think it was July, you said why don’t we just take the \$170,000, I think that was the number we were floating around and so what we did, we took that and cut it in half by \$85,000 divided that to the 55 employees that signed up during open enrollment when every employee in the county was allowed to enroll according to HR, did take advantage of that for the next six months that equals out to \$15,054 per employee or averages out to \$259.09 per month and so since \$259.09 is difficult on mathematics, just round down to \$250.00 per employee which still leaves us money in the reserves for any changes that may come after June for employees to sign on Board. I think it is a number if we continue over the next three years as was discussed in a previous Board meeting to put money back. This is a good starting point that we can incrementally increase over the next several years.”

Chairman Haralson asked, “Any further discussion?”

Jim Reynolds asked if the vote today will have any effect on the next fiscal year after July 2020.

Sheriff Todd Gibson said it is until June 30, 2020. They are still obligated for the insurance calendar year, but they cannot obligate monies until June 30, 2020. It gives them six months

Jim Reynolds wanted to know if this action would impair future attempts to go self-insured.

Darry Stacy said that it would not affect the attempts, but is of the opinion that the county should hold off for a while, at least three to five years before moving forward again in becoming self-insured.

After further discussion, Jim Reynolds said he will support the vote today and said that the county did not fail at becoming self-insured, because they have not given up.

Darry Stacy said he is hopeful for a better plan in the future as well.

The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Darry Stacy, yes; Douglas Warr, yes; Terri Morrow, yes.
Motion carried.

B. During Budget Board Members discussions on County Business, it was agreed that the Insurance Committee should continue exploring better deals.

Chairman Haralson recommended that Sheriff Todd Gibson be a member on the Insurance Committee and to include it for discussion and/or action at the next meeting.

C. No Comments from the Public were made at this time.

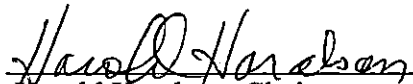
D. There being no further business to come before the Board, Darry Stacy moved that the meeting be adjourned at 2:25 pm. The motion was seconded by Sheriff Todd Gibson.

The vote was: Harold Haralson, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Sheriff Todd Gibson, yes; Douglas Warr, yes; Terri Morrow, yes.

Motion carried.

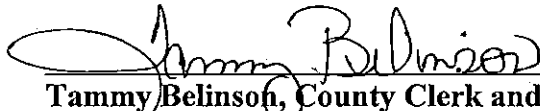
(Clerk's Note: The agenda was posted December 10, 2019, @ 1:50 P.M.)

**BUDGET BOARD
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**



Harold Haralson, Chairman

ATTEST:



Tammy Belinson, County Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Minutes Prepared by: 

Deputy County Clerk

