

December 12, 2005

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order this 12th day of December, 2005, in the conference room of the Cleveland County Fairgrounds, 605 E. Robinson, Norman, Oklahoma, by Chairman George Skinner. Roll was called by Dorinda Harvey, County Clerk/Secretary and those present were:

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

Others present were: David Batton, Donna Roberts, Tammy Howard, and Jim Helm.

After the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of November 28, 2005, and there being no additions or corrections, Bill Graves moved that the minutes be approved. Denise Heavner seconded the motion.

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

Leroy Krohmer moved, seconded by Rhonda Hall, to approve the Regularly Scheduled Meetings for Calendar year 2006.

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

Rhonda Hall moved, seconded by Saundra DeSelms, to approve the following Transfers of Appropriations:

- a. From Sheriff's Service Fee Maintenance & Operations, CFB2, \$25,000.00, to Sheriff's Service Fee Personal Services, CFB1A.

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

Chairman Skinner stated it was being considered to move the trial in the Busken murder case to the University and stated that Sheriff Beggs said it was going to put him in a bad situation as far as funds.

Sheriff Beggs stated the fund that had been set up for the Officers that take care of the Courthouse and the other County Buildings that the fund does not have sufficient money in it to cover a trial of this magnitude at another facility. The facility at the University is very nice there is nothing wrong with the facility at all, however from the security standpoint of view

there are quite a few considerations, a gallery and more entrances. This is going to require every deputy that is at the courthouse right now. This can't be done and won't be done because there are other trials going on at the Courthouse. Sheriff Beggs stated Judge Lucas is having a hearing Friday to see if the trial goes to the University or stays at the Courthouse. Sheriff Beggs wouldn't have a problem if this were a less risky type trial. This case could last about a month and there is not enough money in the fund to handle the cost, also protection and transportation is involved. The University has offered to help out also, although they are not the ones going to get caught if something goes wrong, it will be the Sheriff and he prefers not to go over there.

David Batton, Assistant District Attorney, stated they were asked to come out and look at the courtroom and it is nice and the District Attorney wouldn't mind trying some cases out there, but because of the nature of this trial the District Attorney's Office doesn't want to go out there to trial. The District Attorney's Office doesn't want to have to re-try the trial in five (5) years if some federal court comes along and says it was too prejudicial to try a University ballerina at the University, not withstanding the security issues and everything else, and possibility because it is a death penalty case. The District Attorney is not in favor of moving to the University in this case.

Sheriff Beggs stated Judge Lucas is the one deciding where the trial is to be held and he had explained to the Judge everything that had been discussed today. The hearing is Thursday not Friday.

Rhonda Hall, Court Clerk, stated she understood the reason for the move to the University was not the noise, because during jury the contractor's shuts down, it was because of the connecting link. If the buildings are not connected by January 23 and the contractor has to stop for three (3) to four (4) weeks then the building may not be occupied by February if the link has to be passable.

George Skinner stated that the defendant's attorneys are opposed to the move out to the University also.

George Skinner, Chairman of the Budget Board, is going to sign a letter on behalf of the Budget Board, to Judge Tom Lucas, about the concerns and financial problems this could cause the county.

Leroy Krohmer asked Mr. David Batton, Assistant District Attorney, about an article that had appeared in the Norman Transcript about the open meeting laws concerning the Commissioners and their first deputies voting for them at an open meeting in the Commissioners absence. (This article was written after some of the Transcript's employees had attended a seminar put on by Attorney General Drew Edmondson.) Mr. Batton will get with Mike McDanel, the Assistant District Attorney, which represents the county and report back to the Budget Board on December 27, 2005, as to their decision.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Denise Heavner moved that the meeting be adjourned. Rhonda Hall seconded the motion.

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