

## **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' BUDGET HEARING MINUTES**

The Pima County Board of Supervisors met at their regular meeting place in the Pima County Administration Building (Hearing Room), 130 West Congress Street, Tucson, Arizona, at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 14, 2015. Upon roll call, those present and absent were as follows:

Present: Sharon Bronson, Chair  
Richard Elías, Vice Chair  
Ramón Valadez, Acting Chair  
Ally Miller, Member

Absent: Ray Carroll, Member

Also Present: Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator  
Thomas Weaver, Chief Civil Deputy County Attorney  
Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board  
James Ogden, Sergeant at Arms

### **1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

All present joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **2. DEPARTMENT BUDGET PRESENTATIONS**

- **Constables**

The Honorable Vince Roberts, Administrative Constable, presented the budget detail and reviewed the successful efforts to obtain grant funding for their new case management system. He stated that meeting the requested budget reductions would be difficult and also noted that revenues had increased by about thirty-seven percent since 2010.

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, explained the Constables budget was mostly made up of personnel expenses making it somewhat inflexible, but that moving to the new Public Service Center would increase accessibility and in turn could increase revenues.

- **Assessor**

The Honorable Bill Staples, Pima County Assessor, reviewed budget statistics comparing 2005 to 2015 and noted the increase in parcel and valuation data and the decrease in department personnel, and added that the department consistently came in at or under budget. He addressed the 1% cap and the reclassification of over 25,000 parcels from primary residence making those parcels ineligible for the state aid to education.

- **Recorder**

The Honorable F. Ann Rodriguez, Pima County Recorder, reviewed the department's funding from both the General Fund and Document Storage and Retrieval Fund, and explained budget fluctuations which were based on the number and type of elections conducted. She stated the requested budget reductions would be met by leaving vacant positions unfilled, but noted the positions would be needed for the next major election.

Supervisor Elías questioned the effect a bond election and Presidential Preference election would have on the budgets of both the Recorder and Elections. He asked about the negotiations with the City of Tucson regarding the November elections.

Ms. Rodriguez reviewed possible logistical difficulties and financial impacts of conducting elections concurrent with the City of Tucson and several other jurisdictions. She stated she would be presenting an amended fee ordinance to the Board.

Brad Nelson, Elections Director, stated the outcome of the preliminary discussions with the City Clerk regarding placing their items on the County ballot had yet to be decided.

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, reviewed the calculations used to estimate election costs, but noted there were also additional unknown variables. He also added next legislative session would address an increase in the reimbursement of the cost to conduct the Presidential Preference Election.

Supervisor Elías stressed that even with the high costs of conducting an election, the election process was very important.

- **Treasurer**

The Honorable Beth Ford, Pima County Treasurer, detailed the responsibilities and cash flow of the Treasurer's Office for Pima County and the other taxing jurisdictions. She explained the Tax Payer Information Fund and the use of the monies for information technology.

Mr. Huckelberry stated the County Attorney would be investigating the ability of the County to allocate fees to the jurisdictions served by the Treasurer similar to the fees enacted for the Department of Revenue, but added he thought the County would be precluded from taking that action.

- **Board of Supervisors**

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, reported the budgets of the Supervisors had been reduced by the requested two percent.

- **Clerk of the Board**

Robin Brigode, Clerk of the Board, detailed the responsibilities of both the Administration and Records Program Divisions, and stated the requested budget reduction would be met by elimination of an unfilled position which had been reallocated from the Assessor to address the shift of responsibilities for the Board of Supervisors tax roll corrections, the residential reclassification appeal process and litigation duties.

- **County Administrator**

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, stated the department's budget remained the same as the previous year with the exception of the requested budget reduction and the elimination of the Chief Deputy County Administrator position.

- **Elections**

Brad Nelson, Elections Director, reported the major impacts to their budget would be costs associated with the Presidential Preference election; the 2015 November elections with the various jurisdiction participants; and the possibility of the Congressional District lines being redrawn causing the formation of micro-precincts. He added there may also be additional costs associated with printing of the ballots resulting from possible recall elections.

Supervisor Miller questioned the actual expenditures for FY 2014/2015 being significantly lower than the adopted budget.

Brad Nelson, Elections Director, replied a large part of the difference could be the increase of people choosing to vote by mail.

- **Facilities Management**

Michael Kirk, Facilities Management Director, detailed the responsibilities of Facilities Management and the programs and expenses from the General Fund, Parking Garage Fund and Renewal Fund. He noted the significant budget change related to the Public Service Center, the funding of the deferred maintenance program, and the need to address increased energy costs. He added a supplemental package had been requested for an additional Property Coordinator position for the Public Service Center.

Supervisor Elías noted the importance of reviewing the sustainability resolution and working within its parameters when considering energy usage.

- **Communications Office**

Jeff Nordensson, Communications Director, provided an overview of the department, staffing and their budget. He stated the department would eventually petition for a full-time Spanish-language media specialist and addressed the carryover of funds from last fiscal year for digital asset management software. He reported the requested budget reductions would be met by eliminating the half time Traffic/Production Manager position.

- **Fleet Services**

Frank Samaniego, Fleet Services Director, described the operations of Fleet Services and their budget. He stated the requested budget reductions would be met by eliminating two vacant positions and reducing fuel usage and expenditures for parts.

- **Finance & Risk Management**

Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator, described and reviewed the Finance, Risk Management, Debt Service, General Fund Contingency, Mandated Payments and Non-Departmental Budgets. He reported the largest budget changes were the shift of IT funding to the departments and the reallocation of staff from the Assessor for newly assumed duties.

Supervisor Miller requested clarification on the Budget Stabilization Fund.

Tom Burke, Deputy County Administrator, explained that the Budget Stabilization Fund was a fund balance budgeted for a contingency that was not expected to be spent and that the amount would become more accurate later in the budgeting process.

Chuck Huckelberry, County Administrator, added that the Budget Stabilization Fund was also used for supplemental funding.

### 3. **PUBLIC SPEAKERS**

Brad Johns addressed the Board regarding the proposed budget and noted there had been very slow job, wage and population growth making the best options for the County to be a reduction in expenses, the elimination of non-core services and the sale of assets.

Christopher Cole spoke regarding the Board's responsibility to efficiently manage taxpayer dollars and advocated careful review of each department's budget items.

4. **ADJOURNMENT**

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

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CHAIR

ATTEST:

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CLERK

DRAFT