

BUDGET COMMITTEE MINUTES

PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING

NEWBERG, OREGON

Members Present:

Tomina Carter	Roger Currier	Ron Fulham
Lisa Helikson	Don Holland	Nancy Jiosa
Donna McCain	Robert Larson	Robert Soppe
Bret Veatch	Robert Weaver	Noele Wilson

Members Absent:

None

Others Present:

Duane Cole, City Manager	Robert Tardiff, Police Chief
Ben Erb, Assistant Fire Chief	Kathy Tri, Finance Director
Lisa Smith, Library Adult Services Manager	Sandy Olmstead, Children's Librarian
Mike Soderquist, Community Development Director	
Debbie Smith-Wagar, Asst. Fin. Dir.	Bob Nipper, Administrative Intern

Prior to the official meeting, Finance Director Kathy Tri presented members with a Budget Committee Handbook and reviewed the handbook. Administrative Intern Bob Nipper also reviewed Oregon's property tax system for those committee members present.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Robert Soppe at 7:10 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Roll call was noted by Kathy Tri.

3. Election of Officers

Donna McCain nominated Robert Soppe for chair. Lisa Helikson seconded the motion. There were no further nominations and Robert Soppe was elected chair.

Ron Fulham nominated Lisa Helikson for vice-chair. Bob Larson seconded the motion. There were no further nominations and Lisa Helikson was elected vice-chair.

Robert Weaver nominated Donna McCain for secretary. Roger Currier seconded the motion. There were no further nominations and Donna McCain was elected secretary.

4. Minutes

Robert Weaver moved to approved the minutes from the December 9, 1999 meeting. Roger Currier seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. It was pointed out that the minutes from

the October 21, 1999 meeting have not yet been approved. Kathy Tri said she would send them out with the next packet so members will have time to review them before the next meeting.

5. New Business

City Manager Duane Cole reviewed preliminary results from a Community Attitude Survey conducted for Newberg. The survey clearly indicated that residents would prefer separate ballot requests for police and fire levies. The survey also indicated that if the election were held at the time the survey was filled out, the fire levy would pass by a slim margin, and the police levy would fail. Duane Cole said that reflected the need to educate voters about what will happen if these levies fail.

Ron Fulham said he is having second thoughts about the local option levies. He is worried about staff members not knowing if they will lose their jobs. He handed out a line item budget with an across the board cut of 16 percent on almost everything. He said he would like staff below department heads to review possible cuts. Duane Cole said staff is frugal and sometimes needs to provide more services. He said the Budget Committee needs to consider the budget after it is presented.

There was discussion on what budget should be presented - whether it should include both levies or not. Finance Director Kathy Tri said the budget would be presented as though both levies pass, and if they don't the Budget Committee will need to meet after the election in May.

Tomina Carter said she would like to see going to the voters for half of the money that is needed and then making cuts for the other half. Staff pointed out that cuts will be needed even if the proposed levies pass.

Roger Currier said he is concerned about the amount of travel and training expense. He said it seemed like it had increased significantly in the last few years. He said it also seemed like there were more employees driving leased cars. And he said it seemed that employees were making a lot of trips to Naps.

Robert Weaver said the only way to really lower the budget was to cut people, and he was not in favor of cutting personnel.

Robert Weaver made a motion to recommend to the council to place the police and fire levies on the May ballot as separate issues. Robert Larson seconded the motion.

Lisa Helikson said she has a potential conflict of interest because her husband is a volunteer fireman. She made a motion to amend the motion on the floor to separate the police and fire levies into separate motions. Don Holland seconded her motion. The amendment passed unanimously.

On the motion to recommend that the council place the police levy on the May ballot, the motion passed eleven to one, with Ron Fulham voting no.

On the motion to recommend that the council place the fire levy on the May ballot, the motion passed nine for the motion, two against (Ron Fulham and Roger Currier), and one abstention (Lisa Helikson).

Ron Fulham said he would like to see a more stable source of revenue. He would specifically like to see a business tax. Committee members discussed how much a business tax might raise and how it would be enforced.

6. Adjournment

The committee adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Alexa M. Cain", is written over a solid horizontal line.

Secretary