

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, WASHOE COUNTY, NEVADA

SPECIAL MEETING

MONDAY

4:00 P.M.

MARCH 27, 2006

PRESENT:

Bob Larkin, Chairman
Bonnie Weber, Vice Chairman
Jim Galloway, Commissioner*
Pete Sferrazza, Commissioner

Nancy Parent, Chief Deputy Clerk
Katy Singlaub, County Manager
Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel

ABSENT:

David Humke, Commissioner

The Board met in a special meeting in the Commission Chambers of the Washoe County Administration Complex, 1001 East Ninth Street, Reno, Nevada. Following the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our Country, the Clerk called the roll and the Board conducted the following business:

06-307 AGENDA

In accordance with the Open Meeting Law, on motion by Commissioner Weber, seconded by Commissioner Sferrazza, which motion duly carried with Commissioners Galloway and Humke absent, Chairman Larkin ordered that the agenda for the March 27, 2006 special meeting be approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no response to the call for public comment.

***4:05 p.m.** Commissioner Galloway arrived at the meeting during the following item.

06-308 UPDATE - FISCAL YEAR 2006/07 OPERATING BUDGET – FINANCE

Lisa Gianoli, Budget Manager, presented the document entitled, "Washoe County 2006-2007 General Fund Budget Update," dated March 27, 2006. She reviewed revenue, expenses, contingency, overall general fund position, and Board policies on budget growth. She discussed the "Policy Related Significant Above Base Issues" that were included in the document.

In response to Commissioner Sferrazza, Ms. Gianoli clarified any remaining encumbrances were added to the adopted budget when the 2004/05 budget was closed out. She commented on the consolidated tax increase. She said, due to the law that was passed by the Legislature concerning property tax, the total amount the State was showing as an abatement amount for Washoe County totaled \$9.1-million.

Commissioner Sferrazza remarked the above base requests from the presentations of March 27, 2006 were not listed among the "Policy Related Significant Above Base Issues," and he asked why. Ms. Gianoli explained those listed were items that were policy related, and she confirmed she would provide a summary list to the Commissioners of every above base request.

Commissioner Sferrazza asked when the Board was scheduled to make a determination on the above base requests. Ms. Gianoli explained appeals before the Board would be heard in late April. She noted Management staff would reduce the above base requests to within \$5-million, which would be a cut of 75 percent. Ms. Gianoli confirmed they were currently working with departments and looking at their top requests/priorities to come up with recommendations. She said those would be brought forward, and there would also be appeals based on those recommendations. She emphasized there would have to be money left for the Board to deal with the appeals. Ms. Gianoli added a range of \$4.5 to \$5-million to fund items included in the above base requests from the departments was presented due to the property tax piece that was being fit into the budget.

Commissioner Galloway said he appreciated that the Manager's Office would be speaking to the departments about their above base requests. He said typically there were above base requests greater than the County's ability to pay and stay within the guidelines of not increasing faster than inflation and population. With regard to the policy related issues, he asked if they were singled out because the decisions of the Board would greatly impact them. Ms. Gianoli agreed.

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Ms. Gianoli explained the courtroom remodel was always planned to be completed when the District Attorney vacated the courthouse. She said, according to Public Works, it would be restored because it was one of the few courtrooms to be ADA accessible. Ms. Gianoli responded the policy issue concerning the courtroom remodel was whether to reestablish Department 7 and the additional staffing associated with it. She discussed the timeline involved with the courtroom.

Commissioner Galloway commented there were two options regarding the deferral of the Alternate Public Defender Office. He said one would be to defer by adding a year to the existing contract, and the other alternative would be to start the department up mid-year. Commissioner Galloway inquired if the Manager's Office was considering whether a six-month start up time would be adequate to begin that department. County Manager Katy Singlaub explained the contract would end June 30, 2007; and overlap would be necessary to recruit, staff, and train that group. She

anticipated it would be a phased in operation. Commissioner Galloway asked if the \$713,000 was based on starting around January 2007, and Ms. Singlaub agreed. Commissioner Galloway inquired if the start up expenditures were so much higher than the operating expenses for the next fiscal year because it was expected that the contract would be even more costly in the future. Ms. Gianoli agreed.

In response to Commissioner Galloway, Ms. Gianoli verified the deadline for AB334 was 2017. She added no documents could be received and recorded if there was personal information beginning in July of 2007. She explained the Recorder had done a calculation based on the number of documents that had to be dealt with and the amount of time it would take to deal with the documents. She confirmed this was her estimate for the work to be completed in 10 years.

Commissioner Galloway asked about the net cost of the booking station. Ms. Gianoli responded there would have to be improvements and new equipment, and it was a one time only net cost. Commissioner Galloway inquired about the leasing cost at the Mills B. Lane Justice Center and temporary options to work around that cost. Ms. Gianoli explained Alternative Sentencing would be located in the City of Reno portion of the building. She said the details were still being worked out; however, the location that was selected by the Reno Municipal Court would be good for the type of business they were doing and to gain the benefit of having them located in the same facility.

Commissioner Galloway asked about the requests from Senior Services. Ms. Gianoli explained there was a one-cent ad valorem override that was approved years ago, and the County traditionally had given them general fund dollars for the Adult Day Care program. She said Senior Services wanted to establish more funding in the general fund for their daily operations, and she noted much of the \$241,000 was position related.

Commissioner Galloway inquired about the Washoe Legal Services contract and asked if it had become a mandated program. Melanie Foster, Legal Counsel, explained Chapter 432B stated every child involved in a child welfare proceeding should be provided with legal counsel, and that was the basis for this action. She said Washoe Legal Services had one attorney presently that represented children in these types of cases and in juvenile mental health proceedings. Commissioner Galloway asked about the costs, and Ms. Gianoli explained how the County expenditures were established for the Washoe Legal Services contract.

Chairman Larkin commented on Alternative Sentencing and stated he would like to see consideration for Chief Ingraham's above base requests in terms of the responses he was getting with the Alternative Sentencing. He inquired about the new positions for Senior Services. Ms. Gianoli explained it was requested that the new positions be paid with general fund dollars. Chairman Larkin stated the Judges made a passionate plea for the reestablishment of Department 7, and he was supportive of that.

Commissioner Weber commended Ms. Gianoli and Ms. Singlaub for their efforts concerning the budget presentations. She said the presentations were valuable,

and she thanked staff for them. She concurred the impacts of AB334 would be monumental for the Recorder's Office. She said AB334 needed to be looked at long-term, and she hoped the impacts could be negotiated by the counties joining together and going to the Legislature.

Commissioner Galloway remarked there were other above base requests in addition to those appearing in the update. He said it would not be possible to allocate the \$4.5 to \$5-million to this list alone. He hoped staff would recommend alternatives so the Board could fairly consider all the above base requests. With regard to the Recorder, Public Works, and the Clerk, he commented two were allowed to charge fees to cover costs. He asked, if the State required that the records be kept in a certain way, was it possible to reflect that in the fees.

Ms. Foster stated the fees were set by statute, and it would require a statutory amendment to change them. She noted the prohibition on allowing access to a record with the social security number went into effect January 2006, and that requirement was already in place. She stated the offices were grappling individually with how they were going to handle AB334, as it involved millions of records. Commissioner Galloway suggested this be added to the bill draft requests.

Chairman Larkin commented the Reno Justice Court requested an additional two bailiffs. He said that request involved health and safety related issues, and he asked the Manager's Office to give that request significant consideration. Ms. Singlaub remarked staff would work closely with the Reno Justice Court, and she confirmed those were the kinds of items the budget analysts looked at carefully.

Commissioner Sferrazza wanted to review the record of the County Commission discussion on what happened when Department 7 was originally gutted. He said he did not want to pay for something twice. He voiced support of the legal services, but he was concerned about another unfunded mandate. He said, if the County was being mandated to provide defense counsel or representation for children without funds, that seemed to violate what was recently passed in Nevada when that issue was on the ballot.

Commissioner Galloway asked if the legal statutory fee limits were only on the Recorder and not on the Public Works portion of the AB334 issue. Ms. Gianoli did not know how fees could be charged in the Public Works Department. Commissioner Galloway inquired how documents with social security numbers would be obtained by Public Works when they worked internally and did not give out documents except for prints and bids. Ms. Gianoli explained the microfilming side of Public Works in General Services was where the data to be redacted would be located. Commissioner Galloway requested a closer look at the data that was being redacted to see if some amount of that could be allocated to another department that could raise its fees.

Chairman Larkin confirmed the next budget meeting would be on May 1, 2006. He asked if staff would bring back any appeals that had been put forward, and Ms. Gianoli concurred.

Commissioner Galloway requested that the overall court system be examined concerning security officer issues due to the fact that the courts were now in close proximity. Ms. Singlaub verified there was a team working in the courts complex to look at the issues globally.

Chairman Larkin noted the U.S. Marshall's service had been invited to evaluate the bailiffs and the operation of the Reno Justice Court. He said he did not want to place residents that were required to be in a particular place in jeopardy in terms of their health and safety. Ms. Gianoli commented the Budget Division had completed extensive work regarding the functions of the Reno Justice Court and their need for bailiffs when staff looked at the entire courthouse security piece that came forward to the Board as part of the jail expansion item. She confirmed staff was continuing to work with the courts in those areas.

* * * * *

4:55 p.m. There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting adjourned.

ROBERT M. LARKIN, Chairman
Washoe County Commission

ATTEST:

AMY HARVEY, County Clerk
and Clerk of the Board of
County Commissioners

*Minutes Prepared by
Lori Rowe, Deputy County Clerk*