

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
Monday, November 16, 2009
Commission Chambers
411 North Fifth Street, Shelton WA 98584

The 2010 budget workshop commenced at 1:01 p.m. Cmmr. Sheldon and Gallagher were in attendance. Cmmr. Ring Erickson joined the meeting at approximately 1:15 p.m.

Cmmr. Sheldon reviewed the 2010 changes that have been posted at this point. A \$750,000 reduction in the 2010 ER&R rates, \$75,000 reduction in DCD for a planner position, and a Parks reduction of \$58,000. John Keates interjected that he thought the request was to cut \$48,000 plus 1%, after discussion it was determined that the request was for \$58,000 + 1% from parks. The Commissioners budget was reduced by \$10,000, WSU - \$12,000 reduction, Budget & Finance - \$51,600 reduction, Human Resources - \$15,000 reduction, and Public Health \$4,400 reduction. A 1% budget reduction to Assessor, Auditor, Clerk, Coroner, District Court, Facilities & Grounds, Probation Services, Prosecutor, Sheriff, Superior Court, and Treasurer. The ending fund balance is at \$1.6 million and this adds about \$118,000. Reductions have not been turned in from the Clerk, Prosecutor, or Superior Court. Cmmr. Sheldon noted the Commission has met with Judge Sheldon and talked about indigent defense money that won't be spent in 2009 that will go to ending fund balance.

Sandra, League of Women Voters, asked when the 2010 budget would be adopted.

The budget hearing is on Monday, 12/7, the budget must be adopted by 12/31.

Lisa Frazier asked when do we expect to hear from those who have not responded.

Theresia Ehrich talked about amending the indirect allocation. She needs to know what salaries to use for the formula. It's based on salaries and benefits paid.

Cmmr. Sheldon noted there are changes to Risk Management. This has been assigned to Dawn Twiddy and Shannon Goudy. The Risk Pool requires that a Risk Manager be named.

Sandra, League of Women Voters, asked for a worse case scenario for contract settlements.

Cmmr. Gallagher commented it could be up to \$1,000,000.

Cmmr. Sheldon pointed out the settlements will have to be paid. The County will need to find the money by either increasing taxes or reducing expenditures. He has heard that departments would rather have reduced hours than reduce staff.

Dixie Smith expressed support of reducing hours by ½ hour a day.

Cmmr. Ring Erickson arrived at the workshop.

There was discussion of the Civil Service 2010 request. The Commissioners agreed to reduce it to the 2009 level.

The Accrued Leave Fund was discussed. The total liability for leave is not funded however for those that are known to retire, the money is there. Cmmr. Sheldon would like to change the policy to not allow the accrual at the current levels.

Theresia Ehrich noted the current accrual is 400 hours for vacation and 1200 hours for sick. It takes 15 years to vest for sick leave.

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Brenda Hirschi asked if there are medical changes for union employees. She noted that the non-union employees health benefit is remaining the same.

Medical benefits are part of the union negotiations and there is nothing changed in the budget.

The budget workshop adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Zoren, Assistant to the Commissioners

BOARD OF MASON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Tim Sheldon
Chair

Lynda Ring Erickson
Commissioner

Ross Gallagher
Commissioner