

TERM OF COMMISSION: December Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Room 208

PRESENT WERE: District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Skip Elkin
Deputy County Clerk Shawna Victor
Boone County Auditor June Pitchford

The budget hearing was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

Budget Hearing: Department 1510 (Economic Support – Regional Economic Development, Inc.)

Victoria Pratt, REDI President, was present on behalf of this budget hearing.

Victoria Pratt gave the Commissioners a copy of a revised budget, the total amount is the same, and they just shifted a line item within this budget. There were no significant changes to this budget.

Mrs. Pratt reviewed what companies, and subsequently jobs, REDI has brought to Central Missouri and their involvement in workforce development issues.

Commissioner Elkin stated he knows that REDI is active in bringing big companies to the area but he wanted to know about mid-size and small company retention. Mrs. Pratt stated it has never been a part of REDI to do business retention and in the future Mrs. Pratt intends to provide some focus on business retention. She discussed the aspect of helping a business that is struggling.

There was discussion about what the business support and retention committee does.

Mrs. Pratt discussed how business retention works with large corporations and the local support provided to companies.

Mrs. Pitchford discussed how the smaller Chamber of Commerce offices do not have the capacity to help businesses out like the Chamber of Commerce in Columbia. There was discussion about regional Chamber of Commerce offices and how and where they operate.

Mrs. Pratt discussed how Corporate America works regionally and not at specific sights.

There was discussion about what types of businesses would help a region with their tax base and help employees with cost of living.

Mrs. Pratt stated REDI is projecting a deficit for 2002. This will be the second year in a row REDI will have a deficit.

Commissioner Miller asked if REDI would be in a deficit for 2001. Mrs. Pratt stated she believes they would break even for 2001.

Mrs. Pratt stated at the November meeting they approved a membership committee. There has never been a look at the fee structure. To become a member, there is a minimum \$1,000 investment and there has been approximately the same number of members since 1988. They have been discussing putting together a tiered membership structure to allow some of the smaller businesses become members.

Mrs. Pratt stated in the future she will be asking Boone County to double it's funding to REDI because of an increase in costs.

Mrs. Pitchford asked how many investors comprise Class B investors. Mrs. Pratt stated there are approximately 46 individual investors.

Mrs. Pitchford asked if these investors were at a fixed or varied amounts for membership fees. Mrs. Pratt the minimum investment is \$1,000 but there are some investors who do give more money. Mrs. Pratt discussed other organizations in Missouri and their membership fees.

Mrs. Pratt stated approximately 53% of the 2001 budget is being spent on overhead expenses (operations and occupancy) while the remaining 47% is spent on programs for studies and advertising.

Mrs. Pratt expressed how excited she is about the Master Plan and how things are working well for REDI.

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

Budget Hearing: Department 1420 (Social Services)

Phil Steinhaus, Manager of the City of Columbia Office of Community Services, was present on behalf of this budget hearing.

Mrs. Pitchford stated this budget includes other appropriations besides the Community Services Advisory Commission. There were no significant changes to this budget.

Lisa Scribner, Sarah Coats, and Scott Chestoff, all County appointees on the Community Services Advisory Commission, were also present for this budget hearing.

Lisa Scribner stated they considered 51 programs delivered by 33 agencies requesting

over \$1 million in City and County funding. Through many meetings, they made decisions on how to allocate limited funds to the variety of agencies. Over the past two years, they have worked on consolidating funding. This effects agencies that receive County or City funding. There were five agencies that received increased County funding in 2001. Reality House was the only agency that received a decrease in funding and all other agencies were at level funding.

The Commissioners received a proposed budget summary for this department. This summary was prepared under the assumption that the County would be able to offer a 2% increase in funding, which would only be \$2,500. Ms. Scribner understands that this is a tight budget year for the County. Any increase would go to the Food Pantry for their implementation of a mobile food pantry that they have been working on for a few years.

Commissioner Miller asked what the increase in the funding for the Central Missouri Area Agency on Aging consisted of. Phil Steinhaus stated the funding was recommended at \$1,000 for home delivered meals.

Commissioner Miller asked if there was no funding last year. Mr. Steinhaus stated this was correct.

Sarah Coats stated they felt there was a need for home delivered meals in the County. There is a need for this in Boone County that is currently not met.

Commissioner Miller asked if the home delivered meals in Boone County have mostly been in the northern portions. Scott Chestoff stated this was correct. Commissioner Miller stated she had be confused about the reasoning for only delivering meals in the northern portion and not in the southern portion of the County. She would like to know who is filling the need in the southern portion of the County.

Commissioner Elkin stated it was to his understanding that the Senior Center in Ashland takes care of the home delivered meals. Commissioner Miller stated she did not believe there were any home delivered meals in the southern portion but the Senior Center did do a monthly meal.

There was no one present who knew who is in charge of delivering meals in Southern Boone County.

Mr. Chestoff it is recognized that there is no agency doing home delivered meals in Southern Boone County and no other agency besides the Central Missouri Area Agency on Aging delivering meals in the northern portion of the County.

There was a discussion about Meals-On-Wheels and how they are unable to do a countywide home delivery of meals currently.

Mr. Steinhaus discussed a meeting he had with CMAAA and a presentation of the complex formula of handling local funding and allocation of their federal funds across the 19 County region they serve. She did not provide historical data for their funding.

Commissioner Miller stated staff has contacted other counties that use CMAAA and if they are making direct appropriations to them for home delivered meals. She wants to know why Boone County is circled out of the 19 County region to have to donate in order for Boone County to receive additional services.

Mr. Chestoff discussed the presentation by CMAAA and their funding formula. No one was able to understand this formula.

Commissioner Miller stated she has requested federal assistance on this issue.

Mr. Chestoff stated because there is a need for this program and they have given a little bit of funding to help address the problem.

There was discussion about how funding was cut off for the home delivered meals program and how the elderly population is increasing which in turn puts a greater demand on this program.

Commissioner Miller requested to see the formulas that are used by CMAAA for funding.

Mr. Steinhaus stated that the CMAAA is willing to work with the County.

Mrs. Pitchford asked if it was just cash contributions, from BINGO proceeds, being counted for the counties that are participating in the CMAAA meals program. This is not County funding per say; it is the BINGO proceeds. Ms. Scribner stated she believes it is just cash contributions.

There was discussion about the county funding for the Office of Community Services. Mr. Steinhaus had requested \$16,900. This is a 3% increase from 2001 for cost of living expenses (COLA).

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

Budget Hearing: Department 1430 (Community Services – Boone County Soil and Water Conservation)

Kevin Martz, Chairman, and Bud Holliman, Treasurer, from the Boone County Soil and Water District, were present on behalf of this budget hearing.

Kevin Martz stated that in the past they have usually requested \$16,500. For this budget year, they have requested \$25,000. The reason for the increase in their request is that they

are looking at adding a Stormwater Technician. They have seen an increase in the number of stormwater calls in the County. They see a need to provide technical support and education to the public. Mr. Martz realized that the County has proposed \$15,000, but they will take whatever money they can receive. Of the local funding they receive, the majority goes towards information, education, tours, field days, meetings, and the newsletter. Mr. Martz stated he believes that the newsletter goes to landowners that have 40 acres or more, totaling 1,500 to 2,000 in the County.

Mr. Holliman stated a lot of the education is in the schools.

Commissioner Miller stated the stormwater need is recognized in County offices and the requirements the EPA Phase II will be put on the County. She has been looking at the funding for stormwater and has been working on legislation for this issue.

There was discussion about work on a joint City/County stormwater ordinance.

Commissioner Elkin asked about the proposed stormwater technician. Mr. Martz stated the proposed position would be doing work similar to what the current technician is doing but more work in the County area.

There is only one technician working with the department.

Mr. Martz discussed the State Stormwater Special Urban Committee and how they have struggled getting non-urban landowners to be part of the committee in the St. Louis and Kansas City areas where there is little agricultural land in those counties. They recognized the need for funding urban stormwater problems and the impact on soil erosion in the watersheds. He is unsure of the funding for this even though there are grants that can help with this issue.

There was discussion about Boone County's possible involvement with the Moniteau/Callahan watershed.

There was discussion about Boone County's future involvement in the stormwater issue.

Mr. Martz stated they received the Hinkson Creek grant and they have preformed bank stabilization. Commissioner Miller stated the County has applied for the 319 grant for the Bonne Femme Watershed.

There was no further discussion and no public comment.

The budget hearing was adjourned at 2:27 p.m.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Skip Elkin
District II Commissioner