

*Proposed 2000 Budget*

TERM OF COMMISSION: December Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper  
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller  
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt  
County Auditor June Pitchford  
Deputy County Clerk Melanie Stapleton

The budget hearing was called to order by the Presiding Commissioner at 3:10pm.

*Public Works*

Frank Abart, Public Works Director stated that if the Sales Tax is volatile, then it affects what the Public Works Department is able to do. He stated that the Public Works Department will experience a decrease/reduction this year.

Commissioner Stamper asked Frank Abart to elaborate.

Frank Abart stated that there was a carryover of funds in the 1999 Budget from projects that were not completed.

June Pitchford stated that this spending exceeds the year 2000 revenues.

Frank Abart stated that the administration of Neighborhood Improvement District Projects has been a success. He stated that there could be two, new road and two sewer NIDs this year. He noted that there was a lot of effort put into getting rid of the backlog list (of NIDs).

Commissioner Miller asked if the proposed budget included hiring someone to handle the stormwater issues.

June Pitchford stated that this request was submitted as a supplemental. She stated that this item was not included in the budget because the person could have been hired during the 1999 year.

Frank Abart stated that the position was filled this past week.

June Pitchford stated that a position was being converted to provide the funding for that person.

Frank Abart stated that Fixed Assets were not included in the proposed budget. He noted that the Public Works department is falling further behind in that area.

Commissioner Stamper asked Frank Abart to discuss the highlights listed on the handout. (The handout entitled *Boone County Public Works 2000 Proposed Budget Highlights All Accounts is available in the County Auditor's Office.*)

*Account 2040-Maintenance Operations Division*

(See highlights on handout)

Frank Abart stated that the new, square signposts would make it more difficult for them to be removed and thereby would deter theft. He noted that this past year about 400-450 signposts were removed/stolen.

Frank Abart stated that there were nine miles of improvements this year under Proposition 2. He stated that the department would apply approximately 3.62 miles of asphalt overlay and apply asphalt to ten erosion-prone areas. He stated that the department would complete 19 miles of chip/seal surfacing and resurfacing. He also noted that this year the El Chaparral NID would make their first repayment of loan. He stated that the department would continue the pavement marking (process) in 2000.

Account 2045-Design and Construction Division

(See highlights on handout)

Public Works staff gave a report on the Zumwalt Bridge project.

June Pitchford stated that the State will handle the project and the County will provide 10% match funds.

Account 2049-Administration

Commissioner Stamper stated that the CenterState project has not stayed on schedule.

Commissioner Miller stated that she had an opportunity to view the plans for the CenterState project.

Commissioner Stamper stated that he is not convinced that construction will begin on schedule.

Commissioner Miller asked how the department would address crack/sealing.

Frank Abart stated that 1999 was an extremely dry year and very hard on the surfaces. He stated that the dry weather caused shrinkage and created cracks.

Frank Abart stated that the department has developed a method to address crack/sealing and would probably be able to fix 10% of the cracks before winter.

Frank Abart stated that there are three people in charge of brushcutting; one in the north, one in the south, and one for the urban area.

Commissioner Miller stated that the department needs to develop a better plan for brushcutting.

Frank Abart stated that it was hard to develop a better system with the present staff.

Commissioner Miller suggested that the department utilize temporary labor.

Commissioner Vogt stated that it would be hard to find temporary labor for this type of work.

Commissioner Miller stated that she was as concerned about the brush as she was about the mowing.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there was anyone that wished to give comments on the Public Works department portion of the public hearing.

There was no one present that wished to give comments.

***Central MO Humane Societies***

Steve Finch, Director stated that during 1999, the organization had taken in 7000 animals. He stated that 70% of those animals belonged to Boone County residents. He stated that most of the animals were dogs and cats.

Steve Finch stated that the Humane Society provides shelter and new homes for animals when possible. He stated that in those instances when they are not able to provide homes for the animals, the animals are euthanized. He stated that the organization receives 900 calls for strays, lost animals, and animals that have been injured/or are in distress.

Steve Finch stated that the organization performed educational outreach for about 35 groups in 1999. He stated that the organization also performed 200 welfare investigations a year.

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Steve Finch stated that the organization appreciated the assistance that it receives from Boone County. He stated that the gross budget of Central Humane Societies for 1999 was \$347,000.

Commissioner Stamper asked if the organization was aware that the Health Department had requested extended coverage hours.

Steve Finch stated that the organization contracts for that service. He stated that they have negotiated for those services from the City of Columbia in the past.

Steve Finch also noted that the organization has an open access policy that allows them to accept animals from other areas. He stated that they do not charge for the services provided to those areas, however they do ask for donations.

Steve Finch stated that the organization has an arrangement with small communities (to whom they provide services) that they will pay a per-animal fee for the promotion of humane treatment of animals. He stated that the organization provides services to nearly 500 animals from those small communities at a rate of about \$5 per animal (for a total of \$2500).

Commissioner Miller asked Steve Finch what percentage of the animals are adopted.

Steve Finch stated that about 50% of abandoned animals and 30% of the animals that are brought in are adopted.

Steve Finch expressed his appreciation for the funds that Boone County provides to the organization.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there was anyone that wished to comment on this portion of the public hearing.

There was no one that wished to speak.

The County Commission thanked Steve Finch for coming.

***Soil & Water Conservation District***

Caroline Todd and Kevin Mortz were present on behalf of the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Caroline Todd, District Manager stated that the Soil & Water Conservation District office handles stormwater management issues, etc. She stated that they have requested additional funds to redo the plat books. She stated that in the past the County Commission provided \$10,000 for the production of those plat books.

Commissioner Stamper stated that the County aided in the production of those plat books previously. He noted however that this expenditure was not regular or given every time the plat books are produced.

June Pitchford stated that \$1,000 above level funding was included in the budget for the Soil & Water Conservation District.

Commissioner Stamper asked Caroline Todd to elaborate on how the Soil & Water Conservation District would spend the additional \$5,000.

Caroline Todd stated that the plat books would cost \$24,500. She stated that they would provide the County with its own set of the plat books. She stated that she believed that the County would receive 64 plat books. She noted that Public Works had purchased those plat books in the past, however the Soil & Water Conservation District would supply those plat books to Public Works free of charge if they received the additional funds.

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Commissioner Miller asked Caroline Todd to give the statistics on how many plats and projects the Soil & Water Conservation District reviews.

Caroline Todd stated that in 1998, the Soil & Water Conservation District reviewed 20 subdivision plat and performed 10 environmental site reviews. She stated that they assisted 150 landowners in different stormwater issues. She stated that these services were in addition to the regular services provided to the County. She stated that they performed \$100,00 in cost-share for landowners as well, which was \$20,000 more than the previous year. She stated that they projected the figure to be close to \$117,000 by the end of 1999.

Caroline Todd stated that there was a 10% increase in plat reviews since 1998.

Commissioner Miller stated that there are many things that the County Commission and the Soil & Water Conservation District work together on such as onsite sewer, stream teams, etc. She stated that the Soil & Water Conservation District has brought the Public Works Department to a level of service that had not been afforded before.

Caroline Todd stated that the Soil & Water Conservation District is one of the only offices in the State of MO that has an Urban Conservationist.

June Pitchford stated that Caroline Todd had informed her earlier that the MO Department of Natural Resources has not addressed the increased need for funding for administrative support, which was the primary reason for the supplemental request from the County.

Caroline Todd stated that MO DNR informed them that the Soil & Water Conservation District could receive funds next year to address that need. She stated that MO DNR would not automatically provide those funds in future years. She stated that the issue would have to be revisited on an annual basis.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there was anyone that wished to give comments on this portion of the hearing.

There was no one present who wished to speak.

The County Commission thanked the representatives from the Soil & Water Conservation District for coming.

***Family Health Center***

Bob Bailey, Gloria Croll (Executive Director), Larry Harris, and Andy Quint were present on behalf of the Family Health Center.

Bob Bailey stated that 1999 was an exciting and challenging year for the Family Health Center. He stated that Larry Harris is the new CFO for the Family Health Center who has a passion for public health.

Bob Bailey stated that in 1999, the Family Health Center had 17,100 patient visits, 90% of which were residents of Boone County. He noted that the Family Health Center had a 1.77 million budget last year. He stated that the proposed budget for the year 2000 is 2.33 million. He stated that one of the things that contributed to the increase in the year 2000 Budget is the fact that the Family Health Center applied and received a 3-yr grant that would provide \$550,000 per year for primary and preventive care services for the uninsured. He stated that the grant would require the Family Health Center to double the size of its practice.

Bob Bailey stated that the Family Health Center also received a \$75,000 grant to upgrade their computer technology. He stated that the grant would allow the Family Health Center to add 2 ¼ positions to their staff. He stated that the Family Health Center would have two, new full-time Family Nurse Practitioners.

Bob Bailey stated that last year the Family Health Center moved from the Parkade Center into the Resource Center (on Vandiver Dr.). He stated that they increased their space from 5600 sq ft to

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9700sq ft. He stated that the increased space has made a huge difference in the efficiency of the center.

Bob Bailey stated that the Family Health Center continues to receive \$133,000 a year from Boone Hospital Center and the University Hospital and Clinics. He stated that the Family Health Center receives \$300,000 from Medicaid FRA. He also noted that they received a one-time \$250,000 grant through an Economic Development program spearheaded by Sen. Kit Bond.

Bob Bailey stated that 48% of the current patients are on Medicaid, 11% are on Medicare, and 30% are uninsured or self-pay. He stated that the uninsured or self-pay portion of the patients has decreased over the past few years. He stated that this is one of the reasons that they were present before the County Commission, to ask them for their continued support and commitment to the uninsured of Boone County. He stated that Family Health Center is requesting \$175,000 from Boone County for the year 2000.

Bob Bailey introduced Dr. Andy Quint, Medical Director of the Family Health Center and Gloria Croll, Executive Director, and Larry Harris, CFO.

Dr. Andy Quint noted that the Family Health Center is basically seeing the same patients. He stated that a number of patients that were self-pay in the past are now Medicaid patients. He also noted that the drug companies that supply medicine for uninsured people are now requiring that those people first apply for Medicaid. He noted that CHIP, the Child Help Initiative, is responsible for the major shift in the number of patients (once self-pay) who are now receiving Medicaid. He stated that a number of people had given up on ever receiving Medicaid, but Gov. Carnahan fought for CHIP in order to help those people receive Medicaid.

Gloria Croll stated that the Family Health Center was lucky to receive the New Start grant. She stated that New Start grants are not offered every year. She stated that it is a competitive grant. She stated that the Community Health Needs Assessment (1998) was extremely helpful in the documentation of the data needed for the grant.

Gloria Croll noted that the Family Health Center has an excellent program and excellent providers who are passionate about public health. She stated that they are willing to take on complexity and the tough issues of serving this population. She stated that the Community Health grant (330) is a safety net for community health providers. She stated that the (330) New Start grant was only for the purposes of expansion however, and did not help the center with subsidizing the deficit from its current patient load. She noted that this deficit (\$207,000) was one of the major reasons that the Family Health Center was present to request additional funds.

Dr. Andy Quint stated that the Family Health Center is not even close to meeting the need. He stated that the Family Health Center would have to increase productivity. He noted that the Family Health Center currently provide comprehensive, primary care, however there are other services that the center could offer such as stop-smoking programs.

Commissioner Stamper asked if those types of programs were generally found under public health care. He asked if the Health Department would establish and provide those types of programs.

Dr. Andy Quint stated that the Health Department would provide those services for the overall community, but the individual patient visiting the center (who has other health related problems) does not have access to those kind of programs (cancer screenings, preventive eye and foot care, preventive dental care, etc.).

Commissioner Stamper asked the representatives from the Family Health Center to elaborate on what their other funding partners will be doing/providing in the upcoming year.

Larry Harris, CFO stated that the University Hospital & Clinics and Boone Hospital Center would be maintaining their contribution at the \$135,000 level as they have over the past few years. He stated that United Way has increased their contribution by \$8,000 to a gross of \$59,000 which includes \$36,000 (general funding), \$8,000 (dental care), and \$10,000 (supplemental for medication). He stated that the Family Health Center is generating about \$461,000 and spending about \$4,000 for dental, \$33,000 for eye exams, \$29,000 for unreimbursed pharmacy expenses,

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\$54,000 for social worker and a financial counselor, \$525,000 for indigent care program (and sliding fee scale).

Larry Harris stated that the Family Health Center is not guaranteed that the FRA grant will continue.

Commissioner Stamper stated that in the past the Family Health Center has been principally funded through the Healthcare ProfitShare, which is now a dwindling resource. He stated that it would behoove everyone to look at the long-term implications. He noted the possibility that Boone Hospital Center could be released and the Healthcare ProfitShare funds could disappear completely. He stated that he was not certain about the amount of money, if any, the County would receive in Healthcare ProfitShare funds in the Spring of 2000.

Bob Bailey stated that the funds that are received from the Healthcare ProfitShare are funds that he believes should be funneled into this kind of (Family Health Center) operation.

Commissioner Stamper stated the County officials had a lot of heart-to-heart conversations on that subject as well. He stated that the County would meet with the Hospital Trustees tomorrow to communicate the fact that the County needs to know if the Hospital will renew its lease or what their future plans are.

Commissioner Stamper stated that one of the ideas the County would like to put on the table is the notion of Boone Hospital Center taking a greater role in public health and supporting ventures of this nature.

Bob Bailey stated that he supported the County endeavoring to get Boone Hospital Center to take a more active role.

Commissioner Miller asked if there was still interest in the Family Health Center working with the Health Department.

Bob Bailey stated that the Family Health Center is very much interested in that. He stated that he and Gloria Croll met with Stephanie Browning, Mary Martin, and the Chair of the Health Department. He stated that Stephanie Browning is very interested in a more cooperative role. He stated that Stephanie Browning understands that the Family Health Center has a superior product to offer from a clinical perspective. He stated that they had a very healthy conversation and generated some very good ideas.

The County Commission thanked the Family Health Center for all of their hard work.

Bob Bailey thanked the County Commission for continuing to provide support to the Family Health Center in very difficult times.

Commissioner Stamper asked if there was anyone present who wished to give comments in this portion of the hearing.

There was no one present that wished to give comments.

The hearing adjourned at 5:30pm.

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Attest:

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Don Stamper  
Presiding Commissioner

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Wendy S. Noren  
Clerk of the County Commission

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Karen M. Miller  
District I Commissioner

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Linda Vogt  
District II Commissioner