

Special Meeting – Budget Hearings September 9, 2013

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Inyo, State of California, met in special session to conduct Budget Hearings at the hour of 9:00 a.m., on Monday, September 9, 2013, in the Board of Supervisors Room, County Administrative Center, Independence, with the following Supervisors present: Chairperson Linda Arcularius presiding, Jeff Griffiths, Rick Pucci, Mark Tillemans and Matt Kingsley. The County Administrator, Mr. Kevin Carunchio, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comment The Chairperson announced the public comment period and there was no one from the public wishing to address the Board.

Budget Message The County Administrator presented the FY 2013-2014 Budget Message. Mr. Carunchio provided the Board with a hard copy of the Budget Message PowerPoint presentation, and proceeded with the overview of this year's budget. He highlighted many of the differences between last year's Board approved budget and this year's CAO Recommended Budget, noting the reasons for the changes. He thanked the Auditor-Controller, Ms. Amy Shepherd and the Budget Analyst, Ms. Randi Chegwidan, for their support in preparing this year's budget and acknowledged and thanked the Department Heads for their efforts to control departmental spending with little impact to the services they provide. Mr. Carunchio explained that the budget as presented is a \$81,447,453 spending plans for the County. Mr. Carunchio emphasized and detailed many areas of the budget. He talked about the importance of fund balance and salary savings, noting specifically that there is sufficient budget to staff the libraries using temporary employees for about 9 months. He went on to explain that he expects the Library Director to work with the Sr. Deputy County Administrator to bring back a long-term staffing and funding plan, with associated operational hours impacts, for the libraries prior to the end of the 9 months. He said that he wanted the Board to be forewarned that currently the libraries are maintained at historic levels, however if there are no options available when they come back in March, it will require that library hours be curtailed without a more formal plan. The Board and Mr. Carunchio discussed various items identified in the budget message, including fund balance, the use of general fund dollars to fund the County of Inyo's ICGold Program, deferred maintenance, salary savings and the impact on future budgets as the salary savings diminish, anticipated increases in personnel costs, PERS retiree health costs, funding of OPEB, funding for the Natural Resources budget, lack of contingencies, revenue realization in the future, researching alternatives to how services are delivered, anticipated budget amendments, funding in anticipation of labor contracts that may be negotiated, the future impacts of those labor contracts, alternative approaches to providing services, and the development of a course titled "Creative Budget Solutions and Innovative Service Design," with the Board supporting a future workshop on the course in Inyo County. The Auditor-Controller, Ms. Amy Shepherd certified the fund balance at \$3,976,086. The County Administrator noted that there is an additional \$142,738 that is realized from the certified fund balance being higher than that estimated in the Budget, and noted some of the areas where additional appropriations could be made, i.e., OPEB Trust, Natural Resources Budget, Contingencies, etc.

Departmental Budgets	The Board proceeded to review the Departmental budgets discussing the various budgets with Department Heads, including major policy considerations identified in the Departments' budget narratives.
Recess/ Reconvene	The Chairperson recessed the special meeting at 12:00 p.m., to reconvene at 1:00 p.m., with all Board Members present.
Departmental Budgets	The Board continued its discussions with the Department Heads concerning their respective budgets.
Budget Adoption	The Board reviewed the budget message, discussing debt service, the need to fund the OPEB Trust, and whether to increase contingencies or place the additional \$142,728 realized in fund balance in reserves. The Board had a lengthy discussion concerning the Grants-in-Support Budget and the Advertising County Resources Budget. The Board specifically discussed at great length the idea of providing line item funding for the Lone Pine Chamber so that it is not required to compete for Community Sponsorship Grant funding to produce the Inyo County Visitor's Guide each year, and the Bishop Chamber of Commerce in recognition of the work it does as a Visitors Center for the northern portion of the County. The Board and staff discussed alternatives for funding these line item allocations, include reducing current funds to some of the agencies, using the increase in the general fund balance, and reducing line item allocations in various other budgets to accommodate the funds. The Board also discussed some of the ramifications to the various organizations and departments should the Board decide to reduce funding. The general consensus of the Board was that the concept of a northern Inyo County visitors center, along with County seed funding, is a idea worth pursuing. After further discussion regarding the funding provided for various projects and programs through the Advertising County Resources Budget and the Grants-in-Support Budget, the Board decided to continue the discussion to a future meeting and proceed with the adoption of the budget as recommended and amended by the County Administrator as follows:

Moved by Supervisor Tillemans and seconded by Supervisor Griffiths to

- A) adopt the FY 2013-2014 Department Budgets as recommended and amended by the County Administrator, to include an additional \$101,736 to fund a Vegetation Scientist in the Water Department, an additional \$34,537 in the non-general fund Maternal Child Health Program Budget for part-time funding, and to allocate the increase of \$142,738 in the certified fund balance as follows: \$100,000 in the OPEB Trust, \$21,369 in the ACO budget, and \$21,369 in the Economic Stabilization Fund;
- B) authorize and direct the County Administrator and Auditor Controller to approve and make payments greater than \$10,000 to the Inter-Agency Visitor Center, Cal Expo Exhibit, and Tri-Country Fairgrounds as provided for in the Advertising County Resources budget;
- C) authorize and direct the County Administrator to develop and execute contracts with all Grants-in-Support program funding recipients identified in the Grants-in-Support Budget; and
- D) Set the adoption of the Final Budget for September 17, 2013.

Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

The Chairperson adjourned the FY 2013-2014 Budget Hearings at 5:05 p.m.

Chairperson, Inyo County Board of Supervisors

*Attest: KEVIN D. CARUNCHIO
Clerk of the Board*

by: _____
Patricia Gunsolley, Assistant