

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES – SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS

LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

SPECIAL MEETING – BUDGET PLANNING SESSION - FY2007

LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN

June 27, 2006

Meeting was called to order by Chairman Ritter. Members present: Buysse, Fenske, Goodenow, Nelson, Ritter, County Administrator Stomberg, and Auditor/Treasurer Van Overbeke.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Stomberg presented a power point on past, current and future projects. Discussions on the County's mission, future goals, opportunities, threats, available resources, budget. The state has not mandated a levy limit, so it will be up to the commissioners to set the levy for 2007. For this years budget process Stomberg is going to have the departments brush up on their business plans, future goals and give an explanation on budget increases.

Discussion with Shawn Strong on sharing scanner and GIS services. Public Works Director Benson mentioned that we may need to look at an additional GIS specialist in order to share services and keep growing. GIS is now working with Marshall Municipal Utilities and helping other counties.

Discussion with Ron Krause on the roof of the building, floor coverings, painting, general maintenance of the buildings.

Discussion on Marshall being a regional hub, Lyon County being a regional leader, consolidation of court system, larger court rooms, retirements, long term leases, sharing offices, and a new jail.

Goodenow stated that we should continue to be a regional leader; the community wants to be a leader. There will be a cost, but the rewards will be there – by pooling offices together we can get more specialists and qualified individuals.

Fenske state we should continue with the County's mission and goals and continue to be a regional leader.

Discussion with John Biren on the flood plan maps, flood retention, water resource center, clean water partnership, Area II retention projects, bonding.

Discussion on the regional landfill, recycling center, quality differs from person to person, available resources, City of Balaton wanting to increase population with the new development, county and state roads, and budget limits.

Meeting was recessed.

Meeting called back to order.

Ritter – the board needs to think about the where we want to set the levy. Do we have any numbers from the departments yet? Stomberg – we will be working on budgets in July. Fenske – do we know what the market value increase will be? Stomberg – this will only be a proposed levy for the truth in taxation – you can always go down but can not increase levy.

Discussion on the current merit system, step system, learning job duties, cost of living, Brown County's system, if COLA is first or second on the scales, merit system is performance based whereas a step system is automatic with no consideration of performance. Stomberg will get more information for the board. Discussion on the cafeteria plan, VEBA plan, the \$600 contribution from the County and AppleTree to join the VEBA plan, health insurance – should be getting rates in August, long term liability. Discussion on GASB 43 and 45 – long term cost for employees insurance must be carried on the financial statements.

Sheriff Dahl – the Board must consider that we have a history with arbitration with sheriff's union on the current merit system and that the union has not been successful in getting a cost of living for the deputies.

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Recorder Barker – the board really needs to consider the merit system versus the step system. The county changed to the merit system to award the employees for their performance. With the past step system the employees received a pay increase just for coming to work. With the current system it takes employees 5 to 8 years to know their jobs but they are still learning.

Capital Improvement Budget – servers, copiers, furniture, buildings, cars, funding.

Meeting adjourned.

Stephen Ritter, Chairman of the Lyon County
Board of Commissioners

Attest: _____
Paula Van Overbeke, Lyon County
Auditor/Treasurer