

MINUTES OF FINAL BUDGET HEARINGS FY 1995/96 FOR THE COUNTY OF  
CALAVERAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1995

PRESENT: Merita Callaway, Chair; Thomas Tryon, Vice-Chair; Michael Dell'Orto, Tom Taylor and Terri Bailey, Supervisors; Brent Harrington, County Administrative Officer; Clay Hawkins, Financial Analyst; Jeanne Boyce, Administrative Analyst; Linda Carter, Auditor-Controller; Chris Hollingshead, Accountant Auditor; and Mary Jane Giuffra, Supervising Board Clerk

ABSENT: None

Meeting recorded on Cassettes 95-41F, 95-41G, and 95-41H

1:40 p.m.: Chair Callaway reconvened the Board in Continued Final Budget Hearings FY 1995/96.

(95-41F, I, 550, and cont'd to Side II) CAO Harrington presented an informational sheet on the status of the budget reviewing occurrences of last week for the benefit of those in the audience who may not have been present. CAO's Exhibits "A" through "I" (see attached) were then reviewed; specifically "A" re: additional expenses in FY 96/97 which will amount to approximately \$500,000; and "B" re: Expense Issues, Revenue Issues and Other Issues which must be resolved in order to balance this year's budget. According to Building Official Waller, if the Board adopts the new Uniform Building Codes, Building Permit Fees could be increased resulting in additional revenues of \$105,000. The Auditor is suggesting that A-87 costs be deleted from non-grantee departments, with the exception of the Ag Dept. and Environmental Health. Transportation planning projects will be transferred from Public Works to the Planning Dept. A proposed 39 hour work week would result in an approximate savings of \$200,000 in the General Fund. If everyone could be furloughed for one day the County could save \$15,644. If AB 818 passes the Assessor's Office could receive funding in the amount of \$110,000. The remainder of CAO's exhibits were reviewed as follows: "C" re: Sheriff's reductions; "D" re: Transportation Planner; "E" re: Salary savings per furlough day; "F" re: Building Dept. staff reductions vs fee increases; "G" re: Surveyor's fees; "H" re: TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax; and "I" re: Asset Forfeiture.

(95-41F, II, 490) Ray Waller, Building Official, spoke re: possible increases in fees for the Building Dept. and On-Site-Sewage and Supervisor Tryon requested that he check fees with neighboring counties.

(95-41F, II, 585, and cont'd to 95-41G) Bill Ratterman, Assessor, clarified AB 818 indicating that if staff drops below the 1994/95 and 1995/96 levels, we will not be eligible for the funds. He requested that \$3,500 be re-instated in his budget to maintain one position for a short time pending passage of said legislation. Discussion followed.

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(95-41G, I, 180) Karen Varni, County Clerk/Recorder, spoke regarding the need to implement a new computer system in Elections to meet the requirements of the Motor-Voter Legislation. There will be no state or federal reimbursement. The cost for said system will be distributed over a three year period and will not exceed \$60,000 for the first year. General Fund monies will be required for this purchase. Discussion followed.

(95-41G, I, 313) The Board returned to Exhibit "B" for the purpose of reconsidering \$3,500 for the Assessor's Office, \$60,000 for Elections, and \$20,000 for a Dispatch Study.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Gary Kuntz, Vice-President of the Deputy Sheriffs Association, submitted public responses to their advertisements re: proposed cuts for the Sheriffs Office. Barbara Hurlbut, Murphys Library, stated that she would prefer that Murphys Branch be maintained as a separate library from the Angels Camp Branch.

**BOARD DELIBERATIONS** (95-41G, I, 395 and Side II): Board Members stated their preferences with regard to the following: closure of the Angels Camp and Valley Springs Branch Libraries; reduction of Surveyor's Office staff; reduction of County Counsel's staff; reduction of Environmental Health staff; Sheriff's request for \$3,568 for overtime and \$12,904 for various line item reimbursements; Jail's request for a Correctional Officer; Dispatch's request for \$2,800 for various line item reinstatements; increase in TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) from 6% to 8% with additional funding in the amount of \$20,000 to go to the Lodging and Visitor's Association; funding for the Constable position; transfer of \$30,000 from Court Fine Revenues in the Road Department's budget to the General Fund; increases in Surveyor's fees, On-Site-Sewage fees, and Building Dept. fees; \$1,800 donation from Sierra Engineering to the Surveyor's Office to help maintain current staff levels; funding for EDC (Economic Development Co.); additional revenues of \$1,375 re: error in allocations for Ng expenses; additional revenues of \$2,100 in the Ag Dept.; \$60,000 for a computer for Elections; \$20,000 for a Regional Dispatch Study; possible implementation of one furlough day. **A MAJORITY OF THE BOARD APPROVED THE FOLLOWING:** Reinstate the Valley Springs and Angels Camp Branch Libraries at a cost of \$6,410; reinstate staff for the Surveyor's Office at a cost of \$7,484; reinstate staff for County Counsel's Office at a cost of \$8,374; reinstate \$2,800 for Dispatch to be offset by payment from EMS (Emergency Medical Services); reinstate \$3,568 for Sheriff's overtime and \$29,625 for a Correctional Officer; include \$1,000 in extra-hire for the Constable; authorize \$20,000 for a Regional Dispatch Study; increase TOT from 6% to 8% (\$20,000 already included in revenues for this year's budget) with no additional funding for the Lodging Association this fiscal year; reinstate \$6,912 for Environmental Health staff; fund EDC this year. **NET RESULTS:** additional expenditures of \$76,461.

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(95-45G, II, 175, and cont'd to 95-41H) Discussions resumed re: increases to Building Permit fees and a majority of the Board was not in favor of maximum increases at this time. They will support an increase of 5% of the aforementioned \$105,000 and increases in On-Site-Sewage fees. Dell'Orto changed his position on the TOT increase indicating that he would not support it unless the Board agrees to the contribution requested by the Lodging Association. He asked the Board to reconsider but the end results were 3-2 to increase the TOT from 6% to 8% with no additional funding for the Lodging Association this year. CAO Harrington suggested that EDC be notified that after the Board's commitment to them is ended, they will no longer be funded. Harrington further stated that, in his opinion, the County Clerk still has not justified the need for a computer system for Elections.

**FINAL DECISIONS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET:** In order to balance the budget for FY 1995/96, a majority of the Board approved the following: Include the following revenues: increases in Building Dept. fees - \$5,000; "revenue" (cost recovery in Agriculture - \$2,100; Ng revenues - \$1,375; donation from Sierra Engineering - \$1,800; increases in Surveyor's fees - \$4,828; increases in On-Site-Sewage fees - \$17,500; Court Fines from Road Dept. - \$30,000. This left a deficit of \$13,858. It was decided to balance the budget by deleting overtime for the Sheriff at \$3,500 and by implementing one furlough day at a savings of approximately \$15,000.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to consider, Chair Callaway declared that the Final Budget Hearings for Fiscal Year 1995/96 were concluded. The Board will reconvene in a Regular Meeting at 7:00 p.m., October 2, 1995.

CHAIR

ATTEST:

CLERK