

## **FINANCE AND EQUALIZATION COMMITTEE MEETING**

The Finance and Equalization Committee Meeting was called to order, in the Board Conference Room of the Oceana County Courthouse, by Chairperson Hardy on Tuesday, September 21, 2021, at 9:07 a.m. The purpose of this meeting is to review the proposed budget for 2022.

Roll was called. Present: Ms. Meyette, Mr. Morse, Mr. Erickson, Mr. Beggs, Mr. Christians, Mr. Walker, and Mr. Hardy.

Dr. Sobie, Oceana County Administrator, Ms. Stacey Becker, Human Resources and Financial Coordinator; and Ms. Anderson, Oceana County Clerk, were also present.

There was no public comment at this time.

Dr. Sobie began by providing a brief overview of how the budget workshop would proceed. There is an estimated General Fund shortfall of approximately \$421,000 for Fiscal Year 2022. Each Commissioner was provided with a budget workbook prior to the meeting allowing a detailed review of each funds' line item accounts for departments and courts.

Mr. Walker believes that learning the inner workings of each department will be beneficial for the Commissioners. Mr. Erickson agreed and mentioned that going through the budget would give Commissioners a good idea of expenses that might be duplicated. This was a topic that was discussed at the Strategic Planning Meeting held on September 18, 2021.

Mr. Beggs inquired as to what the General Fund Reserve balance was. Dr. Sobie replied that at the end of 2020, the balance was approximately \$5.3 million. Mr. Walker wondered what the projected fund equity would be at the end of 2021. Without current information about remaining revenue and expenditures, it's difficult to predict but Dr. Sobie estimated it to be in the same \$5 million range.

Ms. Meyette requested clarification regarding the General Fund Reserve on the last page of the budget workbook. Dr. Sobie noted that monthly the Treasurer's Office posts a journal entry that updates the property tax revenue collected. The workbook does not reflect current activity because of the date the workbook was printed.

The initial 2022 budget shortfall is approximately \$421,477. Dr. Sobie recommended several reductions to reduce the shortfall. After extensive discussion, the Commissioners directed Dr. Sobie to apply certain changes that would impact the shortfall depending on budgetary needs. The shortfall was initially adjusted to \$438,089; but the Commissioners further recognized that some expenditures have not yet been calculated and applied to the budget, which will increase the shortfall. To achieve a balanced budget, Dr. Sobie will commit a portion of the General Fund's Reserves.

Commissioners discussed a request to add an additional corrections officer to the Sheriff's Department and an additional attorney to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. A decision was made for Fiscal Year 2022, that neither position would be placed in the budget but that Commissioners will continue to consider the additional corrections officer position early next year.

Commissioners discussed the budget for Parks and Recreation and will provide an appropriation of \$29,000. \$20,000 will come from the General Fund, and \$9,000 will come from the inactive Bike Trail Fund that has an unused fund balance. Commissioners commented on the great job that the Parks & Recreation Commission is doing and the grants and private

donations they've received to support county parks. Dr. Sobie reviewed a list of capital project funding requests that may be considered at a later date, possibly using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act.

Discussion ensued regarding an increase in elected officials' salaries, as well as an increase for cost of living for non-union employees. Elected officials will receive a flat amount increase and non-union employees will receive a percentage increase for cost of living.

There was no information available regarding health insurance costs for Fiscal Year 2022 at this time.

Due to late budget submissions, or missing submissions, there will still be some work to be done to finalize the Fiscal Year 2022 budget.

Each Commissioner had valid questions, responses, and suggestions for the Fiscal Year 2022 budget workshop. Dr. Sobie was directed to review the budget and fine tune it for presentation and formal adoption in October.

There was no public comment at this time.

There being no further business to discuss, Chairman Hardy adjourned the meeting at 3:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy L. Anderson  
Oceana County Clerk