

BUDGET & SALARY REVIEW COMMITTEE
February 22, 2010

PRESENT:
Art Baer - Chairman
Roy Brown
Elizabeth Young
Jesse DeGroot

ABSENT:
Larry Andrews - notified
Bartholomew Delaney -notified

ALSO PRESENT:
Becky Leader- Dep. Clerk
Ronald Caponera
John Rutkey
David Ames
Bernard Kelleher
Paul Mossman
Michael Benvenuto
Virginia Martin
Kenneth Wilber
David Robinson
Robert Fitzsimmons
Captain Bartlett
Cathy Hogencamp

PRESS: 0

Chairman Baer called the meeting to order at 10:03A.M.

Central Services: D. Ames discussed the filling of a Central Garage mechanics position. The vacancy is due to a retirement that will take place March 30, 2010. The garage currently used handles 55 Sheriff vehicles, and 59 Central Garage vehicles. A motion was made by R. Brown and seconded by E. Young to start the process to hire someone for this.

D. Ames also discussed the need to purchase a Mini Van from this year's budget. It would cost around \$17,000. He has it budgeted for the second quarter. A. Baer asked if it would be possible to hold off until next month and D. Ames said that it would be. Request put on hold until next month.

Highway: B. Kelleher requested to fill two vacant positions of Road Foreman. Both positions are vacant due to retirement. He requested to fill two positions of Motor Equipment Operator II which would become vacant upon approval to fill the subsequent filling of the Road Foreman positions. These would be filled promotionally from within the department. He also requested to fill two positions of Motor Equipment Operator I which would become vacant upon filling the positions of Motor Equipment Operator II. These positions he would fill from the outside at the Step I starting salary. A. Baer pointed out that money is getting tighter and they are trying to slow everything down until they can get more visibility with what is going on with the state. It was decided that he would fill the two Road Forman positions with two Motor Equipment Operator II employees. He would then fill the vacant Motor Equipment Operator II positions promotionally with Motor Equipment Operator I employees. He would hire one person to replace a Motor Equipment Operator I position and leave one vacant for the time being.

B. Kellaher and D. Robinson then discussed that they had had an After Hours Watchman resign over the past weekend. They requested to hire a new employee to fill this position. A. Baer asked if there were alternative ways to cover the responsibilities of this position. The duties of the employee were discussed. It was noted that the position has many diverse duties and it would be hard to have another County Department cover them all. It was also noted that it would be cheaper to hire a new employee then to pay current employees overtime. Motion made by R. Brown to hire a new After Hours Watchman, seconded by E. Young, motion carried. A. Baer would like to see a report on the call volume for the last month of calls.

Department of Social Services – P. Mossman requested authorization to amend the 2010 DSS budget to allow for administration of \$60,267 allocated to DSS from the Federal Child Care Stimulus Funds. The revenue and expenditure accounts are to be established by the Columbia

County Treasurer. These funds are from New Your State's allocation received under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) Public Law 111-5. Funds will be used to provide administrative support to legally operating Columbia County Day Care Centers. The money is 100% federal funds. There is no local cost. Motion to except the money by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGrootd, motion carried.

Human Resources – J. Rutkey requested permission to hire a County Controller/ Auditor. Motion made by R. Brown, seconded by E. young, motion carried.

J. Rutkey then requested a resolution authorizing the 2009 three and a quarter percent raise and the 2010 two percent raise for the Deputy Sheriff and the Chief Corrections Officer. Motion made by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGrootd.

Probation – M. Benvenuto requested to abolish a Senior Probation Officer position that is currently vacant and replace it with another Probation Officer position to save the County money. This position was approved at the November 2009 Budget and Salary meeting but was but on a 90 day hold to be discussed again.

There was discussion on the fact that case loads are going up with PINS and Juvenile Placement programs. It was decided that they should look into The Department of Social Services hiring a new employee to help with this work load rather than having Probation hire a new employee. DSS may be reimbursed from the State and the Probation Department would not, so it would be more cost effective to have DSS hire someone. M. Benvenuto and P. Mossman will discuss this and address the Budget and Salary Committee next month.

M. Benvenuto then discussed another problem his department is having with drug testing. He explained that when a Judge orders a drug test, the person is immediacy send to the Probation Department. This adds a very large case load to the department. DSS stepped in a month and a half ago and contracted with Columbia Memorial Hospital to take on the Article 10s from the Probation Department. They would like all of the drug tests to be sent to Columbia Memorial and would need a budget amendment for \$3,000. P. Mossman and M. Benvenuto will discuss this idea and bring it back to the committee next month.

M. Benvenuto discussed the second part of Leandra's Law which will also be adding a large work load to his department. In August of this year anyone convicted of drinking and driving has to have an Ignition Interlock device installed in their car, and it would fall on the Probation Department to monitor it. He is bringing this up to the Committee for now, and will put together reports and numbers to be looked at in the coming months.

County Attorney: R. Fitzsimmons requested permission to transfer \$150,000 from the Contingency account to the County Attorney's account to cover Assigned Council Fees. Motion made by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGrootd, carried.

Sheriff's Office: Captain Bartlett requested a resolution to fill one (1) full- time Communication Officer position due to retirement. Base Salary - \$47,968.00, starting - \$35,976.00. A. Baer requested that the Captain look into if the duties of this position could be transferred to the Emergency 911 department rather than hiring someone. He would also like him to look into what other Counties are doing to address similar problems. This resolution is put on hold until next month.

Captain Barlett then discussed that the State Police are being pulled out of schools. The Superintendent of Taconic Hills School District has approached him to ask if they would be interested in using one of their officers for school security. The school would pay for half of his salary, but not the whole salary because the Sheriff's Department would use him when school was not in session. C. Hogencamp suggested that the school hire a security guard. A. Baer said it would not be a good idea to hire an officer because it would allow the other schools in the County to request the same thing.

The Captain discussed the need for a Deputy to be assigned to the 325 State Street Building. They would need a part time deputy not in uniform. It was decided that the Departments at 325 State Street should use money out of their budgets for this. R. Brown said he would need a figure of cost per year and they would need to know what hours they would need a Deputy there.

The Controller presented his 2010 budget. Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

Elections: V. Martin requested a resolution to create and fill a full-time temporary position of Election Specialist, from 2.5.10 to 5.5.10, at \$19.06954/hour, with no benefits. Motion to approve by J. DeGroot, seconded by E. Young, motion carried.

R. Brown announced that he would like to move the Committee meetings to the old Civil Service room. Motion made by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.

With no further business a motion to adjourn at 12:00 P.M. by E. Young, seconded by J. DeGroot, motion carried.