

**BOARD OF ADA COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES OF THE TENTATIVE BUDGET PRESENTATION
TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2015
6:00 P.M.**

The Board of Ada County Commissioners (Board) met this date in the Public Hearing Room of the Ada County Courthouse Complex to hear the preliminary budget presentation for the fiscal year 2015. Staff present: Chris Rich, Clerk's Office; Jan Bennetts, Prosecuting Attorney's Office; Bob McQuade, Assessor's Office; Dotti Owens, Coroner's Office, Stephen Bartlett, Sheriff's Office and Vicky McIntyre, Treasurer's Office. Minutes Recorder: Judy Morris.

I. IN THE MATTER OF CALL TO ORDER:

Commissioner Jim Tibbs called the meeting of the Ada County Commissioners to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. IN THE MATTER OF ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Jim Tibbs, Rick Yzaguirre and David L. Case were present.

III. NEW BUSINESS

- Tentative Budget

J. Tibbs introduced the elected officials. He explained the budget process and stated that the elected officials participated in the process. and are unanimously in favor of the tentative budget being presented. He opened the public hearing and turned the meeting over to Chris Rich.

C. Rich recognized his staff and acknowledged their involvement with the process. He discussed the Courthouse lease with Capital City Development Corporation (CCDC). He explained the County's decision to buyout the existing lease and the ultimate benefit of the County owning the Courthouse. He advised that no property tax money was levied for the lease payments or the lease buyout. He clarified this is a one-time \$31 million expense.

He discussed the impact of the recession on the County's finances and the use of savings to support ongoing expenses. He noted that the Board directed that FY16 budgets be held at or below FY15 budgets. He affirmed that all property tax supported budgets held to that request. He stated that Ada County has foregone more taxes than any other eligible district in the state of Idaho, accounting for 19% of the total foregone taxes. The compounded total amount of the foregone taxes by Ada County exceeds \$103 million. He explained that in order to get the County on solid fiscal footing, ongoing revenue needs to be increased to cover previously incurred ongoing expenses. Levying for the allowed 3% and \$1.7 million in foregone taxes puts the County on the right trajectory for a sustainable path.

He advised that that Board initiated a long term strategic planning effort to evaluate the County's capital needs as a whole. He explained the procedure and reviewed the capital projects that will occur in FY15. He stated the plan for major capital expenditures in FY15 totals a little over \$11,000,000. The Western Idaho Fair saved \$1,200,000 from gate receipts and rental revenue to build an administrative office and new fair entrance. The landfill saved \$3,000,000 from tipping fees for the acquisition of two additional generators that will generate electricity and develop an income stream and burn off methane gas. Parks budgeted \$600,000 savings from their dedicated levy and fees to match a federal grant that would bring in another \$500,000, which would bury the penitentiary canal beneath the greenbelt along the warm springs pathway. In IT, the \$1,400,000 will provide for needed replacement of backup data systems at the courthouse and Benjamin facility.

He discussed the Idaho Supreme Court's transition from a paper based case management system to a paperless e-court. This is a no cost option for the Clerk's office as they work on behalf of the Court. Although the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Public Defender's Office will receive certain compatible software modules, these offices will need to cover the costs for data migration, training and a module for the civil operation of the Prosecuting Attorney's office. The cost to migrate both offices to a new platform and acquire a new civil module will be

\$672,000. Funding this acquisition will come from savings from the current expense levy.

The Sheriff’s Department will integrate new jail security, records and jail management systems costing \$1,650,000. Construction of the New 911 Communications Center is budgeted at \$2,800,000. Both will be funded with savings from the current expense levy. The Emergency Communications Fund will use \$1,300,000 to obtain the telecommunications and dispatch infrastructure. The combined project cost for FY15 is \$4,100,000 with an additional \$3,200,000 needed to complete the new facility in FY16.

C. Rich said in closing that the proposed FY15 budget is \$255,000,000, of which \$99,000,000 is property taxes, \$94,000,000 is revenue, and \$62,000,000 is savings. Of that savings, \$37,000,000 is being used to pay off the lease on the courthouse, saving \$6,000,000 on future interest. This budget sets the County on a fiscally sustainable path and assures that when the public dials 911 they will get an answer. He concluded that the FY15 budget would still leave \$17,600,000 of foregone taxes.

D. Case thanked the Clerk for providing an in-depth overview of the fiscal year 2015 budget requests. He again recognized and expressed his appreciation to the County offices and departments for their work putting together a frugal and reasonable budget. He asked if anyone wanted to testify.

[There was no public testimony.]

D. Case discussed the next steps in the Budget process. The Board will set the Tentative Fiscal Year 2015 County Budget on July 22, 2014, and publish it on July 29, 2014. Comments will be accepted on the Budget until August 5, 2014, when the fiscal year final Budget will be adopted. He thanked everyone for taking the time to attend the hearing and closed the public hearing.

VI. IN THE MATTER OF RECESS:

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was recessed at 6:22 p.m.



Jim Tibbs, Chairman

ATTEST:



Christopher D. Rich, Ada County Clerk