

The Board of County Commissioners, in and for the County of Otero, State of New Mexico, met in a Budget Work session at the Otero County Courthouse in Alamogordo, County and State aforesaid. Meeting called to order by the Chairman at 1:30 PM, May 14, 2002; and he announced that reasonable notice for this meeting was given to the Alamogordo Daily News, Holloman Sunburst, Mountain Monthly, and to Radio Stations KPSA, KINN, and KYEE.

Those being present:

- Richard Zierlein Chairman
- Michael Nivison Member
- Ruth Hooser County Manager
- Ray Backstrom Administrative Office Manager
- LaDonna Adams Department Assistant
- Robyn Silva Deputy Clerk

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

1. The Commission continued discussion on the proposed budget for the 2002/2003 fiscal year.

Commissioner Zierlein stated that his suggestion on this budget is to approve it as is, and not to put any capital outlay or raises in at this time until we know what our revenues will be. We should wait to see what our year end revenues will be and make a decision on July 1, 2002. Commissioner Zierlein stated that if all of the departments are conservative between now and the end of the year, maybe there will be a chance that we can give the employees a little bit of a raise. He also requested that they remove \$100,000 out of the Road Department's budget. Mrs. Hooser stated that we have budgeted for insurance, a ten percent increase, but the medical

insurances have come back and told us it will be approximately 17 percent. She stated that the dental insurance has gone up five percent.

Commissioner Nivison stated that he concurs with Commissioner Zierlein, in that, we will have to wait until July 1, 2002 to see what revenues we have. He stated that maybe at that time we will be able to give the employees some sort of raise. Commissioner Zierlein stated that we will also look at possibly some capital outlay at that time also.

Commissioner Nivison made a motion to approve the preliminary budget as is, and to remove an additional \$100,000 out of road maintenance and to send this to the State for preliminary approval. Commissioner Zierlein seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion passed 2-0 with Commissioner McGinn absent.

Mrs. Hooser stated that we will still have some revenues that will come in for the next two months.

2. Commissioner Nivison stated that he had made a request from our Congressional Delegation for some additional money for the rehab on the Penasco Fire. The estimate is in the neighborhood of \$2,000,000. They have initially released from the emergency funds \$500,000 for watershed restoration and \$75,000 for technical assistance. We were told today that the Legislators will be making an announcement next week on the pilot project.

3. Mrs. Hooser stated that Mr. Hinkle has requested that the County Commission hold a Public Hearing to allow the people in the County that have junk on their property to defend themselves. They would like that this meeting be held at night. The Commission stated that they agree that a meeting should be held at night and that they will schedule it for sometime in June.

4. Mrs. Hooser stated that Ms. LaDonna Adams has contacted the gentleman that

originally installed the PA system in the County Commission room and that it will cost approximately \$900 to add another speaker for the public. Mrs. Hooser asked the Commission for direction. The Commission stated they would like staff to research this further to see if there is a more economical way to go.

The time being 2:00 PM, the Chairman adjourned the meeting.

DRAFT

Chairman

ATTEST:

Otero County Clerk

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Budget Work session held on May 14, 2002