

MINUTES OF FINAL BUDGET HEARINGS FY 1995/96 FOR THE COUNTY OF CALAVERAS, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 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 Cassette(s) 95-41 and 95-41A

2:30 p.m.: Chair Callaway reconvened the Board in Final Budget Hearings for FY 1995/96 then turned the meeting over to CAO Harrington for opening remarks. He stated that non-general departments are in fair shape but General Fund Departments are hurting. Said departments were directed to reduce budgets by 6.22% to help balance the budget. Harrington reviewed several areas of concern including reductions in reserves and contingencies then indicated that suggested use of other funds ie. Welfare Fund, Road Fund, Airport Fund, and Health Fund is either illegal or unwise. Discussion followed re: Land Use Trust and Trial Court Funds; proposed furloughs; and public protection Maintenance of Effort. Also reviewed were Exhibit "E" re: possible additional revenues through Environmental Health and Agriculture and through increase to Transient Occupancy Tax (TOT) from 6% to 8%. The CAO's overall recommendations were then reviewed. Exhibit "G" re: Sheriff's Budget Unit Reductions reflects total proposed cuts of \$180,598.00 which amounts to only 1.87% vs 6.22% required of other departments. No existing deputies are being cut - one position currently vacant will not be filled until January 1996 and one position that is being vacated in October will be left unfilled through the end of the fiscal year. The Sheriff's department is actually getting one new COPS Fast Position. Discussion followed re: lease/purchase and maintenance of Sheriff's vehicles. Exhibit "H" re: deleted positions and time reductions was also discussed. Harrington then referenced State Budget issues and items he would like to have discussed this year which include leaving DUI cases to remain with the Courts for collections; Court Consolidation and refilling of the Superior Court Judge's seat; centralized vehicle maintenance; regionalized emergency dispatch; standardization and possible reduction of public hours for departments; a selective hiring freeze; extra-hire practices; combining of departments; and the new financial computer system. He will also be requesting his staff to investigate furlough issues further;

Tryon requested clarification re: suggested "pool". Harrington responded indicating that it basically means that funds would go back into the general fund but not be specifically tied to the department freeing up the funds.

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(95-41, II, 220) Chair Callaway then opened the hearings for public comments and the following persons spoke: Roy Dillon, Dist. 2, requested justification of expenditures of over \$68,000 for the Economic Development Co. (EDC). Alice Raine stated concerns re: loss of jobs and the affect on our local economy. She then suggested cuts for department heads as well as miscellaneous employees and a survey of employees to see if they would be willing to take a small salary cut to keep deputies. Alice also addressed funding for EDC vs revenues they have brought to the county then suggested a .01 cent sales tax on containers to be earmarked for police protection and additional fees on new

construction to help pay for Sheriff's deputies. Ed Anderson spoke regarding the County Fire budget and an available building in Burson which is not being utilized; also, the Fire Warden's request for a new vehicle. Sherry Curtis spoke re: intent of Prop 13 and her priorities which are fire protection, police protection and roads. She also addressed the need for a new financial computer system.

(95-41, II, 489) Board Comments followed with Tryon stating his concerns re: last year's deficit and the expenditure of one-time monies of approximately \$450,000 then stressed the need to look at budget requirements for the next two years. He is also concerned with the no-growth economy and is disappointed with the Sheriff's failure to meet the Board's requests last year and this year re: budget cuts. Tryon warned against using one-time budget cuts and stated that we need to get expenditures in line with revenues and get the budget down to a sustainable level. He is opposed to increases in the TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax) and is uncomfortable with the use of Asset Forfeiture monies for the Sheriff's operational budget. Bailey stated that she is willing to raise fees to balance the budget and strongly supports the Sheriff's requests. Dell'Orto stressed the need to reduce staff, computerize, and consolidate departments to become more efficient. He is pleased with the Sheriff's budget and activities but is concerned with rumors that the Board is not meeting the requirements of Prop 172. Taylor has concerns re: services to the City of Angels; cuts in the Assessor's budget; Prop 172 funding; and is opposed to proposed cuts for Sheriff. Callaway related calls from her constituents on numerous issues (only 2 of which concerned the Sheriff's Office) then addressed the Board's commitment to EDC and the COPS Fast position for the Sheriff. She is willing to look at increasing the TOT; has concerns with Asset Forfeiture funds; and is opposed to raising fees.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct this day, final budget hearings were continued to 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, September 9, 1995.

ATTEST:

CHAIR

CLERK