

6/16/08 EFC Minutes

EFC Members Present: Representatives Ferland, Cloutier, Converse, Gottling

Other delegation members present: Franklin, Rodeschin

Other officials and employees present: Acting Administrator Chainis, DOC Superintendent Cunningham

Municipal official present: Assistant Claremont Mayor Austin

The chair, Rep. Ferland, called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. EFC began with consideration of a proposed \$1000 transfer request from the County Attorney's office. This transfer was not approved at the 6/9/08 meeting. Questions about the proposed transfers ensued with Mr. Chainis. Mr. Chainis indicated that the Commissioners would be meeting tomorrow to consider other transfers within the County Attorney's office. Consequently Rep. Converse made a motion, seconded by Rep. Gottling, to table the proposed transfer until the EFC's next meeting. The motion was approved on a 3 – 1 division vote with Rep. Ferland voting no. Rep. Ferland was strongly opposed to the motion.

Discussion then began on a previously approved DOC capital proposal of \$209,630 that had been defeated on a 2 – 2 vote at the 6/9/08 meeting. Questions were asked of Mr. Cunningham who gave us a population update on the facility. Discussion then continued between Rep. Gottling, Franklin and Ferland about the appropriation.

Rep. Ferland moved, seconded by Cloutier, a motion to approve the \$209,630 total DOC capital proposal. The motion was defeated on a 2 – 2 tie vote. The chair announced at 10:29 A.M. that she had received notification that Rep. Donovan would definitely not be attending today's meeting. County Attorney Hathaway entered the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

Mr. Cunningham then reviewed a current handout of DOC staffing with the EFC. Commissioner Jarvis entered the meeting at 10:36 a.m. The Superintendent went over employee grades including the pay rate schedules. Rep. Franklin left the meeting at 11:00 a.m. Mr. Converse moved, seconded by Gottling, to cut the four new proposed DOC officers for the Transitional Housing Unit (THU). Mr. Hathaway and Mr. Cunningham spoke against the motion as did Rep. Rodeschin and Rep. Ferland. After further discussion and clarification, Reps. Converse and Gottling withdrew their motions. Rep. Converse moved, seconded by Gottling, to delay hiring of three new positions at the DOC until 1/1/09. Rep. Gottling made a motion to amend the motion to include the part-time secretary's position in the delay. Rep. Converse seconded the friendly amendment. The amendment was approved on a 3 – 1 division vote, Ferland voting no. The amended motion then passed on a 3 – 1 division vote, Ferland voting no.

Further review of the proposed items in the DOC budget continued. Rep. Converse moved, Cloutier seconded, to approve the proposed DOC capital

budget of \$209,630. The motion was approved on a 3 – 1 roll call vote. Reps. Cloutier, Converse and Ferland voted yes. Rep. Gottling voted no.

Attorney Hathaway talked to the EFC about a staff cut of a new part-time position in his office's proposed budget. The cut had been approved at the 6/9/08 EFC meeting. Mr. Hathaway said the cut would result in his office not being able to scan documents.

Rep. Cloutier offered a motion to allow the hiring of a part-time secretary for \$4,189 that would start in the middle of FY 2009. Mr. Hathaway said he needs the position for the start of FY 2009.

The chair announced the EFC will meet Friday, June 20 at 10:00 a.m. to continue review of the FY 2009 budget. Rep. Cloutier, the EFC vice chair announced the EFC will hold a special meeting tomorrow at 5:30 p.m. to consider a request from the Treasurer to borrow money. The chair will be absent from this meeting. The chair then recessed one hour for lunch at 12:45 p.m.

John Cloutier, Acting Clerk

The meeting was reconvened at 1:58 p.m. Consideration began on Woodhull Complex Capital budget. Rep. Converse moved, seconded by Ferland, to approve the \$12,000 expenditure. A roll call carried 3 – 0.

Rep. Ferland distributed a new packet from Sup't Cunningham. This sheet contained new figures for Corrections personnel to be hired in Jan. 09 rather than July 08. A discussion continued on how to list FTE's and starting date of Jan. 1, 09. Changes in the rest of the department were examined. The overall department budget was \$68,591 less than presented in the Commissioners' budget. Rep. Converse moved, seconded by Ferland, to accept the DOC budget. A roll call vote carried 2 – 1.

The County Attorney's office budget was reconsidered. New figures for the part-time secretary and with the part-time secretary restored were presented. Rep. Converse moved, seconded by Gottling, to keep the final figure at \$457,040. The motion carried on a 2 – 1 vote, Ferland voting no.

The Human Services budget was next. The state figures are still not final. However, some tentative figures are ready. There is a MOU to be finalized. This will make a difference of \$343,595 if confirmed. The state reimbursement rate would be set for two years although an inflation percentage will be applied. After 2010, new figures will have to be made as the cap expires. Rep. Converse moved, seconded by Gottling, to accept a figure of \$4,596,932 for the Human Services budget. It was understood that this figure is tentative. A roll call vote passed 2 – 1. Rep. Ferland voted no.

The Woodhull County Complex budget was presented. Rep. Ferland moved, seconded by Converse, to accept this part of the budget. A roll call vote carried 3 – 0.

Human Resources was next. Rep. Converse questioned the revenue/appropriation figures and transfers from the nursing home to human resources. Rep. Converse asked about the union contract. County Administrator Chainis said the contract is under consideration at this moment and he thinks it may be signed.

Rep. Converse moved to table consideration of this part of the budget because of the cost of printing that should be part of this budget. There was no second. Discussion continued about legal issues and arbitration expenses. Mr. Chainis tried to provide information about the source of funds for paying arbitration expenses. He could not contact the correct person. Discussion continued about the Employee Appreciation line. Rep. Ferland moved, seconded by Converse, to cut this line to \$8,000. Rep. Converse clarified that the money in this line would be distributed fairly among all employees. The commissioners previously approved expenditures and will continue to monitor the program. The motion was approved unanimously.

Facilities expenditure of \$8,000 was presented. Rep. Ferland moved to accept this figure but there was no second. Chainis explained further the details of this item. It includes more than upkeep of roads.

Rep. Gottling made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ferland. The meeting was adjourned at 3: 34 p.m.

Rep. Gottling, Acting Clerk