



SAN BENITO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Margie Barrios
District No. 1

Anthony Botelho
District No. 2
Chair

Robert Rivas
District No. 3

Jerry Muenzer
District No. 4
Vice-Chair

Jaime De La Cruz
District No. 5

County Administration Building – Board of Supervisors Chambers, 481 Fourth Street, Hollister, California

SPECIAL MEETING JANUARY 29, 2013 ACTION MINUTES

The Board of Supervisors of San Benito County met in the Board Chambers on the above date in *special session*. Supervisors Botelho, De La Cruz, Rivas, Barrios and Muenzer were present. Also present was Interim County Administrative Officer Ray Espinosa, Assistant County Counsel Barbara Thompson and Clerk of the Board Denise Thome. Chairman Anthony Botelho presided.

1:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER:

- a) Supervisor Muenzer led the Pledge of Allegiance.
- b) *Upon motion duly made, seconded and carried, acknowledged Certificate of Posting.*

REGULAR SESSION:

ADMINISTRATION – R. Espinosa:

- 1) **Presentation of the process that Monterey County uses for their budget hearings; and discussion of budget hearing process for 2013.**

Interim County Administrative Officer Ray Espinosa spoke of how Monterey County handles their budget process and referenced the attachment to the AIT. He pointed out the majority of consent items and added that Monterey County takes about 6 hours to conduct their budget process.

Chairman Botelho liked the idea of doing it differently and being more efficient.

Supervisor Rivas commented that he was extremely happy, noting that when he was sworn in January of 2011 he asked for simplification of the budget process. He stated that the current process was exhausting and he would embrace a reformed budget process this year.

Supervisor Barrios appreciated more efficiency but did not want to lose sight of the enormous job to be done, even in non-general fund departments. She indicated that she did not want to rubberstamp things and that they could pull things from consent. She stated that she would like to see a San Benito County proposed agenda beforehand in order to tweak it.

Supervisor Muenzer concurred that it definitely needed to be streamlined and agreed with Supervisor Barrios that sub-vented funds were important. He

expressed surprise that Monterey County does the general fund under consent and commented that he wasn't sure they were ready to do that.

Supervisor De La Cruz stated that something needed to happen and that he was for the bigger picture and not the small details.

Interim CAO Espinosa stated that the goal was through the retreat and special meetings to do the budget in the next 5 to 6 months and not crammed into one week.

Supervisor De La Cruz stated that it was a terrible experience the last two budgets and they didn't know the numbers going in or coming out.

There was no public comment.

Chairman Botelho felt the suggestion from Supervisor Barrios to see the list of consent and regular items prior so that they have input was a good one, noting that it was new to them as well.

Interim CAO Espinosa stated that he would work on it and could present it at the next special budget meeting.

Supervisor De La Cruz stated that he did not want to hear any surprises and everything was to go through the CAO.

Chairman Botelho felt that with new leadership they could accomplish that. He directed the CAO to present what departments and units are on consent and which are on regular. *File #865*

ADMINISTRATION – R. Espinosa:

2) Discussion regarding proposed 2013/14 budget timeline and calendar and provide direction to staff.

Interim County Administrative Officer Ray Espinosa went through the budget timeline, noting that item #8 was requested at the Board retreat.

Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joe Paul Gonzalez noted that they were required to submit the budget by October 2nd.

Supervisor De La Cruz asked if the projected layoff notices were to go out May 7, 2013 if the effective date would be June 30, 2013.

Management Analyst Jacki Credico stated that the last day would be June 30 and added that department heads can push over. She indicated that proposing as is would be effective the first day of the fiscal year.

Supervisor De La Cruz stated to make sure effective July 1, 2013, in stone, not changed.

Ms. Credico stated that it was their call if department heads came before the Board asking for extensions.

Interim CAO Espinosa stated that May 7, 2013 allows for bumping as well.

There was no public comment.

Chairman Botelho asked how this timeline differs.

Interim CAO Espinosa stated that it was similar to what's been used in the past. He added that they wanted to be more proactive and do their best to follow dates.

*Upon motion duly made by Supervisor Barrios and seconded by Supervisor De La Cruz, **accepted** tentative budget timeline with **addition** of line item to present proposed budget hearing agenda to Board of Supervisors on February 19, 2013. (Unanimous) *File #865**

Supervisor Muenzer asked them to adhere to the timeline and further asked department heads and analyst staff to work together. He asked the CAO to keep

the Board of Supervisors abreast of whether they were hitting the timelines or not. *File #865*

CLERK/AUDITOR/RECORDER – J. P. Gonzalez:

3) **Receive report on OPEB, county financial status and cost plan.**

Clerk-Auditor-Recorder Joe Paul Gonzalez gave a PowerPoint presentation on the cost plan.

Chairman Botelho asked if they could bill sub-vented departments more.

CAR Gonzalez replied no.

Supervisor Barrios asked if they were within the norm compared to other counties.

CAR Gonzalez indicated that they hadn't looked at that and did not feel the comparison would be of real use as it was based on cost.

Further discussion ensued between Board members and staff.

CAR Gonzalez gave a PowerPoint presentation on Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB).

Discussion ensued between Board members and staff.

Marty Richman spoke under public comment.

Supervisor De La Cruz asked about the state covering non-general fund employees.

CAR Gonzalez stated that the county was obligated to cover the expense.

Chairman Botelho called for a short break before discussing the county financial status.

Upon return from break Interim CAO Ray Espinosa reported that CAR Gonzalez was working on the numbers for the county financial status now and he would be back later.

At the end of the meeting CAR Gonzalez appeared and made a presentation on the county's financial status and spoke of the intent to make fund balances more transparent. He passed out a handout and explained it.

Chairman Botelho commented that it felt like they were in quicksand.

CAR Gonzalez stated that other categories could change throughout the year.

File #865

HUMAN RESOURCES – J. Credico:

4) **Receive presentation regarding Labor Negotiations Process.**

Management Analyst Jacki Credico gave a PowerPoint presentation on the labor negotiating process.

Chairman Botelho opened public comment and closed it as there was none.

File #630

HUMAN RESOURCES – J. Credico:

5) **Receive information and direct staff regarding Employee Concessions for Budget Year 2013/2014.**

Management Analyst Jacki Credico stated that she was not there to receive direction and went through her handout.

Assistant County Counsel Barbara Thompson advised that they could talk about the last 2 groups only.

Chairman Botelho opened public comment.

Marty Richman stated that he did not believe in long term freezes of salary or furloughs and felt they were not beneficial to either party. He added that they

were not an answer to a long term financial problem. He did not feel that issue gets to the heart of the problem and further felt that they needed competitive salaries.

There being no further public comment, the Chairman closed public comment.
File #630

ADMINISTRATION – R. Espinosa:

6) Receive report on fiscal year 2012/13 budget status and cost saving measures.

Management Analyst Melinda Casillas provided a handout and went through it.

Chairman Botelho asked about Parks and Recreation's deal with Hollister Hills for "x" amount of dollars. He wanted to know if they had received funds, if it was late or what was going on.

Interim CAO Ray Espinosa stated that he could not answer fully and they were working on retrieving the funds. He indicated that he would do so and come back to the Board.

Chairman Botelho asked about the IHSS issue of reimbursement.

Management Analyst Casillas stated that she would look into it.

Management Analyst Margie Riopel indicated that cost savings measures were being explored regarding animal control and that she had met with Chief of Police Dave Westrick to discuss different options. She reported that they were still in negotiations but were close to deciding. She stated that something would come back to the Board to consider and they were looking at new formulas.

Further discussion ensued between Board and staff.

Management Analyst Riopel reported that Cal Fire was on target for the contract this year and will stay within budget. She added that next year was projected to be higher.

Marty Richman spoke under public comment.

Supervisor Barrios indicated that they were looking at saving money in the public defender's budget and they had already met with Judge Sanders. She stated that the second meeting would be with County Counsel and the third meeting would be with the public defender.

Supervisor De La Cruz expressed the need for serious discussion with the City regarding fire.

Interim CAO Espinosa stated that they were still waiting on Joe Paul Gonzalez for the rest of item 3.

Chairman Botelho stated that they would move on to item 7. *File #865*

ADMINISTRATION – R. Espinosa:

7) Discussion of ideas regarding budget balancing and process.

Assistant County Counsel Barbara Thompson read the ground rules for the day's workshops.

Interim CAO Espinosa gave an overview of how it would work. He explained that it would work like a strategic plan meeting and they would break into 6 groups. He further explained they would have a 20 minute brain storming session, itemize items from a cost savings measure and revenue source and each group would present and notes would be taken.

Chairman Botelho indicated that board members would spread out among the groups and listen.

The audience and staff broke into groups at 4:00 p.m. and broke out of the groups at 4:25 p.m. to reconvene to the board meeting.

Assistant County Counsel Thompson gave a summary of ideas from all the groups.

Discussion ensued between Board members and staff including the subjects of a grant writer, contract review and consolidation of services with the City of Hollister.

Chairman Botelho asked for more information on the pros and cons of the ideas to be brought back at an afternoon board meeting.

Sheriff Deputy Ralph Morden stated that the Hollister Police Department was a huge bureaucracy. He added that the difference between the Police Department and the Sheriff's Department was that the Chief of Police was appointed by City Council and was accountable to government and the Sheriff was elected by the people and was accountable to the people.

Chairman Botelho stated that he hoped for the highest level of service to the public.

Hollister resident Marty Richman stated that he would support the county having a 1% sales tax in the unincorporated area.

Chairman Botelho asked that the list be brought back to follow up on at the late February meeting. *File #865*

The vote of each member of the Board of Supervisors upon each matter at the foregoing meeting, unless otherwise stated, was as follows:

AYES: SUPERVISORS: Botelho, De La Cruz, Rivas, Barrios, Muenzer
NOES: SUPERVISORS: None
ABSENT: SUPERVISORS: None

There being no further business the Board adjourned at 5:07 p.m. to February 5, 2013 at 9:00 a.m.

ANTHONY BOTELHO, CHAIRMAN
San Benito County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
Denise R. Thome, Clerk of the Board