

## **COMMISSIONER MEETING OF AUGUST 3, 2009**

The Caribou County Commissioners met in special session on August 3, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. Those in attendance were Lloyd Rasmussen, Commissioner Chairman, and Earl Somsen and Phil Christensen Commissioners. Also in attendance were Clerk of the Board, Veda Mascarenas, Gregg Haney County Attorney, Kim Spencer Road and Bridge Supervisor, Rick Anderson, County Sheriff, Scott Shuler Weed Supervisor, Preston Phelps County Assessor, Jody Reeves Courthouse and Grounds, Dennis Godfrey Risk Manager, and Ralph Hopkins Building Superintendent.

The above met to discuss the issue of the deficit for the county budget. County Clerk, Veda Mascarenas presented a proposed budget to the board of commissioners explaining that to balance the 2010 proposed budget there was a \$970,000 deficit. All departments have successfully cut their budgets 10%. A 3% salary increase has been factored in along with the 21% increase in health insurance premiums. Also the factor of the county paying 100% of employee's health care insurance and 85% of the dependant's health care insurance leaving 15% to be paid by the employee for their dependants is included. The justice fund, ambulance, and current expense are at levy maximums and the three funds create the deficit. Lack of revenue, an increase in the county medical insurance, no significant increase in property value, and increased general operating costs have contributed to the problem.

The board of commissioners opened the meeting to discussion on ways to save money. The suggestions were:

1. Place a hiring freeze for a time deemed necessary and possibly use part-time people to replace full time vacancies.
2. Adjust sick leave to personal leave.
3. Review the current sick leave and vacation policy.
4. Be frugal in buying supplies. The credit cards are available and could prove to provide some savings.
5. Change to a four (4) day work week cutting hours to 32 hours week.
6. Modify the insurance benefits.
7. Be more aggressive in obtaining grants.
8. Review current fees that are being charged and possibly increasing the fees.

9. Review and examine the levy rates on a quarterly basis.
10. Voluntary days off without pay.
11. Retain equipment longer such as vehicles and road and bridge fleet.
12. If items 1-11 don't prove to help the situation then the county will be forced to look at reduction in force and services.

The board of commissioners informed the body that no new equipment could be purchased for a few years and employees will have to pay 15% of their dependant's medical insurance.

Denise Horsely recommended indigent case #09-16 for approval and case #09-14 for denial per the denial statement in the file. Commissioner Somsen moved to approve case #09-16 and denial of case #09-14 per denial statement in the file. Commissioner Christensen seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The board of commissioners signed a release on indigent case #07-02.

The board of commissioners requested a contract be prepared for the conflict attorney for review and signature.

The meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

Signed: Lloyd Rasmussen, Commissioner Chairman



Lloyd Rasmussen

Attested: Veda Mascarenas



Veda Mascarenas