

RANDOLPH COUNTY COMMISSION MINUTES

January 31, 2007

The Honorable Commission convened at the Huntsville Courthouse with the following present: Susan Carter, Presiding Commissioner, Doug Galaske, Eastern District Commissioner, Randy Asbury, Western District Commissioner, and Nancy Copenhaver, Deputy Clerk.

**1:00 p.m.**, Com. Carter called the Budget Hearing to order. Attendees included Richard Tregnago, Gerald Luntsford, Jim Sears, Becky Brown, Janet Morales (Monitor-Index), Mike Lear (KWIX), Tom Fuhman, Glenda Winkler, and Sam Richardson. Commissioners signed three official copies of the 2007 budget which will be sent to the State, the RC Treasurer, and the RC Clerk.

Com. Galaske gave an overview of the budget process and how decisions were made. Basically, expenditures were set at the amounts actually spent in 2006, with some minor adjustments. A 2% cost of living raise to employees (but not elected officials) was given, impacting the budget about \$32,000, in addition to increased health insurance costs (10.7%) being picked up by the County for all employees. In the 2006 budget, approximately \$360,000 was reduced from the General Revenue deficit. The proposed impact of the 2007 reductions is budgeted to be an additional \$192,000 reduction, with a proposed ending General Revenue balance of -\$221,000.

Com. Galaske pointed out that it becomes more and more difficult to realize savings, as the "easy" cuts were done in 2006. Other difficulties in the budget includes the \$45,000 that will need to come from GR to subsidize the 911 Fund due to fewer land lines producing revenue. He encouraged all to lobby the legislature to include a "fix" for this problem on the state level. A transfer of \$106,000 was required from GR to the Justice Center, partly due to underestimating cost of utilities once the new jail was fully operational. Purchase of new plat books for \$14,000, a one-time cost, will also come out of the 2007 budget, but hopefully be recouped this year and 2008 as the books are sold. The newly-configured back-up Emergency Operations Center at the Randolph County Ambulance Service cost about \$10,000. There was a 10.7% increase in health insurance cost absorbed by the County. As part of requirements of HAVA, \$40,000 in election equipment must be paid. The County will pick up payment of one position in the Circuit Clerk's office until the state hiring freeze is lifted, necessitated by the election of a deputy clerk to the Circuit Clerk, leaving a vacancy costing about \$19,000. There was a 16% increase in liability insurance.

Com. Galaske noted the Commission would have liked to increase funding for the Extension, Economic Development, and other issues that move our County forward but that just wasn't feasible this year. He thanked the other two Commissioners, noting that all worked together very well and the budget was a real team effort. He also thanked the elected officials who were so helpful in cutting (again) their budgets to work with the Commission to further reduce the deficit. An issue he hopes to address in the future is the low mileage rate paid officials using their own vehicles. Com. Galaske summed up with a plea to attendees and all concerned citizens to shop in Randolph County. The sales tax is an important component to the revenue stream of the County and he would like to see a growth rate larger than the predicted 1.4% for 2007.

Com. Asbury commented that they had also looked ahead to future cost needs such as elections and audits. He hopes the County can be in the black by the end of 2009 enabling us to do many things to strengthen the County's position into the future. Presiding Com. Carter reiterated that this had been a valuable learning experience for the two new members of the Commission, thanked Com. Galaske for his valuable background and "teaching." She noted that the entire Commission would be monitoring carefully the implementation of the budget, month to month.

She opened the floor for questions.

Tom Fuhman with the Extension asked about statements made in the fall in the media that the County would end the year in the black. Current Commissioners did not make those comments, and it was noted they may have been "election hype." Coroner Gerald Luntsford pointed out the boost in the budget brought about by boarding out-of-county prisoners.

Sam Richardson asked if the Commission had accounted for elasticity within the judicial system, always an unknown factor and the Commission feels they have. He wondered if the Commission was looking for creative ways to find revenue. Com. Galaske affirmed that this would be a priority, with the Commission belonging to several organizations helpful in obtaining grants, and participating in networking situations with other county commissions. Com. Carter also promoted the idea of getting all the County office holders together to brainstorm ways to share in cutting costs and working together.

Com. Asbury also felt that brainstorming sessions could be helpful and that looking at efficiencies across political subdivisions would be pursued. As a taxpayer himself, he wants government to be as efficient as possible. Mr. Richards also commented on the importance of economic development in moving the County forward, being proactive, and working with Moberly Area Economic Development Director Russell Runge to that end. Assessor Richard Tregnago pointed out that 2007 would be a reassessment year and that there is growth in construction and development within the County. He also pointed out that the Assessor's office has not needed to draw funds from General Revenue for a number of years.

In reporting on the implementation of the new County website, Com. Galaske thanked Mike Mattox of MCM Systems for hosting the site free of charge for the County. It is up and running, but will require scanning in of some past minutes. Minutes included on the website beginning in 2007 will be official minutes, approved and signed by the Commission, and scanned onto the site, providing more security. Links to other entities such as Chamber of Commerce, Economic Development, Extension, Excel, MACC, the libraries, schools, historical societies, and other entities will be pursued. The address is [randolphcounty-mo.gov](http://randolphcounty-mo.gov).

**2:05 p.m.**, Com. Galaske moved and Com. Asbury seconded to close the budget hearing; motion carried (3-0) and the meeting adjourned. Com. Carter noted that the Commission would be looking over some policies and jotting down things to look for and discuss with other commissioners at the required Commission training in Jefferson City next week (February 7-9). Mike Lear (KWIX) stayed for the weekly press conference, which was held today instead of the scheduled time on February 1.

*Susan Carter*  
*Doug Galaske*  
*Randy Asbury*

*Jim Sears*