

Columbia County Finance Committee

MINUTES

September 16, 2005

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PRESENT: John H. Tramburg, Debra L. H. Wopat, Harlan Baumgartner, Barry Pufahl, and Kenneth E. Olson

ALSO PRESENT: Susan Martin, Lois Schepp, and Joseph Ruf III

The meeting was called to order at 9 a.m. and was legally noticed and published.

BUDGET REVIEW

Health Insurance

Corporation Counsel/HR Director Joe Ruf recapped health insurance rate projections for the coming year. Ruf/Schepp estimated the dollars already built into the 2006 budget requests should cover the cost of next year's insurance rates and any potential increases. Ruf noted he had been actively negotiating with union representatives and various insurance providers in an effort to attain adequate insurance coverage at affordable rates.

Personnel Requests

Personnel requests were discussed. The requests had been presented to the required committees (Governing and Exec/HR) prior to budget hearings, and had been categorized by department, funding, and prioritized as to need.

Requests will be considered during the applicable department's budget hearing.

Ruf noted that in keeping with the theme of "stabilization", although lay-offs may not be necessary for 2006, the possibility of that happening in the future should not be ruled out.

Budget strategies from other counties were discussed.

Budget Supplement

Various reports included in the Budget Supplement were reviewed. Schepp commented on the budget items in the 2005-2006 Budget Comparison, highlighting areas of concern and issues County departments had to address in this year's budget.

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On motion by Pufahl, second by Wopat, the meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

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Harlan Baumgartner, Secretary

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Cindy Devine, Recording Secretary

CC: Finance Committee  
Chair Martin  
Lois Schepp

Joseph Ruf III  
Jeanne Miller  
Internet