

Kitsap County Citizen's Budget Committee

November 3, 2008

Present: Steve Maxim, Robert Gelder, Jim Sommerhauser, John Ahl, Chris Tibbs, Shannon Childs, Gary Nelson, Robert Meadows, Paul Uhlig, Monica Hunsaker, Stephanie Pinard – County Budget Analyst, Commissioner Steve Bauer, Commissioner Josh Brown, Commissioner Jan Angel, Shawn Gabriel – Administrative Services Director, Nancy Buonanno Grennan – County Administrator, Deanna Erstad - Commissioners Staff, Paul Nuchims

Steve called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

Commissioner Bauer thanked the group and commended them for their time and commitment to this process. He said these are challenging times for everyone and asked that they look at the long term structural picture. He also said the Commissioners are open to hearing all ideas and comments.

Commissioner Angel also thanked the committee saying that this is a very complex issue and people don't understand how involved and complex the budget process is.

Commissioner Brown again thanked the committee for the time out of their personal lives they are giving to this process. He said that all thirty-nine counties in the state are facing the same issues in regards to budget at this time. He went on to say we are all dealing with systemic challenges and that we have a great group of elected officials that area all working together to deal with this issue. Any insights the committee might have are greatly appreciated.

Steve Maxim gave a brief overview of the process being used by the committee and said the group is committed to take the time necessary to come up with a concrete list of ideas and recommendations to present to the Commissioners. He explained that the presentations haven't been great and that they see a weakness in the electeds and department heads in managing their budgets. He then asked that the members each give their comments to the Commissioners. Points and Questions are as follows:

Jim Sommerhauser

- As a general statement – most departments don't get the budget environment. They are looking only at this year's cuts and not looking at the long range way to do business. He said we actually began this committee at the wrong time of year and should have started last spring. He is looking at the long term and thinks we will have some good questions to present to the Commissioners. He said that one presentation talked about how the departments got together and worked on how to do things. But that was the only department

Shannon Childs

- It has been difficult to watch the presentations –they don't seem to show any interest in cutting 2% let alone what could be required in the future. It is important we get a sense that they are taking this seriously. She also asked where the county is in regards to the Harborside Condos situation. Commissioner Bauer said they are working long and hard to get this worked out.

Gary Nelson

- Gary commented that Kitsap County is indicative of what's happening in the rest of the country. He feels the departments are working as their own unit and looking to see how they can do more with less vs the county as a whole. He feels if asked, the employees would have a lot of ideas to offer.

Bob Meadows

- He feels this process should have begun 2-3 years ago. The departments are focused entirely on the present budget and need to start looking at the long term. Pay raises and costs of living increases should come when the money comes in. He said he thinks they should be looking at a 5% decrease.

Paul Uhlig

- He said in his observation the present cuts seemed political not “meat” cuts. He added that he is looking for the committee to come up with a quality product if they can get some real answers from the departments.

Monica Hunsaker

- She said that looking at the long range, 5-10 years is not impossible but will be difficult. We need to think of how we can adjust with the economic changes.

Jim Ahl

- The briefings have been difficult and they seem to be focusing on the 2009 budget. He also observed that there are no strong central management programs for anything. There should be an across the board management process.

Chris Tbbs

- He said things haven't been very open and honest and we need more centralized government instead of departmental.

Rob Gelder

- Seems we are seeing self-preservation from departments and that we need to break down the walls and become more “one”.

Commissioner Bauer said the International City & County Association publishes financial trends that the committee needs to see. They also need to look at the effectiveness and efficiency of departments. He also said where you have separately elected officials there is never a time they pay well together. It can be very challenging as they are all trying to protect their departments but are a dedicated, motivated group of people.

Commissioner Angel talked about the budget process and commented that they all need to get serious about the budget process and that working together is the biggest challenge but they are getting closer.

Steve asked if the Commissioners had any questions for the committee. John said he felt the departments should have the opportunity to answer the committee’s questions before a final list is given to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Angel said she wanted to thank Nancy Buonanno Grennan. She is doing a phenomenal job of communicating and working with the department heads and electeds. She has truly made a huge difference since she’s been here.

Jim thanked Nancy and Stephanie for their hard work and said he believes the committee will come up with some good questions for the departments.

Commissioner Bauer advised that the department heads and electeds are under huge stress in a lot of ways and suggested they might be more willing to cooperate if the committee focused on the bigger picture instead of the small stuff.

Commissioner Brown said the bigger picture is the focus and we are starting an analysis of the Urban Growth areas and need to come up with a game plan on how we will deal with changes in the county. He advised the group to keep focusing and doing a good job.

The committee thanked the Commissioners for their time and comments.

The committee then moved to the Chambers for a presentation by Public Works.

Randy Casteel, Director of Public Works and his staff gave their presentation.

Steve then asked for questions/comments from the committee.

Questions/Points

Paul

- Poulsbo Recycle Center – is it public and residential. Questioned rolling that into curbside service.

Rob

- Asked for the definition of “center line miles”
- Questioned what the “Other” % of revenue consisted of.
- Asked about the \$318,000 projected grants for the SSWM Construction Fund. Have they been received yet?

Jim

- Solid Waste – yard products – at this time they only pick up in certain areas. When will they go county wide?
- Asked about the agreement with Port of Bremerton regarding SSWM Construction – is any of this area in SKIA?

Chris

- Asked the difference between the County Road Fund and a City Street Fund.
- Why is Kitsap Public Utilities District the repository for failed water systems?

John

- How much of the annual budget comes from the General Fund?
- How much of the 1.7 million fund for ER&R comes from General Fund?
- Do each of the Public Works divisions have separate contracting authority?
- Questioned consolidating projects with DCD
- Questioned equipment/service sharing with cities
- Is there any formal management programs or systems they follow within all of the Public Works departments?

Robert

- Road Construction gets ½ of their revenue from fuel tax – does annexation have any affect of the dollars you receive?
- Does any money from property tax go into the Road Construction Fund?

Gary

- Consider the worst case and have to cut back – process to “lean out” expenditures?

- How did you come to the consensus to cut back overlays – who did you get input from?

Shannon

- Are there any best practices or matrix among counties similar in size as to how we are doing compared to others?
- How many FTEs are grant funded?

Steve

- Why is the county manning some waste sites and not others and what was the process used to decide if managed by county or contracted out?
- Are there any future obligations not reflected in the budget, ie landfills?
- With tax revenues decreasing – how much and is this being implemented in your budget forecasts?
- Waaga Way Interchange – is someone going to fix that mess?

Steve thanked Randy and his staff for their presentation and committee reconvened back in the Port Blakely Conference Room.

Steve asked that everyone get their questions to Monica to consolidate.

The minutes from the October 20th meeting were approved as submitted.

Meeting adjourned at 7:30. The next meeting is scheduled for November 17, 2008 and presentations will include Administrative Services, Board of Commissioners and Personnel/Human Services.