

Kitsap County Citizen's Budget Committee

October 20, 2008

Present: Steve Maxim, John Ahl, Gar Nelson, Robert Meadows, Robert Gelder, Chris Tibbs, Paul Uhlig, Monica Hunsaker, Jim Sommerhauser, Shannon Childs, Phyllis Mann, Director Emergency Management; Richard Kirton, Director CenCom; Maria Jameson Owens, Deputy Director; Amy Warrior, Operations/Training Supervisor; Lisa Fryer, Budget; Deanna Erstad, Commissioner's Office.

Absent: Vee-Jay Brann

Emergency Management

Phyllis Mann gave a presentation of Emergency Management. Steve asked for questions.

Points/Questions:

- Nuclear weapons – reactor accidents
- Does DEM ever work with Civil Air Patrol?
- DEM always looking for grants
- If DEM were denied grants they would have to cut the public school training and public education.
- During the storm of December 3, 2007 it was very difficult to get information. In situations like this people should go to the DEM website for information. Working on a program to get information out ahead of time to companies in the county. It will be made available for companies sign up to this system in January 2009.
- Who responds to accidents/disasters that happen on the water, i.e. ferries, boating accidents? All are dispatched thru 911 to the closest response team. There are no boundaries for those types of incidents.
- All programs are self supporting.
- It costs about \$1.98 in taxes per person in Kitsap County to support DEM. This is the county's "fair share" and is figured per capita.
- Law Enforcement, Fire. Emergency are all supported by Homeland Security Grants
- Discussion on LIDAR and how it works
- DEM receives a 5% administrative fee for being the "funnel point" for all grants
- The DEM Board consists of Commissioners, Mayors, Tribes, City Council members. Chair is always one of the County Commissioners.
- "Operations" budget is always separate from "Programs" budget
- Emergencies and disasters always cost less when citizens are educated and prepared.

The Committee was given a tour of the CenCom/DEM facility.

CenCom

Richard Kirton introduced his staff and gave a presentation on CenCom. Questions & Discussion followed:

Points/Questions:

- How does decline in sales tax revenue affect CenCom?
- User fees are negotiated with the CenCom Policy Board which is made up of Commissioners, Mayors, City Council members and Tribes.
- A telephone tax of \$.50 per landline and cell phone goes to the county and \$.25 goes to the state to disperse to counties as they see fit (usually to smaller counties).
- There are an average of 18 911 calls at any given minute taking place in the call center.
- Length of the budget process per year
- Comparison with other counties of cost per call
- Asked how much time during the year is spent on the budget process
- Comparison of cost per call with other counties.
- Training program
- Current count of full time employees vs authorized positions
- Asked how much operating expenses have risen since 2003 sales tax passed.
- Who has responsibility of maintenance and operation of the facility?
- It was asked how the facility was protected if at all from a “chemical attack”
- It was asked how much the county’s portion of the user fees was for 2008...\$677,890 from the general fund
- CenCom paid \$264,029 into the county’s general fund for 2008
- They receive 3.6 million from the sales tax and 1.6 million from the phone tax.

Richard finished his presentation and said he would get hard copies to Deanna to distribute to the committee.

The minutes from 9/29/08 and 10/7/08 were approved with one correction.

Steve said that the Commissioners would like to meet with the committee at the November 3rd meeting. He asked if the committee had any opening statement to the Commissioners or any priority as to what to present. Steve said that Nancy requested that we give a “raw” list of the questions for department/electeds to the Commissioners.

Jim stated that he doesn’t feel the group is far enough along in the process to make any recommendations for the 2009 budget.

Shannon said she would like to know where the Commissioners are coming from and that she worries their projections are going to fall short. Feels instead of a 2% cut they should

have gone with a 5% cut. She also questioned the plan with KCCHA and the situation they find themselves in now.

The committee agreed that they get the impression from all departments that they are not taking this budget cut seriously enough – that they are not interested in changing the way they do business to save money.

John led everyone through the draft questions. Monica will update and send out to members.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 PM.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2008 in the Port Blakely Conference Room in the county Administration Building.