

Kitsap County Citizen's Budget Committee

September 15, 2008

Present: Steve Maxim, Ron Rada, John Ahl, Robert Meadows, Shannon Childs, Vee-Jay Brann, Monica Hunsaker, Gary Nelson, Jim Sommerhauser, Robert Gelder, Stephanie Pinard, Nancy Buonanno Grennan, Carolyn Siems, Shawn Gabriel, Deanna Erstad

Absent: Chris Tibbs, Paul Uhlig

Steve introduced Shawn Gabriel, the new Director of Administrative Services. Shawn gave a brief overview of his career background and family.

The August 18, 2008 minutes were approved as submitted.

Steve announced the dates of rescheduled department presentations:

Auditor – September 29th

Public Works – November 17th

Community Development – December 1st

NEW BUSINESS:

Shannon – Bremerton Condo Project. She passed out an article that appeared in the Kitsap Sun in early August regarding this project. Some of the concerns of the group are:

- Only 40% sold
- KCCHA is asking for extension on financing
- Bonds were issued in the amount of \$22,000,000. The County is obligated for \$20,000,000 and the City of Bremerton is obligated for the remaining \$3,000,000.
- Need to understand what this means to the County's budget.
- The County backed this project so Kitsap County Consolidated Housing could get a bond.
- Questioned if County should financially back projects like this in the future.
- Jim Sommerhauser said the County is obligated for \$58,000,000 of projects for KCCHA.

Stephanie will ask KCCHA to come give a presentation to the committee. Steve asked Nancy if the county is backing any other projects. She said that the YMCA is asking the county to back the bonds for a third of their construction of the project in Silverdale. Nothing has been decided. John asked to what extend the county is obligated to the Poulsbo City Hall project – KCCHA is the project manager for both YMCA and Poulsbo City Hall. Nancy explained that the County has not made any commitments thus far. The question was asked why KCCHA is involved in these types of projects when their focus should be on affordable housing.

Monica – Summary of committee’s comments.

Monica said the list is getting quite large. She suggested she transfer it into an Access program which will be easier to maintain and help in duplicating comments or questions. The group discussed how they want to compile and give to the departments and/or Commissioners. They voted to clean up and consolidate prior to sending back to the departments. Monica will work on completing the comments and get to members by Sept 22nd. Each person was assigned a department to summarize:

- John – ER&R Fund
- Vee-Jay – Risk Management
- Steve – Information Services
- Robert – District Court
- Ron – Juvenile
- Chris – Sheriff
- Gary – Coroner
- Shannon – Clerk
- Jim – Superior Court

The committee will review the summaries at the next meeting.

Gary Nelson – “What Ifs” He has spoken to Charisse Dalke in the Budget Office. She will meet and give “what if” scenarios regarding the budget in a future meeting.

Ron Rada – Charter Government – Discussed Charter form of government and it was suggested that a sub committee research other charter counties to see if this would be cost saving and report back to the group. Jim said this committee wasn’t formulated to look at the form of government, rather budget and finance. It was agreed that would be stepping outside the scope of the purpose of the group. Nancy suggested the group look at a CTED (Washington State Dept of Community, Trade and Economic Development) study on “governance”. She will send the committee a link to the website. Steve said this could be discussed in Phase 4 of the workplan. Agreed this topic will be tabled and reviewed at a later date.

Chris Tibbs – Information on other county’s Law & Justice – will discuss at next meeting.

Other Business:

John said he would like to see the numbers for savings by consolidating public defense instead of contracting with outside attorneys. Stephanie said she will get the information to the committee as it is completed.

It was discussed when the committee should go back to 2 hour meetings. It was agreed that the meetings will remain 3 hours through mid November.

It was suggested that the minutes should be more detailed. Deanna explained that we do have recording capabilities and that is what is needed if the minutes are to be more detailed. The group agreed that we will start recording the meetings. It was also agreed that the meetings will be held in the Port Blakely Conference Room in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00 pm

The next meeting is scheduled for September 29, 2008.