Robertson County Budget Committee
Minutes of November 2, 2021 Meeting

The Budget Committee met at 4:30 P.M. with the following members present: James Bowens, Burton Glover, Keith Hoover and Faye Stubblefield were all present in person. Jody Stewart and Mayor Billy Vogle were also present in person. Dennis Wade was absent.

Mr. Hoover called the meeting to order and the following main discussions and actions took place during the meeting:

The minutes of October 5, 2021 were approved.

1. It was moved by James Bowens and seconded by Burton Glover to recommend a resolution approving wheel tax refunds to Robertson County's elderly citizens to the County Commission. Angie Groves, County Clerk, explained the refund of approximately one-half is $43.00 and this is based upon one refund per household. Trustee's office will assist with the refund paperwork. All voted yea.

2. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by James Bowens to recommend a resolution approving active duty, non-resident military personnel a wheel tax exemption to the County Commission. All voted yea.

3. It was moved by Burton Glover and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend balanced budget amendment #17, a three-page listing of various line items as presented by Chris Causey, School Director, to the County Commission. The School Board approved this budget amendment at their October 4, 2021 meeting. All voted yea.

4. It was moved by James Bowens and seconded by Burton Glover to recommend a resolution to transfer $300,000 from the School Fund 141 into the School Federal Projects Fund 142 to the County Commission. Extra operating funds are needed in the Federal Projects Fund due to all of the federal Covid funds being received by the School System. This is pending approval by the School Board at their November 8, 2021 meeting and the same approval date needs to be listed on this resolution. All voted yea.

5. It was moved by Burton Glover and seconded by Faye Stubblefield to recommend budget amendment #18 for $412,000 for the General Capital Projects Fund 171 to the County Commission. This was budget amendment #13 presented in September that was tabled, all agreed best to present a new budget amendment with the two required readings. This budget amendment is for additional funds required for the Animal Control Building Project. This Budget Amendment approves approximately $1,100,000 (approximate amount of the lowest bid on the third bid/discrepancies caused a rejection of all bids on the third bid) plus approximately $100,000 for the Highway Department to perform the necessary site work for this project. The current balance in this project is $440,497 and this budget amendment will add $800,000, which equals $1,240,497 in total funds available for this Animal Control Building Project. All voted yea.

There was much discussion including a question-and-answer session concerning the increase for the County's medical insurance at mid-year. Keith Hoover expressed concern about this estimated burden of $70,000 on the County budget and stated it will be doubled in the FY2023 budget. Keith said the Personnel Committee helping the County employees with the extra cost of the medical insurance for the Network P was very generous. Jody informed the Committee that the cost of $70,000 is an estimate that may need to be increased or this amount may be less, all will depend upon employee changes.

6. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by James Bowens to recommend balanced budget amendment #19 in the amount $70,000 to the County Commission. This balanced budget amendment is a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to help County employees with the extra cost of medical insurance effective January 1, 2022. The sale of the local NorthCrest Hospital to TriStar created the need for employees to purchase the more expensive Blue Cross Blue Shield TN (BCBST) Network P as NorthCrest will no longer accept BCBST Network S. Without the BCBST Network P option of medical insurance, services will be charged at a much higher out-of-network price. The Committee authorized Special Limited Open Enrollment to begin on November 3, 2021. All voted yea.

Jody informed the Budget Committee that the Personnel Committee made a recommendation to hire Gallagher/Five Points as the County's HR Consultant. She thanked the Committee for approving $40,000 for an HR Consultant in the FY2022 budget. Jody said these two companies have partnered and will work together as the County's HR Consultant. The Personnel Committee voted unanimously and Jeff Beemer, County Labor Attorney, agreed these two Nashville based companies are the best option for the County. Gallagher/Five Points requested to meet in a round table environment with all County Department Heads. The plan is for Gallagher/Five Points to prepare the contract, have Clyde Richert, County Attorney, review the contract and then send the contract to the County Commission for their approval. Also plan to start as the County's HR Consultant on December 1, 2021 if all of the documentation and approvals have been finalized. Special Note, the documentation and approval will be presented to the County Commission on December 20, 2021, making the start date for the County's HR Consultant on January 1, 2022.

Margot Fosnes, Robertson County Economic Development Board (RCEDB) Chief Economic Development Officer, made a presentation to the Committee concerning the Nelson's Reserve Development Area Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Project located in Greenbrier to be developed by Brandon Frank Construction, LLC. Margot's presentation was very involved and informative as she explained the many details and legal requirements involved to prepare the paperwork for this particular TIF bond project. Margot stated there is no recourse to the County, City or the RCEDB concerning this TIF project bond because Brandon Frank will be responsible for paying back this TIF bond project. Margot expressed that the RCEDB has spent extensive time researching and investigating this particular Nelson's Reserve Development Area TIF project.

The additional property taxes this project will generate after it has been completed will be set aside for Brandon Frank to pay the bank for the TIF bond. Note the County will receive the additional taxes this project will generate for the Debt Service portion at 19% and 35% for the School Fund portion of County property taxes. The public infrastructure description for this project is detailed in the documents presented and the budgeted dollar amount is $8,893,066. Brandon Frank is requesting $5,000,000 for the TIF project bond to be paid back within 15 years at $365,000 per year. Margot stated that Brandon Frank wanted everyone to be informed that he did not plan to start this project until 2025.

7. It was moved by Faye Stubblefield and seconded by Burton Glover to recommend a Resolution to Approve the Economic Impact Plan for a Tax Increment Financing Program and Associate Incentive to Brandon Frank Construction, LLC as Requested by the Economic/Industrial Development Board of the County of Robertson and explained in a presentation by Margot Fosnes, RCEDB Chief Economic Development Officer to the County Commission. All voted yea.

The Committee discussed the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021 funds the County received from the Federal Government. This year the County received one-half of their allotment in the amount of approximately $7,000,000 and the other one-half is scheduled to be allocated to the County next year after May or August of 2022. The Mayor informed the Committee that the main item needed from the ARPA funds was for updating all of the emergency communication radios, radio towers and radio systems for all of Robertson County. There was an involved discussion and the Mayor stated City Mayors are approaching him and requesting funds for their individual cities, and the cities have also received ARPA funds. Everyone agreed that all of the ARPA funds received by the County need to be for County projects. The Mayor mentioned the need for an Ambulance and an Ambulance Service Station at the City of White House. He also mentioned the need for a parking lot structure. The guestimate cost for updating all emergency communication radios is approximately $8,000,000. The deadline to inform the Treasury Portal how these ARPA funds will be spent is January 31, 2021. All agreed that a true cost was needed before the next Budget Committee Meeting on December 7, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 5:20 P.M.

Keith Hoover, Chairman

Jody Stewart, Finance Director