

SANTA FE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COMMISSION CHAMBERS

COUNTY ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

SPECIAL MEETING

MAY 26, 1999 - 10:00 A.M.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Approval of Agenda
- V. Fiscal Year 2000 Budget Hearing Schedule
 - Presentation of County Budget Request 10:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.
 - Land Use Department 10:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.
 - County Clerk 10:45 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
 - County Manager 11:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.
 - County Treasurer 11:15 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
 - County Sheriff 11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 - Public Works Department 1:00 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.
 - General Services Department 1:30 p.m. - 1:45 p.m.
 - Fire Department 1:45 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.
 - Health & Human Services Department
(Includes Housing Services) 2:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 - County Assessor 2:30 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.
 - Probate Judge 2:45 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.
 - Finance Department 2:55 p.m. - 3:10 p.m.
 - Legal Department 3:10 p.m. - 3:25 p.m.
 - Utilities Department 3:25 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.
 - Personnel Department 3:40 p.m. - 3:50 p.m.
 - Bond Proceeds / Debt Service / Capital Improvements
- VI. Matters From Board of County Commissioners
- VII. Matters From the Public
- VIII. Resolution No. 1999 - 69
- IX. Adjournment

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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

BUDGET HEARING

MAY 26, 1999

**Paul Duran, Chairman
Richard Anaya, Commissioner
Joe Griñé, Commissioner
Marcos Trujillo, Commissioner
Javier Gonzales, Commissioner**

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SANTA FE COUNTY
SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

May 26, 1999

This special meeting of the Santa Fe Board of County Commissioners was called to order at 10:35 a.m. by Chairman Paul Duran in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers.

Roll Call preceded the Pledge of Allegiance and indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

Members Present

Commissioner Paul Duran, Chairman
Commissioner Joe Griñé
Commissioner Richard Anaya
Commissioner Marcos Trujillo
Commissioner Javier Gonzales

Members Absent

[none]

IV. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

DAVID WOLF (County Manager): Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, what you have before you is a small binder which is really what we're going to be using to go through the budgets. That binder includes, at a summary level, the presentation that we're going to go through for the overview of the budget and then all the department budgets and goals and objectives that the Commission had requested that the staff prepared at the study session. Then the numbers that are presented in this small binder at a summary level to not just inundate you with a tremendous amount of detail. But in those large binders up there, Commissioner Griñé to answer your question, is all the detail at the line item level for each departmental budget and all justifications. That way the detail is available if you have any questions that we can't answer at the summary level, we can look to that information that's up there also. But for the most part we'll be focusing on the information in these small binders.

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CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any amendments to the agenda? If not what's the pleasure of the Board?

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the agenda as published. Commissioner Grinë seconded and the motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. FISCAL YEAR 2000 BUDGET HEARING SCHEDULE

A. Presentation of County Budget Request

MR. WOLF: Thanks, Mr. Chairman. First of all, thank you guys for the opportunity to present this to you. As I had stated during the study session, this has been a tough budget to put together, primarily because of the increased costs associated with our jail and minimal increases on the revenue side. I also wanted to thank the Finance staff as well as everybody else, the department heads, elected officials and all other staff that was involved in putting these budgets together. It's taken a lot of effort on everybody's part to bring the numbers into balance.

First of all, in regard to the budget presentation, before we get into the numbers, there's an organizational chart that's under tab 2, I believe, and I wanted to point out the main difference in the organizational chart under this fiscal year budget versus last fiscal year. The name of the Administrative Services Department, in accordance with the Health Care Policy that was adopted, has been changed to the Health and Human Services Department and we've moved the Housing Services Division within that department. So we have all of our health or social type programs together in one department under one director. So as you can see on that chart in the far left hand corner we have Health and Human Services Department and we have the Indigent Fund, we have for now at least, MIS, GIS, and the social type programs, Indigent, DWI, Rural Addressing and Housing Services now. So I just wanted to make sure that everybody was aware of that. And that was based on Commission direction in that policy that was adopted.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So David, we haven't approved this organizational chart, right? Because there have been some changes to some of the departments, the structure of the departments.

MR. WOLF: That's true, Mr. Chairman. Another change I should probably point out in this is we don't have a deputy director and my recommendation to the Commission as part of this budget proposal in the Land Use Department. That was done to bring the budget into balance also. Since Diana is acting Land Use Director at this point.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So we can discuss that when we get to the Land Use Department budget? Is that what you want to do?

MR. WOLF: I think that would probably be best. When we go into each department, the way those departments are set up as an example, Land Use is first. If we

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start off with the organizational chart, then we get into an FTE count, and then we go into the goals and objectives, customer service and operations, and then we get into the numbers at a summary level with all the detail available also. So that would probably be best.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Mr. Chairman, David, I see a vacancy for Building and Hydrology under Land Use but I don't see a vacancy for the deputy director.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, that's because under the way I've presented this budget, in order to bring the budget into balance, we've eliminated that position of the deputy land use director. So that's why. It doesn't even exist under this scenario.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So does that mean that the Land Use Director right now is an exempt position?

MR. WOLF: It's an exempt position filled with a classified person as acting Land Use Director. But it is an exempt position. That will be the intent in the long run.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Does that work? Do our guideline allow -- the structure that we're under right now, does it allow us to do that?

MR. WOLF: I believe we're fine with that, Mr. Chairman. I'll double check with Arturo so he could respond to that.

ARTURO RODRIGUEZ (Personnel Director): Mr. Chairman, we can put a classified employee into an exempt position. It's not a permanent status right now.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Until the Board decides to appoint a Land Use Administrator.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Not the Board, the County Manager.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: That's correct. Depending on how this budget ends up today.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, following the lines of the Chairman's questions, David, if in the event that you select the Land Use Administrator, what is to happen to Diana Lucero if we are basically eliminating the deputy director's position?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, we probably have a couple of choices. One, if there's another position available in the department we could move her back to that position. I think as somebody said earlier, there is another vacancy, the Building and Hydrology supervisor or division director, the way it's structured now. We could move her into that, or we could recreate on a temporary basis the deputy position until Diana retires and then we could do away with it again. I think she's going to retire in February or March. So we have some options.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So the vacancy, the Building and Hydrology, who vacated that spot? Was that Al?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Al Quintana.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So you're saying you may not fill that spot? I thought that we were actively trying to fill that spot.

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MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, we are actively trying to fill that spot or we're also looking at the job descriptions I believe right now to decide how we want to handle that division as we go forward, and Personnel and Diana have been reviewing that. But one of the issues we need to look at is if we reinstate the deputy position, then that's a funding issue. And then we have to look at how we fund that deputy for a period of time or utilize an existing position that's vacant to absorb Diana's salary if that's the wishes of the Board.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: The only reason I bring all this up, David, is we're right in the middle of developing a regional planning authority with the City. The Land Use Department really needs someone that's going to take us to that next level and someone that's going to take a leadership role for more than just nine months. I understand that Diana is going to retire soon, but I think that to hold off, or pretty much dictate to us that this Commission has to hold off on approving any appointment that you might make to the Land Use Department, for someone to take that leadership role, I'm not sure that that's an appropriate thing to do. When we get to the Land Use Department I'd like to talk more about it and discuss it with the other Commissioners, but I really think we need someone that's going to take charge of that and lead us into the next phase, which is probably a two or three-year project on the regional planning process that we've all agreed to participate in.

MR. WOLF: I understand, Mr. Chairman. I just also want to point out that what I have before the Commission today is my recommendation based on what we've done over the last month to 45 days and reviewing the numbers and trying to bring the numbers into balance. Where we go from here is the Commission's call.

We'll move on then to an overview of the numbers. What we have is some slides and some of them have some detailed information. I know you probably won't be able to see, you might not be able to see the numbers on the screen but if nothing else it will help you find your place in the packet. First of all, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, this slide here is the first slide under tab 3 and it's just a brief summary of the general fund sources and uses and it's balanced at \$31 million.

We have \$27.8 million in revenue and about \$3.2 million in available cash. The revenue is or recurring uses of funds and the cash is for non-recurring uses of funds. And again, that balance is at \$31,070,000. It includes \$4.9 million, roughly, if you see under the uses of funds, under the recurring uses, \$4.897 million of transfers out. The majority, \$4.2 million of that \$4.9 will be transferred out of the general fund and into the jail operations fund to cover the cost of the County's inmates and the debt service for the jail. So that's a significant piece of the transfers out.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any questions on this?

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: This is projected revenue? The budget being \$31 million? How does that compare to last year's budget?

MR. WOLF: On the next page, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, you'll see on -- you may not be able to see the numbers up here, but in order to find your place we have the sources of funds. FY99 budget we have projected and budget and the budget

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is under the third column from the left and you can see that's \$32.9 million. We actually have an increase, as you can see on the right there in revenue. Property taxes are up and we have the new 1/8 gross receipts tax that was approved by the voters that we're going to use to offset the cost of our dumping. That's about \$500,000. Property taxes are up about \$900,000. With the new gross receipts tax, that's up about \$500,000. That results in the increase that you see there for the most part on the revenues, but the overall budget is down because we have less cash available for non-recurring uses.

You can see in fiscal year '99 we have about \$6.2 million available of cash. That's a non-recurring source for capital or non-recurring uses of funds. This year we only have about \$3.2 million as you can see there in the far right hand corner under non-recurring use of funds.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So David, our revenues are up roughly \$2 million from last year? Did I read that right?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, actually the revenues -- you can look at the comparison of the revenues which are -- projected revenues, it's the fourth column from the right and it's \$27 million, roughly. That, compared to the \$26.3, which is budgeted for this fiscal year. That's the difference there and it nets out to --

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Where is the \$26.3?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: It's the budgeted revenues, the third column over.

MR. WOLF: It's right here, if you can see this pointer.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Oh, \$26.6.

MR. WOLF: Point six. I'm sorry. Versus the \$27.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Our budgeted revenues of \$26.6 and our actual revenues for this fiscal year were \$24.6, right?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, that was the fiscal year prior to this. The last fiscal year, the one that ended June 30, 1998. So what we have there -- let me go back over the columns, I'm sorry. Fiscal year '98 were the actual revenues that were received for fiscal year '98, the year ending June 30, 1998. Then the column over to the right of that are the projections for the revenues that we will receive for this fiscal year, versus the budget. So we're actually projecting more revenue than what we budgeted for this fiscal year as you can see with those two columns. Then to the right are the budgeted revenues for next fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, I'm with you. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So to recap what you're saying, David, this FY2000 general fund revenues were actually less than the projected revenues that we received in FY99? Because we're projecting total sources at \$26.1 million? Am I right? In the general fund?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, that's correct, although the way we've had to present things here, it's a little misleading. But now you've

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got a handle on that number. Donna, kick us back to the slide just before this please. Keep in mind that \$26.1 number. That's net of the transfers out of the \$4.2 million. We would have a total of \$31 million to spend in the general fund, which is slightly less than what we have in the current year, and that's because of reductions in cash. But we're transferring out of the general fund, \$4.9 million as you can see there.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And that's for the jail?

MR. WOLF: That's going to the jail. And there's a discrepancy in how we're presenting this, because really, this year, that expense is going to be incurred in the enterprise fund for jail operations but in the current year, that expense is being incurred in the general fund. So it's a little disparity in how we present those numbers. But really we would have available \$31 million in the general fund to spend but we're having to transfer that money out.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Did we transfer out the \$2 million that we used to spend in the last budget cycle? I don't recall that we did it that way.

MR. WOLF: That was part of the problem with the budget shortfall that we had this year. It wasn't identified in the general fund to start with. It was identified for other purposes and then we went back in and kind of reconstructed that as the year went along.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Oh, okay. So we're taking this out because this is a known amount that we're going to have to budget for that and with that out of the way we can start working on the other budget problems, I guess.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, that's a good way to look at it. When we get into the County Manager's presentation on the jail operations, I can walk you through the entire budget for the jail and how that \$4.2 million out of that \$4.9 that's transferred into the jail operations, how that's derived.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So then out of the \$31 total sources, you take out the \$4 and that's how you got the \$27, right? So that's really our operating budget, without the jail. So the jail is taken care of already?

MR. WOLF: That's correct. I'm sorry, I know it's kind of confusing and it's trying to compare how we're doing things this year versus last year but this would really be our number that we would have for general fund purposes. Is everybody okay with that?

CHAIRMAN DURAN: You're off to a good start I think. Any other questions of David?

MR. WOLF: This page, the subtotal represents all the sources that we have for special revenue funds and just to give you an idea of what special revenue funds are as an example, we have about 2/3 of the way down the Indigent Fund is a special revenue fund and of that \$18 million I believe, the Indigent Fund is about \$4.2 million of that. And then we have \$5 million for the special grant that we got from Housing, is included in that number. We have the quarter percent fund for fire. It's part of the special revenues.

What I'm doing here is showing you what the pieces are that make up our total

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budget. Our total budget is about \$90 million. That's made up of the general fund, special revenue funds, capital project funds, debt service funds and enterprise funds for the most part. I'm just trying to walk you through what the overall picture is and how our total budget is developed. We tend to focus all our time on the general fund because that's our discretionary money, but I wanted to make sure you understood the whole picture also.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: David, can you tell me again why the Indigent Fund we're expecting \$1.1 million less? Or \$1.3 million less? We're projecting through 6/30/99 to generate \$4.6 million and we have projected revenues for the FY2000 of \$3.3 million with some cash coming in.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, that's a great point and this has to do with the redirection of the gross receipts tax, the second half of the third one-eighth that was approved by the voters in January. So the difference roughly between that \$3.3 and the \$4.7 that we're expecting this year is a revenue stream that will be going to the new fund, the EMS and the health care fund.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Where do we have that?

MR. WOLF: That is up above, that \$1,650,000, under emergency services. It's the second line down under the revenues.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Is there a reason why we've titled that emergency services? I looked at that and I thought that had to do with the EMS and fire departments.

MR. WOLF: I'm sorry. The title should be emergency services/health care fund. And that's how it's laid out in the ordinance.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So can we make that change?

MR. WOLF: Sure.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Make sure that that's noted in the budget document.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: What are you changing that to?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Actually, I'd like it to be health services, but you're saying it has to be emergency and slash health services?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, the way it was laid out in the ordinance, we didn't actually name the fund but we committed to establishing a separate special revenue fund to capture these transactions for two purposes, emergency services and health care purposes.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So it would be emergency/health care services fund.

MR. WOLF: That's fine. And that's what we've been calling it. We just didn't get the whole title up there.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, Dave, what kind of flexibility do we have with that particular line item as far as utilizing that type of fund? I'm talking about the emergency services/health services fund.

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MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, we have quite a bit of flexibility as long as it's used for what would be considered a reasonable definition of emergency services or health care. One of the things that we're recommending as part of this budget cycle is \$500,000 of that \$1,650,000, as you can see under the transfers out, will be transferred to cover the salaries and benefits if approved by the Commission for the second and third phase of the paramedic firefighter program. So that fits in with that piece.

We're recommending \$100,000 of it be used for a new ambulance and then the remainder is available for health care. If I could go back to your question, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales. To keep the Indigent Fund at a reasonable amount of what we expect to spend, at about \$4.25,

\$4.3 million, the way we spend down that cash balance in the Indigent Fund, we were carrying over \$3 million in that fund, is we budget, we're budgeting cash to keep the Indigent Fund stable, to provide the services that we need to keep for the Indigent needs. So we have a certain amount of revenue and the difference is what we can pull from cash to cover the needs of the Indigent Fund.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: The cash is sitting in the Indigent Fund now, the cash reserves. So it's not cash that's coming out of general fund reserves.

MR. WOLF: That's exactly right. Now, we're looking at these individual funds, separate from the general fund. So that's exactly how it will work. We'll have \$3.2 million of revenue that will end up in the Indigent Fund, we project. And we'll use \$950,000 of that available cash to keep it under that \$4,250,000.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So for all the cash that's budgeted here, the \$2.9 million, you're saying those are all coming out of cash reserve funds that are separate from the general fund reserve?

MR. WOLF: That's correct.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Is that all of the cash? So if we added the cash in the general fund and the cash under this special revenue, we would have a total of - are we going to have a listing of all our cash reserves on hand for each of the funds? Do you have that presented?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I don't have that on a spreadsheet to present to you but we could put something together for you.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I think that's important that we know what our cash reserves are in each of those funds.

MR. WOLF: For all the special revenue funds, other than the road fund, I'm recommending that we spend basically all available funds, other than the Indigent Fund, because we've timelined that out over a four-year period and that's how we determine what amount is available on a recurring or non-recurring basis in that EMS/Health Care Fund. As far as the general fund goes, we will maintain our 3/12, 25% of what's budgeted for this fiscal year has to be reserved by statute. We've worked it out mathematically, so that \$3.2 million that we're recommending that we spend in the general fund for non-recurring type

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items or this capital outlay or contractual services is over and above the reserve requirement that we're required to maintain.

And then the road fund we have to keep 1/12.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So the road fund, the \$4.67 is what's in addition to the 1/12 of the reserve?

MR. WOLF: That's right.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So you're just spending it -- we do that on an annual basis, basically?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales. Exactly. We end up with some balances in these funds throughout the year. We may not spend it on all the expenses and that leaves some cash for the next year to identify for non-recurring items and then we budget again to try to maximize the services, because these are special revenues that should be identified for a specific purpose for the benefit of the public. Any other questions on these?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Just one more question on the special revenue funds. Are we going to have a breakdown -- I'm looking at the fire tax, quarter percent fund where the projected revenue of \$960,000, you're putting out \$1.87 and it looks like we'll have reserves of \$350,000. I think there was \$1.1 million in revenues in there. Are we going to have a breakdown of the expenditures of that? That's going to go into the EMS Department and we'll see that?

MR. WOLF: Exactly.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, this group of funds represents capital improvement funds. Under fund accounting and DFA mandates we're required to track all these items under these different types of funds and GAP, general accounting principles, but these are the amounts by fund that are set aside for capital improvements. And the most significant piece there is the open space bonds, which is the last item. You can see the \$12 million under that group for open space and that will be bond proceeds that were just approved at the last Commission. Any questions on this group of funds?

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any questions of Dave?

MR. WOLF: The next group of funds are our debt service funds and we can walk through those real quick so you know what those are. We have our general obligation bond debt service that's funded by property taxes, environmental debt service, which is funded by our environmental gross receipts tax, and that pays for the debt to acquire the property which was the County's responsibility for the regional landfill. We have the equipment and loan debt service fund and that brings me to an item. You can see really other than \$17,000 don't have anything budgeted for that fund and that was for the equipment that was bought about three or four years ago and that was tied up with gross receipts taxes.

One of the thing I want to ask you is I want to take some of the cash balance that

we're going to have from this year's operations to pay off that debt so we don't have to set aside operating money to carry that debt for another year. So what I've presented here to you is no budgeted expense for that debt service, other than this \$17,000 which comes from a transfer out of the fire tax money to pay for an emergency vehicle.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Excuse me, David, what is our debt service on that? We pay it monthly?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman. It comes out of our gross receipts tax. The State Taxation and Revenue intercepts an amount of about \$40,000 a month roughly for that debt service.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: What kind of interest are we paying on that?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, we're paying about mid-fours I think. It was only a five-year loan so it was very, very attractive interest.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So you think it would be better for us to pay it off than to continue servicing the debt and that we have enough money available to do that?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, we talked earlier about the 25% reserve requirement of cash in the general fund and then over and above that, from that first slide we had \$3.2 million set aside for non-recurring purchases. Over and above that, we've reserved enough money, which is about \$350,000 to pay off that remaining debt immediately. For a couple reasons. One, we earn about the amount of money that we're paying on that debt. So that would be a wash as far as earning on our cash versus paying that debt. And the other thing is it frees up that much needed revenue on a recurring basis to cover some of our increased expenses, such as the jail operations and increases in our insurance and utilities. The kind of things we really didn't have much control over from a budget perspective. So based on those reasons, that's my recommendation.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Is this the fifth year that we're going on that loan, David? Or the fourth year?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griñé, this was the fourth year. I think there was a lag after we acquired that equipment. So we would have --

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: So you think it's in the best interest to go ahead and pay that debt off?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griñé.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: It would be good to have that cash available for other things.

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, because we've counted on -- the way this is presented here, we've counted on that in revenue to cover some of our other recurring operating needs, other than this debt, since we can take non-recurring cash to pay off this debt. So we've counted on that to cover the jail, primarily.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So you don't think the leverage approach is the right way to go on this?

MR. WOLF: I think it works in some instances, but given the need for the

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revenue and the fact that we earn as much money -- we earn a similar amount of interest on our funds as what we were paying, I think it's probably best.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Dave, I've been looking through your presentation here. Did you make any allowances for a contingency fund?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, we've set aside \$1.1 million for contingency purposes, which is equivalent to what we had set aside in this year's budget.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Where did you list that?

MR. WOLF: It's built into general fund uses of funds, so it's built into that \$26 or \$27 million that was left in the general fund. And when we get into the individual departmental budgets, within the County Manager's budget, a use of general fund money will be to replenish that contingency fund.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: So what do you call it now, instead of contingency fund?

MR. WOLF: That's it, contingency. Well, we call it contingency fund, although we don't have it identified as a separate fund. It's a use of general fund money, so we just have it broken out as a cost center within the general fund for accounting ease. The fewer funds we have the fewer audit findings and other things.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: It's completely set aside for emergency purposes?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: David, how much of this year's contingency fund do we still have remaining?

MR. WOLF: We have about a half a million dollars. We've used about \$600,000 as the year went along. A big piece of it was for stuff that we've had to do to our systems to make them year 2000 compliant.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And do you recall the previous year we had left?

MR. WOLF: I don't, Mr. Chairman. We could look it up and I could get it back to you by the time we get into my budget.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Because it seems to me that if every year we have \$500,000 left in the contingency fund that maybe we could commit to more services and maybe we could grow a little bit more.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: What if we have bad weather and all that?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, what we do is we replenish that with available cash balance. So I'm really not pulling it out of the revenue. I kind of misspoke a minute ago when Commissioner Anaya asked me where we had it. From a source of funds perspective, the \$600,000 is built into that non-recurring cash balance, that \$3.2 million that was identified there in the first page. We could go back to it real quick so I could show you how we funded it. But we're using non-recurring funds to replenish that contingency fund.

And of all years that we may need or I would feel more comfortable at least

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recommending that we may need the \$1.1 million would be this year for a couple reason. One, this year we didn't have much of a snowfall and that kind of helps cover amounts that we may not have budgeted in the Public Works Department, as well as we have this year 2000 reality. We're actually going to change to the year 2000 here in December in this next fiscal year. I don't know if there's going to be any impact to us that we haven't expected or not. We've taken care of the things we can control, which are the systems.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: One more question to finish what I was talking about. I thought Larry's department had a contingency fund built into his budget to take care of any unusual weather that we might have.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Larry's budget includes amounts for maintenance, snow removal, those kind of items, but they're based upon an average impact. So there isn't any contingency for some abnormal emergency type requirement.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: It all comes out of the general fund then, or the contingency fund?

MR. WOLF: That's right. For anything over and above what we'd consider the norm or the average, we have this \$1.1 million set aside to cover those items, including lawsuits. We use it for a lot of things.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Just to expand on that, Mr. Chairman. I think a good way to look at it is what David's putting into the contingency fund is money not traditionally used for regular services of County government so it's all the savings and everything else that we get throughout the year that he'll have at the end of the year that he moves in. Because I agree with you. I think that if there's a history showing that we would never need to use the \$1.1 million that we would look at ways to increase services, and I think that would be a prudent thing to do if we were using recurring revenues, I guess what he's calling it, to fund that. But he's basically at the end of each year looking at all the savings that have been saved and he'll go in and he puts it into that contingency fund, rather than using money that we're using to fund regular services. Is that right?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, what we did this year is we just set up priorities and how we're going to use our non-recurring cash. First of all, to replenish the contingency fund. Second was to pay off the Finance Authority loan, and third, what we had left over we set aside to cover the non-recurring requests from the departments and elected officials and we had to cut those requests down to match to what was available after we funded these two issues with non-recurring funds.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, I think it's practical and healthy to always keep a contingency fund and naturally what you do if you don't utilize it in one fiscal year, you roll it over to the next year. Commissioner Gonzales, or you said that it's based on the average impact of occurrences. How far back in history do you average that impact on the contingency fund?

MR. WOLF: Well, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, when I was referring to the average impact of these things that affect us annually, that's where we try

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to budget on a recurring basis, the cost of those items into the different departments, like the snow removal and the maintenance for roads and those kind of things. This on the contingency fund, we've carried it at \$1.1 million, I believe this would be the third year to carry it at \$1.1 million. Before that it was a little bit less than that.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: So it's like a three-year history that you base it on?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: The only reason I was asking, David, is in the additional services that we might be able to offer, there are child abuse that are coming and asking us for money. There's teen programs that are asking us for money. And it's not big bucks, it's \$50,000, \$75,000, \$100,000. So I'm just wondering if this contingency fund has a history of having large savings or an amount that you carry over every year. Do we ever use that contingency fund to fund some of these other social programs?

MR. WOLF: On occasion, Mr. Chairman, something will come up that wasn't budgeted during the fiscal year and things seem to be going okay where it doesn't look like -- emergencies come up unexpected, of course, but anyway, it looks like we have some money available in the contingency fund and we'll set that aside to do something with. And I'll give you a couple of examples of what we've done this year in relation to that. One, we set \$40,000 aside as our match for the teen center program, for the CDBG match in the northern part of the county. That, I earmarked money from the contingency fund to cover that. You guys directed us to get involved in the community schools program which was about \$18,000. I was going to pull the money from the contingency fund on that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So you are utilizing that fund.

MR. WOLF: We do tap into it to a certain extent for these kinds of programs that were unexpected, non-budgeted, yes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Great. Thank you.

MR. WOLF: Enterprise funds. There's three enterprise funds that we have and they are the Water Utility, that's the first. Then we have the Housing Services enterprise fund. There's a number of different funds that are related to housing but one of the funds is an enterprise fund. It derives a lot of the revenue from rent payments on the different housing units. And then the most significant one there is the jail operating fund, enterprise fund for this next fiscal year and we estimate it to be in the neighborhood of \$10.7 million. \$4.2 million of that \$10.7 will come from the County. The remainder of the money will come from other entities utilizing that facility. The use of that money will go to pay Cornell and pay the debt service on the facility. Any questions on these funds.

That gives us a total operating budget for the current year of \$90.5 million, roughly. And then we'll go into some of the graphs real quick so you can see how the uses of funds are broken out. This takes the \$90,500,000 roughly and shows what departments are responsible for what portion of the \$90 million. The reason my budget is so significant, the \$10 million for the jail is in that piece of the pie.

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CHAIRMAN DURAN: David, is everybody pretty much flat? Does this pretty much represent -- are they similar to last year's budgeted amounts?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, as far as operations go. The thing that increased was salaries and benefits because we gave a 4% increase during the fiscal year and we revised the salary package. So salaries and benefits were up, but other than that, operating costs, contractual services are down. Operating costs for the most part are down. I've got another slide that shows that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Just one last question. So none of the departments here increased in their budget from last year?

MR. WOLF: I don't want to say that none increased. We'll go through them on a department by department basis. And we based what I'm recommending to you to approve based on need and justification on a line item level. So if there's any increases - I can think of one off the top of my head. General Services went up some, but that's where we capture our electricity, our utility costs, some of those costs had increased. We also -- for the most part, that's why General Services is up. But as we go through each department, we'll have a summary of that department that compares each category and where they are compared to the prior years. You see almost every category will be down with a few exceptions and then we can explain why if they're up, why they're up.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, a \$90 million budget. In the history that I've been here, that's probably the largest I've ever seen. It's comparable to St. Vincent's Hospital. Amazing.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Mr. Chairman, what is the percentage difference from last year to this year's budget.

MR. WOLF: Actually, Mr. Chairman, there's a slight decrease in the budget that we're recommending versus the budget that we're in this year. The percentage is probably less than 2% but the main reason is we're close because we're adding -- two of the big pieces in this year's budget that weren't in last year's budget is the increase because of the jail operations fund, and the open space -- \$12 million for open space, \$10.7 for jail operations. In the current year we had some money for jail operations because it was a partial year. It was five or six million I think. So we have those increases. But then we have a decrease because we don't have the construction of the new jail facility, which was about a \$22 to \$25 million piece of last year's budget -- \$22 for the facility, \$1.5 for the FF&E and all those other items.

So the other funds, for the most part pretty much balance out with those significant differences.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: What was the operations? Has that remained flat too?

MR. WOLF: The operation, which we had in the general fund, before the transfers out, which was a little bit less than the current year's budget, about \$2 million less than the current year's budget. The general fund is made up of the two component, your

revenues and cash. The revenues are up in the general fund by roughly a million, but the overall general fund budget is down because we have less cash available to budget this year versus last year. We're still in that \$31 million.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So, Mr. Chairman, David, is there a concern if we have less cash available. If we traditionally looking at our history relied on cash available to fund some operation or some projects that we've had and we're seeing that there's not as much cash available?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, it does affect us. It does affect what we could do if we were going to fund any road projects, say, out of -- we did set some money aside for match or to assist with road projects but it does have the potential to affect the non-recurring type projects that we could fund with general fund money. But this year we had some significant projects that we used general fund money for too. One is, we talked about in the Commission meeting yesterday was \$1 million up in Arroyo Seco. That was all general fund cash. So we don't have that significant project in this fiscal year. It was a one-time thing. We used the cash and we move on.

And again, before we get to that \$3 million, I'd already pulled out that money to pay off the Finance Authority too, so that would have normally been available.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So basically, our overall budget is decreased and our general fund budget is decreased?

MR. WOLF: Yes.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: That's pretty much contrary to what every other government around New Mexico is probably dealing with, right?

MR. WOLF: And some of our uncontrollable costs actually increased, so now you can see the dilemma or the tough time we've had bringing this budget into balance. Exactly what you said.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: David, I haven't even balanced my checkbook in ten years. But I look at the budget by department, \$90,490,000 -- is there a chart in here that shows us the revenues that equal that \$90 million. It balances out, right?

MR. WOLF: Yes. If we could go back just for a minute to the spreadsheet with all the different funds.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Is it in this? Because I looked.

MR. WOLF: Yes. All those funds that we just walked you through, the general funds, the special revenues, capital, enterprise -- you add all those up and then on that far right hand corner there's your \$90,490,000. So what we just went through are all the revenue projections for all those different funds, all the available cash. Netted transfers in and out and we net out to that \$90 million. So that is all the sources and now it's just showing the departments that are responsible.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: We had a three million dollar over-run last year that we didn't anticipate in the budget. How was that rectified? It's taken care of,

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right?

MR. WOLF: Yes. Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, we did a number of things to rectify that over-run. The main thing there was a million dollars set aside in that budget to fund a new administrative building. So that was an easy one. We just pulled a million right out of there and we didn't go forward with that project and that saved a third of it. Other than that, it was going through each fund and maximizing the use of all the cash reserves that we had and pulling out all the non-recurring uses of funds that were in the budget, identifying all the non-recurring sources of funds by fund. All these different funds that I just walked you through and utilized the cash balances that were available there to match up with the appropriate non-recurring expense. So that was another big piece.

The other piece was we imposed a \$400,000 vacancy savings. We fund positions at 100%. There were a number of new positions that were approved in last year's budget and we knew the timing and the lag of getting those positions filled would generate some savings in the budget. So we executed a vacancy savings of \$400,000 which has materialized on the expense side. So net all those together and we're still going to come in with a budget that has a surplus in it this year and based on that surplus, that's how we're able to fund these non-recurring items this year, the \$3.2 million.

As you saw in the revenues, we almost have an additional million in revenues on the revenue side in the general fund for this year's budget and we have some savings on the expense side to cover that.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I want to commend you, David, for getting creative to address that anomaly and really getting proactive to give impetus to buoyancy.

MR. WOLF: Thank you, Commissioner. Staff, I think, deserves the credit. They really stepped up and helped address the issue as well as getting the books straightened out a year ago. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So, in effect, is that a \$6 million that occurred from us being \$3 million -- a \$3 million deficit to now having a \$3 million-plus surplus through what you just described?

MR. WOLF: Basically, yes. Had we known we were going to have this surplus at the beginning of the year, we wouldn't have needed really -- well we still needed to make those changes because we had a mismatch of sources and uses of funds, but yes --

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So that's the way the year ended up and the amount of revenue more that came in and some expense also that you're going to save on.

MR. WOLF: Yes. This is a similar graph to what the other one was. It breaks out the uses of general fund money but by category versus department. What I found really interesting with this graph is, if you combine the salaries and benefits -- salaries and wages are about 37%, benefits are about 12%. So just a little under 50% of our general fund is being used for salaries and benefits. So the rest of that we're able to use for services. The majority of the transfers out again goes to the jail. But we did just a real rough phone survey, Arturo did in Personnel --

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COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: David, I remember what I was going to ask you. How could we have -- I guess we can go back to Domingo's time, but how could he have come up with such a low figure? He kind of blamed it on the fact that he was going on 100% tax collection, right? For having that over-run last year, towards this time last year. Was that really the cause of the problem?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griné, there were two reasons that we had the \$3 million problem last year. One was property taxes were budgeted at 100%, yes and we've traditionally collected, the current year's taxes between 92% and 94%. So 6% to 8% on \$16 million was roughly a million dollars that the budget was overstated. And the other problem was that the transfer out of the general fund, use of general fund money for the debt service on the jail wasn't identified as a use of general fund money. So that was \$1.9. So you put the \$1.1 for the overstatement of the property taxes and the \$1.9 million and that was a \$3 million error.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: I don't want to get out of order here, but as a result of those overexpenditures that were given out to the schools last year, did we lose any interest in that amount of money? What was it, \$2.4 million or something like that? How much revenue did we lose? I know our County Treasurer's here.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griné, I'd have to occur to Phil, but since we wouldn't have had control of those funds for that period of time we would have lost the interest earnings on that money and maybe Phil could address that?

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Do you know how much more or less, Phil, we lost in the course of that year?

MR. TRUJILLO: I have no idea, Commissioners. We never tried to analyze it.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: But it's been all rectified and corrected, right?

MR. TRUJILLO: Oh, absolutely. That's all behind us.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Let's keep it there. Let's keep it behind us. So David, you were talking about the salaries and wages representing 37%?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, and you add the benefits to that and our totals, our impacts from salaries, wages and benefits is less than 50% of our general fund. And I thought that's the most significant thing out of this graph because a lot of the other governmental entities are running between 65% and 80% of their general fund is going to salaries and wages. I don't want to speak for the City but I think Arturo called and asked and I think they were close to 80%

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: They are. I talked to the Mayor yesterday at lunch and he says they are.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Eighty percent of the City's general revenues are taken by -- general revenues or total budget?

MR. WOLF: General fund.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: General fund revenues are taken by salaries?

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MR. WOLF: Salaries and benefits. So then you can see what that does to you. We're able to have almost 50% of our general fund budget that can go towards helping to provide services and it's not tied up with as much salaries and benefits.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Dave, inclusive of capital purchases, is that the jail? Is that included in that? In capital purchases?

MR. WOLF: No, Mr. Chairman and Commissioner Anaya. It doesn't. The jail now, the debt service -- the use of the general fund money that's going towards the debt service is \$1,930,000 and that's built into that \$4.9 million number that's a transfer out. And that will go into the jail enterprise fund and that becomes a source to the jail enterprise fund and then the use of the enterprise fund goes to debt.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Okay. I just wanted to visualize the difference between capital purchases under this fund, general fund and any other fund that pays for the jail. That's general obligation fund I guess.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: David, I guess I asked at our budget retreat that we see some goals and objectives set forth by each of the department heads, which I'm assuming we're going to see when we go through this. But I think that -- and I don't know if the best time would be to talk about it when we review your budget but this jail, \$4.9 million, the 16% that we're using general fund money, we've got to have a goal to bring that thing down somehow. It seems we have a program in place where we have a facility that's -- and I know that you had to inherit an agreement with the current operator but somehow we need to figure out a way to lower those costs because 16%, I know that that's probably low compared to what other government or other county governments are seeing but it just seems to me that the alternatives to incarceration and possibly a better contractual relationship with Cornell Corrections that that could be an area that hopefully we'll see continually to go down.

I don't know, just to point it up but I think that your office needs to start implementing some measures to figure out how to reduce those costs of incarceration.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I agree with you. Of that \$4.9, \$4.2 goes to the jail, roughly and our costs for our, to house our inmates is still on an average inmate basis less than \$30 an inmate which is still an extremely favorable rate for the County when a lot of other people are paying \$50 to \$60 per head in total. On average our rate is still excellent but it's still costing us too much money. We're tying up too much money for that instead of services. We have put together a criminal justice task force which includes a number of the judges, Chief Judge Vigil, the DA, some of the defense attorneys to try to come up with ideas and solutions and alternatives to incarceration and that's moving.

And then when we get into my budget and we get into some of the goals and objectives and one of the ones I have in there is to operate the jail efficiently, cost-effectively and with the minimal goal of bringing down our costs by half a million. That's what I put. I hope it's more than that. I hope we can save a million to a million-five, but at least I want

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to save a million over this next fiscal year.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: David, I'd like for you at some point in time to do an analysis of what it would take for the County to take over the operation of the jail. I think that the Sheriff's Department could probably do something like that. I don't know. The people that are running it right now are doing it for profit and they're making a profit and it's costing the taxpayers money for these guys to run a business out there when if we really analyzed how the County could take it over using the Sheriff's Department we would save money all the way around.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, I think that's an excellent idea. And going back to what we did on the Solid Waste Board where we went out to look to see on the reverse side where a private enterprise could take care of our solid waste better. I think a comparison of that nature would be in total order.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I thought we had talked about this before and there had been some discussion about your exploring that possibility.

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I'll follow up with -- I'll make sure that Berron puts together some numbers that I could bring back to the Commission and we can look at that. Basically, what I had Berron prioritize is putting together with Virginia the criminal justice task force so we could immediately focus on getting our numbers down because that's a daily out-of-pocket expense. And we're tied into a contract for a certain period of time. As far as priorities went I had him focus on trying to figure out these alternatives to incarceration. But we'll put the numbers together and I will get that back to you.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I can see the Sheriff back there grinding his teeth saying, Oh no. It's just a comparison for efficiency purposes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I'm not suggesting that the Sheriff take this over with the existing manpower they have. It would definitely be another level of management required out there. But if it's one that we have control over and there's savings for the public, I think that we at least owe it to them to find out if that can be turned into a reality.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: And I agree with Chairman Duran. I think we've always looked since earlier on looking at this, Commissioner Anaya, Commissioner Trujillo, I know we were on the discussions of seeing what it would take for the County to take this. I think that's a continuous exercise that we need to always do this. To see the pros and cons between having it under public -- whether we're running it publicly or whether we're doing it privately. And as David indicated, one of the things -- because I've been involved with this from the start that right now our numbers are below \$30 a day, having a private company do it.

So we need to keep in mind when he goes and does his analysis, including the debt and taking on manpower, giving the manpower to the Sheriff and everything else is that's our target to come in below \$30 a day where it will be economically feasible to do that facility, in addition to looking at other revenue generators, which we've always said that that

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jail should do until we grow into it. Seeing the relationship that we'll have with the federal government in utilizing the facility. So what you're asking for today, Chairman Duran, is something that I think that David has always been looking at this in his mind, countering what would it take for us to take this over and manage it? Can we do it at a better cost than what it's costing us right now, which is \$4.9 million or \$4.2 million to operate this large of a facility, which comes out to be below \$30 a day.

So I think we're all in agreement up here that that should be a continuous analysis that's done and at the point where we can make the break and move to where we do operate it, either as efficiently or better where we're generating monies, I think it's incumbent on all of us to move that route. But I think that's a difficult task. We're going to really put the pencil to them and make sure that's something --

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: It's a simple checks and balance. That's all it is.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: The thing is the jail used to cost us \$2 million and now it's costing us \$4.2 million. It's preventing us from providing other services. It's preventing us from growing. And I think that it's something that needs to be continually looked at. And I know that it has been, but it didn't cost us \$4 million last year, so this is the first budget cycle that we've had to actually see the impact that this facility is having on our budget and our community. And I think that it's our responsibility to do what we can. And I'm sure that we all assume that responsibility.

MR. WOLF: I agree, Mr. Chairman. We continue to look at it and we'll put the numbers together. Our costs for a number of years were capped at \$2.2 million. And when we executed this agreement with Cornell, of that \$2.2 million we set aside, we wanted to use \$1.9 of it for the debt service, and our population was at about 250, 260, last August and September when we negotiated the agreement. Since we've opened the new facility, our population has jumped from 260 to bouncing around between 300 and 320. So these numbers represent now 311, 315. We'll look when we get to my budget the exact number that we can fund with this. But we've had to jump to fund 50 or 60 inmates that we didn't really expect in our projects.

I don't know if that's just a sign of the fact that the old facility was tremendously overcrowded and we opened up a new facility and now it's just being utilized more. That's what we need to find out through this task force we put together with the judges.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I know Commissioner Gonzales is pushing for alternatives methods of incarceration so that would help too. There's a lot of elements to this.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Mr. Chairman, David, also we now currently have that debt service to service too, and how much out of this \$4.2 is actually going to servicing the debt?

MR. WOLF: A million, nine hundred and thirty thousand.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: A year?

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MR. WOLF: A year, yes.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: So that's pretty much what the difference is. That's why it's doubled. We have a debt service now that we didn't have before.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: It was a million what?

MR. WOLF: A million nine hundred and thirty thousand goes to the debt. The old facility was financed with general obligation bonds. We financed this with revenue bonds from the facility and it's backed by gross receipts taxes. That's why it impacts the general fund.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Mr. Chairman, but the intent, if I understand correctly initially was to make this department self-sufficient, generating enough money so that it will function by itself. Hopefully we're headed in that direction.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: This fell through the cracks, I guess, along with the transition last year, right David?

MR. WOLF: Well, I think that the problem, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griné, goes back to when this was conceptually put together. An operating agreement wasn't executed. The focus became the construction agreement for the new facility. Then the new facility was built. That was about 18 months later. And then in the meantime jail populations went up beyond what people expected. We still negotiated 233 beds in exchange for us paying the debt service. It's our incremental beds from 233 to 311 or so now, 320 that are really getting us.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Commissioner Griné is right though. I think David's being kind. Eighteen months ago there should have been an agreement that was executed by the County and the management at the time failed to execute that agreement and what David has had to do is inherit a changed situation and try to manage as best he can. So as Commissioner Trujillo and Commissioner Anaya remember, that was the intent was to go forward. This would be a self-sufficient department and that was contingent on the management, the County management assuring that whatever contractual relationship we had with an operator was going to keep it a self-sufficient department and that didn't happen. That put us in the seat that we're in now.

Again, the challenge is -- I know the Chairman wants to move on, but this \$4.9 million, I've got to believe can be reduced. I've got to believe that we can still meet the intent of that, of what our goal was to minimize the cost of incarceration. We're never probably going to do away with it, obviously, because that's just going to continue to grow and I think we can talk to the Sheriff about what's happening out there but I think we have - - right now we live in a day where City police are taking people to our facility and they're charging them under state and County codes so the City doesn't have to pay for some of those costs. We live in a day where counties are responsible for every arrest that's made in the city, the County pays for.

That's provided for in the state statute. We live in the day where district attorneys and defense attorneys sometimes will leave their clients in jail for along period of time

hoping that when they go see the judge they can tell the judge he's already served a sufficient amount of time. We're responsible for paying for that. We live in an day when they charge inmates and they actually, they sentence them and it will take two months, three months, or I don't know how long to move them out of our facility to the state facility and we're paying for that.

So it's unbelievable when you look at all the challenges that we're faced with with just the way the system is working, it's very difficult to keep a hold of these costs. There are lots of things out there that I think David and this task force are addressing to try and do away and minimize how we're going to deal with these costs but we just need to continue plugging away at it and continue to look at if it's more efficient for us to take over this facility. If it is, I'm all for doing it. Or working to get a contract in place that is pro-County. I think the problem that we had in negotiating the last contract, we all knew it went out to RFP with two different type of vendors. It was a new facility that was empty and everyone was kind of staring at each other wondering if the facility was going to be filled or not. So there are a lot of challenges.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I agree that it is a challenge and I think knowing that it's a challenge, we'll be working on it for quite some time. It's obvious that the community needed a new facility. The one that we replaced was obsolete. And it's a cost that we couldn't avoid.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, you're right. And Judge Ellington recently told me, he sentenced, I don't know it was eight or ten inmates to like a day less than a year so the inmates wouldn't have to go to prison. So he sentenced them to, say 360 days, 364 days, to the County jail and it's so significant that for every 12 that are in there on an annual basis, it costs us a quarter of a million dollars. So you can see what something like that does to the County's pockets.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Don't the judges realize that?

MR. WOLF: That's part of why we pulled together this task force, just to see what can be done.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I think the judges do that a lot of times too. I've heard of cases where they'll do is so they stay close to their families, so that they're not put in to an actual penitentiary system but they want to give them, they want to make sure that they pay some penalty but they don't want them to -- there's probably a whole number of reasons that we even possibly don't know about why they do that. But costs like that are just huge, which wasn't the intent of County government when the state gave us the responsibility to be the principle detainees. It wasn't to have to serve in this role. But we're paying for it and it's a lot of money.

MR. WOLF: Maybe I'll just jump ahead to the last slide. It's shows the general fund and total budget. I thought this slide was interesting. It shows the total budget for the County. That's the yellow bars on the top. The maroon bars are the general fund and then the blue is salary and benefits. We're always being -- there's always the pressure

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to do more with less and we continue to try to do that, but what I thought this graph does is it really shows how our budget has grown tremendously over the last six years, the last five years and what we project for next year, and how our salaries and benefits have increased but proportionate to the growth of the total County and to the general fund, it's been a lot less growth in salaries and benefits than what the general fund and our total budget has grown.

So when you see that spread between the blue and the yellow over the six years, I think it really show how much more is being done by the County with similar of less growth proportionately on the salaries and benefits. I just thought that was pretty interesting when we look at the history. I know you guys are anxious to move on. Thank you. Mr. Chairman, if there aren't any more questions on this part of the presentation then I guess we could jump forward to the presentations at the department level.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: That would be fine.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Is that starting with the Land Use Department?

MR. WOLF: I had a request by the County Clerk. For personal reasons, she was wondering if she could be brought to the beginning of the meeting so she could take care of some personal business. Is that okay? Okay, Becky. Does that take us out of -- do you need a few minutes to get ready for that?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Can I ask you a real quick question? Will we have chance to talk about, from a policy standpoint, what to do with the capital budget? Is this the time or are we going to have a separate part of this?

MR. WOLF: I thought, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I'd included that as part of the presentation but another way to handle it would be to just address the portion of the capital budget as we do each department or we could do it a whole. Whatever's the preference of the Commission.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Well, I guess my concern is this, just to bring it up for discussion with the Commission as far as the capital budget. While I think that we should fund it, I have concerns about releasing it right away just because I don't know if we have a firm grip of how the year is going to be progressing forward. So what I'd like to do is have a discussion, Mr. Chairman, to see if we can -- we approve the capital outlay the way it's presented by the departments, then if we can at least attach some constraint on the use of that, at least for a quarter, until David can come back and we can assure that we're progressing properly in this financial period.

I'm concerned for a couple reasons. One is just with the rains that we're having, who knows what's going to happen depending on the need for capital money and one-time money. The other is I get disturbed when I hear what Judge Ellington's doing but even if we're focused on alternatives to incarceration it doesn't mean that those are necessarily going to bring our jail costs down. I don't know if I feel comfortable with the department heads right away moving off and starting to spend their capital when we don't know how the year may progress. So I guess what I'm asking if the Commission has a problem if we just

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waited a quarter on the release of the expenditures of the capital money so that we can just be cautious on how the budget is proceeding forward. I'm not opposed to it but --

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I don't know what that means.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: It just means -- and I don't know how long it usually takes the department heads -- I don't think it's going to hurt the department heads much unless there's a definitive need but all I'm saying is we would fund the capital budget but we would put a restraint on spending the money at least for a quarter until David could come back three months down the road and just give us a progress of how things are progressing forward.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And then that includes purchase of vehicles --

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Purchase of vehicles, everything that he's outlined in the capital. The \$3.2 million, basically, or \$3.6 million.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Where is that, David?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, it's under tab 5

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So I agree, we need the purchase of all this capital but all I want to do, Mr. Chairman, is just assure that we proceed cautiously with this budget throughout the year and then at least at the end of the quarter have a chance to analyze our position. At the end of the quarter it's going to put us in August. We'll know what the summer did to us and we can hopefully go forward. I just want to continue to remain cautious.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Well, that makes sense but what if some of these expenditures are -- the department needs them right away? Is it possible to have --

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: If there's emergency issues that come up that they need them right away that the manager can bring that to us. We meet twice a month.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Or maybe they could come up when they present their budgets and tell us which ones they need right away so that we can take care of that.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, there's some of those items that are listed in there that we probably need to start to pursue acquisition of fairly soon and we could maybe do as you suggested, look at those on a department by department basis, or we could come up with a time line on how the money is going to be spent anyway. We have \$600,000 identified in there for the Jacona Transfer Station. That probably won't happen until the spring of this next fiscal year anyway and that's a big piece of that. But it's something that's part of the fiscal year. A lot of the vehicles will be purchased off state contract. I don't know what the timing of that will be. It will be somewhat dependent upon when the state contract's available which sometimes isn't until September anyway if we purchase off of next year's agreement.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I think the department heads could tell us where they feel their needs, but we meet twice a month. There's nothing -- if there's an emergency that they've taken to David and they need to move forward. They can bring it

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forward and put on and make the presentation. All I wanted to do is just proceed cautious. And I think we can look at the vacant positions and say the same thing, that we work again to try and streamline or hold positions until we feel good. But I don't want to -- you've done such a good job of making us all feel really good about where we are, I just don't want to feel so good that we all just start spending money again.

I'm not proposing to do away with any budget, any position, any capital money. All I'm saying is before we start making such big expenditures in these areas, possibly holding off just to assure our financial position doesn't change.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And I don't see any reason for it, so why don't we vote on that?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: You don't see a reason to do that?

CHAIRMAN DURAN: No. It's budgeted.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I'm not very clear on what the suggestion is, Commissioner Gonzales. I think the flexibility is already existing and therefore you can recategorize under each department and move a category up to another category, providing it's a similar type of category. Am I correct, David? Because we do need DFA approval on this right? When it's committed to the budget it's committed.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, you guys could -- the budget when it's approved by you, we submit to DFA for their approval. They grant us interim approval, hopefully, so we can start spending on July 1. Then we give them a final approval. But you guys could stipulate out how you want the money through the year. That's within your discretion.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: So we do have discretion throughout the entire fiscal year within each category, or department. Let's put it that way.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, on items like this, yes. The operating money is more for the most part salaries and benefits, that kind of stuff. It's more of a 1/12 a month type of expenditure. These are large amounts that would be encumbered or spent out on a one-time shot.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I apologize, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Where Commissioner Gonzales is coming from, from a prudent standpoint we have better control. We have oversight of the expenditures of the monies. The monies are budgeted to the department heads and they can use them if they want to, but there's some discretion in there based on other needs throughout the County. There's better control. I agree with that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: All I'm saying too is that last summer we had a bridge that was wiped out that cost us \$1 million, which thank God we had the ability to do it. All I'm saying is can we wait through the summer months, through a quarter before the capital money is released to assure that things are progressing forward. I don't know why that's not a prudent thing to do or how we would be hurting or limiting the department heads to go forward. If there are emergency cases that we need to move on, I'm

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flexible.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: What's wrong with when the department head comes up, they tell us which one of the capital outlay items they really need and let them have that, or decide whether or not they should have that immediately, then hold back on the rest, the ones they don't need right away.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, I think that's exactly what I meant when I said I think it's prudent and healthy to have a healthy contingency fund. And that's where the flexibility, the contingency fund would be the flexible fund for us to act in the future for future needs.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: All right. I apologize, Mr. Chairman, for bringing this up.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: No, Commissioner Gonzales, I think I'm agreeing with you but which category do we put it in?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Thank you. I appreciate the --

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I think your point is well taken. I think we should at least be able -- the department heads should at least tell us if they really need something right away so they wouldn't have to wait three months. Isn't that common --

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I think that's what he's saying anyway. If they need it right away they can petition that it happen right away.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And today when they come forward.

MR. WOLF: So then, Mr. Chairman, if I understand correctly, we'll bring the department heads forward. They could request what they need to pursue immediately and which they can wait on, and then I don't know if I'm interfering with what was recommended or if that's the direction you want to go.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I don't know. It's a procedure that Commissioner Gonzales is asking for you to take and I think that we need to take a vote on it.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Actually, I'd just as soon follow the wishes of the Chairman. It's fine. We can proceed forward. There's no point in the Commissioners having to split on something like this.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay then David, I guess, when the department head comes up, why don't you have them tell us which items they really need immediately and those items we don't need immediately, we'll wait three months. We'll wait a quarter.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, okay then we'll get started with the departmental budget review. I just want to remind the Commission that what I've presented to you is a balance budget. If you add somewhere, we have to cut somewhere else and we need to match recurring sources and uses of funds and I've got a flip chart where we can keep track of the things throughout the day so we balance at the end of the day also. Thanks.

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V. B. COUNTY CLERK

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, the County Clerk's budget is under tab 7. You can see she has her organizational chart which identifies the make-up of the department, the FTE count, her goals and objectives, and then we get into the numbers at a summary level. What I'm recommending as far as positions from the Clerk, she has asked for additional positions, including one full time FTE and what I'm recommending is the addition of 2.17. Two increases to positions of .17 each. She had two third-time FTE and we change them to half-time.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Excuse me. Where are you? What page are you?

MR. WOLF: I'm on the second page.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Of her budget? Okay. And you're requesting two-point what?

MR. WOLF: On the FTE, you can see she's got currently approved in this year's budget, 23.16. Two of those in the 23.16 are 1/3 time employees. And what we worked out during the budget hearings is that I would recommend an increase of .17 each for two positions so she could have two half-time positions out of those two 1/3 times, so she could get a little bit more. So it ends up increasing the FTE by 1/3 all together when you split the third and add those two 1/2 to get a half-time.

Then on the numbers, if you jump -- let me let Becky present the rest of her budget and explain how it's made up and what the numbers consist of and I can help walk through where the numbers are if needed.

BECKY BUSTAMANTE (County Clerk): Thank you very much. The only thing I would like to say in regard to the FTE was that it was our understanding we were getting all our .33 positions to .50 positions. I thought that's what we had agreed on. Eric is also with me here and he had the same understanding that we were getting them to .5 not to just one more 1/8. That's what we had understood. Other than that, I think that we have agreed on the entire budget with the exception that we, in regard to our vehicle. We really need a vehicle. We've been asking for a vehicle for three years and we haven't been able to get one. In the capital outlay it says that we are not going to get it. I just noticed that. Yesterday our little vehicle that we have, we went somewhere and it made it out of the garage but then it died and it's now -- we were able to revive it and it's back in the garage.

If we're not able to get a vehicle, we're just really asking if you can give us enough money at least to overhaul the engines on the vehicles we have because they really are not adequate and my staff does not want to use their own vehicles, even though we might have some money to pay for their milage. They just don't want to use their vehicles and I can't blame them for that. So other than that, I really do feel we need more positions in our office and I've been saying that for some time.

The growth of the county as you have seen, as was presented to you earlier is really growing. Everything that happens in the County has to come through our office and as we

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see, as we go out there, and we see what's happening in Edgewood, in Eldorado, and especially in Commissioner Griñé's and Commissioner Trujillo's area, the growth that's taking place, anything that's been sold in real estate has to come through our office and we are just keeping up. We're just trying to keep up with the every day work. It's just a unbelievable how overworked we are. I believe we really need some more staff.

In analyzing the staff patterns of the other department over the three years, 2 1/2 years that I've been here, everybody seems to be growing. I look at the Manager's Office. There was three people when we came in and now how many there are. In Legal, in GIS, all over the place and we've only been able to increase by one person. And now, just another 1/8. I realize that it's tough in the budget, but taking our .33 to .5's would really be helpful. Other than that, it's pretty much a flat budget from last year.

In the area of the \$75,000 that you're looking at in the capital, what has happened is we have been informed by a company who's going to be selling their voting machines. We are paying right now, if we were asking for 50 voting machines and we're hoping to bid on 50 voting machines. Fifty voting machines we think we will be able to get for \$75,000. If we -- as you know, we will be a Class A County in the year 2000 as soon as the census, we are right now, we don't even have one extra voting machine that we should have in all the polling places. So next year, probably the Secretary of State is going to say to you that we have to have more voting machines and if we go before the Board of Finance, it's going to cost us for 50 machines \$350,000.

That's why we ask for the \$75,000 that if we're able to get the 50 used machines, it will be a lot cheaper for the County. Now we don't know if we're going to be able to bid on them and as we indicated to County Manager that we were just hoping to have that money allocated just in case we are able to get on it. And we agreed if we can't bid on it, we're not going to get the \$75,000. So that's why we have the \$75,000. But I hope that if we don't get it, you will at least give us a vehicle. And pretty much we agree with everything else.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, Becky, what I'm seeing the County Manager's recommendation was for 2.5 FTEs?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, no. It's approved -- look at our approved fiscal year '99, is 2.16. We're bringing in our 2.16 and they're just taking it up to 2.5. So it's just two one-eighths, right?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, if you look in that center column that says approved fiscal year '99, 23.16 FTE. And then we're recommending to the Board of County Commissioners, 23.5. That's where we get another 1/3 FTE, which is the difference between the .5 and the .16 roughly and that's taking two positions that are 1/3 time each and moving them to 1/2 time. So you get a .17 twice, which is the 1/3 difference. And I basically, in this budget, this is one of the few increases to FTE for operations. Other than that, there's two places, other than the Fire Department that we're recommending any changes to FTE. One, the Fire Department is to fund the central

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and southern programs out of the special revenue that was approved and redirected in the gross receipts tax adjustment. So that's coming out of the special revenue; it's not a general fund impact.

Positions that are general fund impacted, there's two changes, and this is for a 1/3 FTE increase and the other is in my department, in my budget. Terry is right now funded as a term employee and he's funded out of vacancy savings out of this fiscal year. And we're requesting that this position, if we're going to continue that position to consider validating that position as part of the budget. So those are the only FTE changes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: David, or Rebecca, you have two vacancies, two recording clerks, and one's a half-time FTE. How long have those been vacant?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, they're not vacant right now. What has happened is they've been hired. We're just waiting for Personnel to get them through drug testing. We're waiting on that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: How long have they been vacant?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: We haven't really had any vacancies. I think we pretty much have been filled. We had a problem that I had gotten a memo because we've overspent with all the elections and stuff, and that we were not going to meet our budget. So we did save some vacancies just in case we were not going to make our budget. But those bottom ones, those are only filled during the elections, those .33's. But all of my positions are filled right now.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So they were filled all of this past fiscal year, they were always filled?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Pretty much, yes. We've just been trying -- the process takes a while because of the fact that we approved those last week and they still haven't been tested.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, then I just have one other question. What kind of revenues did your department generate this fiscal year, versus the years before?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, I'm not exactly sure but I would say that the recording is up to about \$800,000 a year because it was about \$80,000 that was going to be budgeted this year. We're anticipating that it will be anywhere from \$800,000 to \$900,000. I'll be coming before you soon to see if we can raise the recording fee, which will generate a little bit more money but only in the Clerk's fee. But based on that I would say out of what my budget is \$1.2 million and it's probably generated about -- we generate anywhere from \$800,000 to \$900,000.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Do you have those figures, David?

MR. WOLF: I believe we do.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Why don't you look for them for a second. Commissioner Grifé has a question.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Yes, Mr. Chairman, how is that -- through the middle of the year, I would say, you had a position that was transferred out, or what

happened to that position?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: We have never had any positions lost.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: How did you handle that David, when you had to transfer that employee to another department? Was there a vacancy somewhere else and you just transfer it to another vacancy or what?

MR. WOLF: I'm sorry, Commissioner Griñé, I was looking at these numbers.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Somewhere through the middle of the year you had an employee that was transferred out of the County Clerk's Office to another department.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griñé, there was actually two positions that have been transferred out and filled in other places and that cost absorbed in other places of the County.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Who was the vacancy that they went to fill then.

MR. WOLF: Those positions were also left in the Clerk's budget and she --

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: So those positions were left in the Clerk's Office but they were left to be refilled again, right?

MR. WOLF: We filled them, yes.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: That's all I had.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: As you say, Becky, your department is one of the few departments that causes a revenue flow into the County. What you propose is a couple more -- what have you asked for as far as manpower is concerned?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I had asked for one other position. But the only thing, right now, and I agree that the County is -- that the state of the fiscal economy here in the County. But I thought when we left the budget hearing that we had gotten those positions to all of the .33 to .50, and that's why I bring that before you. But in answer to your other question, may I go back to that. We have also, we have written two grants that I just got funded from the archives and we're getting about \$13,000, so we'll be able to use some of those money to preserve some of our books.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: How much money?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: About \$13,000. That's only one phase and I'm hoping that as soon as we get that phase done that we'll be able go on and get some more monies.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: How does not filling the position that you've asked for impact your ability to perform your function, your work, provide the services to the constituency? How does it impact?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Well, Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, the impact is that we have to for example, right now one Commissioner has asked me for something and I haven't been able to do it because of our manpower. We're hoping to finish today on a particular thing, on flagging all of our voters. We have to flag all of our voters and we're

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hopefully going to finish that today and then we'll be able to fulfill some of the requests that we've had, but right now we don't. We just say I'm sorry but we haven't been able to get to that particular position, that place. So until we get that done we can't go on to the next phase.

For example right now, we haven't cleared our voting machines because I haven't had the staff. That's one of the things next we have to do is get my staff over, how am I going to manage to get my staff over to the warehouses to start doing that sort of thing. It's just we plan to see what needs to be done and what the priorities are. We do it, but it's hard.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: This is a question for David. What difference in money from the position that you're taking and from what Becky's requesting? What is the difference in half an FTE or whatever it is, from where you guys are off?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: We left that budget hearing that day with the understanding that we had four of the FTEs that were at .33, that they were going to .50. And as it turned out, we only got two of the four at .50, so two still remain at .33.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, this is the tough thing about going through these budgets and trying to bring everything into balance. Every department and every elected official's office has additional demands that they're having a hard time serving because of lack of available resources. And I have no doubts that everything Becky's telling you about trying to be able to provide adequate services to the public and the need for the positions. If we had the positions I know she would put them to work and I know we would get good use out of them.

I just want to remind the Commission also that everybody else, all other departments and elected officials came to me during the budget hearings and requested additional positions also. And this is one of the few places that I'm recommending any increase whatsoever, even given all the other demands. Every department, every elected official I'm sure can explain to you why the need is there and this is just part of the tough call of balancing a budget and that's your call. But we have the same situation and this is the first budget throughout the County and it's something we're going to have to deal with.

I took a look at the revenues real quick because you asked, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner. The County Clerk fees projected through the end of the year that go to the general fund are \$505,000 and we've budgeted \$500,000 again for next year. And that seems reasonable. That includes the history. That includes analyzing the history. And it looks like we'd be adding about one FTE to cover what you need, or a half an FTE. One FTE with salaries and benefits would probably be about \$30,000 on a recurring basis.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Since we're so close and Becky's one of the only departments that has gotten the approval to augment the workforce, and what is, a half an FTE or two 1/3 FTEs and she's asking for another FTE. We're really close to getting where she wants to be in providing the service to the community. I say that's a department of getting this augmentation in the workforce. Why not give her that FTE that she needs,

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whatever she needs, and then next year we'll focus on another department. We're really close now, why don't we just give it to her instead of prolonging the agony and causing any schisms. Again, providing the service that we need to provide to the community. And she's a department now that we address the increase the workforce. Give it all to her. We're not that far apart.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, I'm not sure how we're going to run this. Whether we're going to vote on each department as we go along. But if that's the process that we're going to use, I'm going to move for approval of the County Clerk's request based on the recommendation of the County Manager. One point of clarification, the \$70,000 for the machines will still be pending? That's inclusive of this budget proposal?

MR. WOLF: That's \$75,000, Mr. Chairman and \$16,000 for capital.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: That was based, Mr. Chairman and Commissioners, on if we're able to bid on it. And we had agreed, the County Manager that if we're not able to bid then it wouldn't go to us.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: And that's inclusive in your request.

MR. WOLF: That's in the capital package as part of the capital items we were discussing earlier, that \$3 million. If you look at almost that page under tab 5, that \$75,000 and \$16,000 that I'm recommending that the Commission fund for the Clerk's Office. \$75,000 for voting machines and \$16,000 for ballot boxes. Those are non-recurring uses of funds.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, that's my motion. I move for approval.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I'll second the motion but with an amendment. I'd like to see that the County Clerk get the FTE that she requested.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: That's inclusive in the motion, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: On the FTE that the County Clerk has requested?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: That's correct.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So you two are of one mind on that.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: We are of one mind.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So it would go from the .3 to the .5.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I'm sorry, Mr. Chairman. I think my logic behind this is this is a revenue-producing department. This brings in revenues. One of the few that we've got that doesn't just spend money. I think taking care of the cow that gives the milk, no offense there, Becky, but I think that one of the prime concerns that we should have in our decision making.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: I just make a recommendation that we listen to all the elected officials and then go back and see if we can all meet their needs. I'm sure if Becky needs some, I'm sure that we're going to see the other ones too are going to request the same thing like they did last year when everybody's coming forward before the

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Commission so I just make a recommendation that we listen to the entire, all the elected officials but make our notes and then come back and see where we can at least come to a balance and agreement with also the County Manager's request.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: That's kind of what I asked when I made the motion. I'm not sure which procedure we're going to follow. Whether we're going to do a blanket approval.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I think we should do department by department.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I think it's easier to do department by department.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: But the other thing is, David, the County Clerk's Office is the only one that's asking for an increase in FTEs.

MR. WOLF: Actually, Mr. Chairman, almost every department and elected official's office -- there were a number of -- I shouldn't generalize it to that extent, but there were significant requests for additional FTE. This, other than the Fire Department is the only place that I'm requesting we increase the FTE whatsoever, other than the position that we already have filled in my office that's a term position. But this is the only place. And this is for -- I'm representing one-third more than what was approved before and there was two positions approved in the year before that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I agree with Commissioner Anaya. I think the Clerk's Office is a revenue generating department and I would just like to say that I think there are other ways you can generate more revenue from there. I really think that the public -- you have a lot of information in there that the public is willing to pay for. They just need to know it's available to them. I would agree to go with the motion with the understanding that you would use this FTE to improve the income potential of the department.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, and members of the Commission, thank you very much. I would like to point out that although the County Manager said it was \$500,000, that does not take into consideration all of the other copying and everything else we do. It's not reflected in that. It's a lot more money that we generate. And I agree with you and we're looking at that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, well, first of all Becky, let me say that I appreciate your goals and objectives and certainly the area that you are wanting to focus on, customer service is great. Especially in the area of increased education for your employees and then focusing on improving customer service down in the Clerk's Office. I think that those goals are very worthy and I hope to come back and visit them with you at some point to see how they're progressing along and hopefully, with the Commission's agreement with you to increase your staffing positions that we'll see some of that met.

I guess my question relates to the vehicle that you're requesting and David I have a question on this Public Works project development vehicles. What's that?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, I'd have to defer to Larry to explain more the

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need, but it's to replace existing vehicles right now that are being used that have over 200,000 miles on them and they were in bad shape. I remember that part of the discussion. I don't remember who exactly was going to be using them. I don't know if Larry's here or if we can address it.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I guess my concern, I'd want to hear that but it seems like the Public Works and granted, they get the most use out of their vehicles but they continue, I see new vehicles coming out of Public Works and I'd want to at least reserve the right to come back and I don't know how the Chair wants to handle this but at least reserve the right to reduce the project development vehicle at least by \$20,000 to move into the Clerk's budget, because I agree with the Clerk that every time I see one of her people in a County car, it seems to be something we've just pulled out of the yard to give to them to use and that's an unfair requirement that we're placing on them to be able to travel around, especially -- I know at one point we had talked about giving you a budget to rent vehicles also because, I don't know if it's that you need them continually, or if there are just times throughout the year that we need to make a car available.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, we are renting vehicles for the election purposes as far as delivering the machines. But right now, when we have to go out, like we've been having to go to Edgewood a lot. We're having to check on roads because of addressing and stuff like that. Like I said yesterday, we have to go either try to borrow a car or we have this problem where it breaks down.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So you're saying you go to Edgewood to look at what now? Roads?

MS. BUSTAMANTE: To rural addressing. We haven't been able to get the kind of information we need so I have to send out my staff to actually look where these roads are so that we -- and I have information on that, because we have to put the people in the right precinct.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I guess my question is, Dave, did we fund the Treasurer with a new vehicle last year? Or was it two years ago that we funded them or the Assessor? Because I've seen both with new vehicles.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I think it was two years ago. I'm not completely sure.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Right. But they have received new vehicles, right?

MR. WOLF: I think they did within the last two or three years.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I guess I would pose, Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, I think the Clerk is entitled to a new vehicle and I don't want to add to the capital budget and so I would say that there's somewhere along that budget that we're going to have to pull out. Now GSD, Corky's here, there's one Admin vehicle for \$13,000 and building services for \$20,000. Do we know what those are specifically for?

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Let's give her Corky's car.

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MR. WOLF: One of those is to replace that little Ford Ranger that is beat up and is in pretty bad shape that the custodians use to go around and work on the different sites. And the other one is to replace another one. I don't remember exactly. Again, I could have Corky explain that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Well, anyway, I guess I would ask the Commissioners that the Clerk be granted her vehicle and at some point, and I'm eyeballing Public Works.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Isn't it part of her budget though, the vehicle?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: No.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: That request could come from Public Works?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: No, what we would do is we would reduce the Public Works capital vehicles project by \$20,000. What do you think, David, is the cost of vehicles these days?

MR. WOLF: \$20,000 is a reasonable number depending on the vehicle. It may be cheaper -- I was also just going to remind you too, we do have \$91,000 that's set aside for the Clerk's budget also.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So what if we just grant her the car and then figure out where we're going to take it out as we go through it? Unless you just want to specify that now.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: No, I don't need to specify it now. We can go through and look at the capital projects but I do think the Assessor and the Treasurer have received cars in the last couple of years and certainly the Clerk has justified a need for it.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: While we're talking about cars, let me throw an idea out for you to think about. There's some vehicles out here, I know the attorneys' vehicle sits here for weeks before it's even used, before anybody uses it and I'm wondering if there might be a more effective way of dealing with this vehicle problem and just have a car, vehicle pool where all the departments go when they need a vehicle. Why do we have to assign a vehicle for every department? Why can't we have ten vehicles that are available to all the departments whenever they need them.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: At random.

MR. WOLF: That's probably a good idea, Mr. Chairman.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Mr. Chairman, that would be an excellent idea for us. That would be very helpful.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, well David, why don't you just think about that. We don't need to talk about it. I think it's at least worth checking into.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, I think it's pretty easily accomplishable that he could put together a motor pool with the inventories out there and make sure that there are cars that are readily available that are usable. I just don't want us to move that motor pool to what's left out at the Public Works yard just to get it into be used, because that's not accomplishing the goals of what the Chairman's talking about, but

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when we see all these lists of vehicles that are needed and we move it into a pool and maybe put it under building services or General Services for them to manage.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Why don't we hold back all the money for the vehicles for the three month period that you're talking about and let David come up with some kind of motor pool idea.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: With the exception of the Sheriff's cars.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Right. Just the ones that work here in this building.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Good.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, so there's a call for the question. So the motion is to --

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: To approve the County Clerk's budget with the request for a FTE.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And the vehicle, right?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: No, the vehicles will be addressed under Public Works, when we can create a motor pool.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: The vehicle, the Chairman is saying we're going to address -- we're going to hold off on approving the capital outlay for vehicles and then David can go put together some kind of pool policy and then bring it back to us in three months.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: That's good.

MR. WOLF: Can I ask a question, Mr. Chairman. I'm not clear, I'm recommending in this budget that you increase her FTE by a third. What are you recommending that it goes to?

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: What she wants.

MR. WOLF: I'm not clear on what that is.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: We wanted the .33's to go .50's.

MR. WOLF: Which is how many additional FTE in total, another half, another third, another one? That's the part I don't understand.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: There were two .33's that hadn't been fully -- up to the .5, so you have to take the two .33 budgets and take them up to .5.

MR. WOLF: So it's another third.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: It's another third.

MR. WOLF: So we have two that are .33 and you want to move those, you're asking to move those to a half, so that's .17 twice, so we would add in another .34 over and above what it's at. And again, we're going to have to balance this at the end of the day. This is increasing the budget. It's out of balance right now by a third of an FTE. So about 10,000 bucks.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, so that's the motion. Those in favor signify by saying "aye." [Unanimous] Opposed? The motion carries.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: Thank you very much.

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CHAIRMAN DURAN: Thank you.

MS. BUSTAMANTE: I'm going to have to leave so my deputy will be remaining at the end of the meeting with the resolutions and stuff.

V. C. LAND USE DEPARTMENT

MR. WOLF: So David, the Land Use Department chart that we have at the beginning of this section, you are recommending will be changed on what you provided us at the beginning of the packet, where you actually deleted the Assistant Land Use Administrator.

MR. WOLF: That's right. My recommendation deletes that position and the funding for it. And what I wanted to recommend to the Commission is that Diana will be retiring, I believe in March, I wanted to recommend that you keep Diana as acting Land Use Director until March and in October, November and that time frame, we do an active search to fill that position and hopefully fill it by January 1 and then double fill for two to three months and we can fund that double-filling out of vacancy savings. So we'd bring in a new Land Use Director while Diana would still be paid to help bring that other person up to speed.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: But what happens if -- I don't really have a problem with that if that's what the Commission wants to do, but what happens if somebody exceptional comes around? I don't think any of us have anybody in mind, but if somebody, all of a sudden we get this brainstorm or think of someone that might fit in to that, would the restructuring of the department allow us to make a commitment to this individual. We're all looking for someone I'm sure who can take that leadership role but none of us have anybody in mind, so if we found someone before the time came, do we have the ability to hire them?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, it would be a funding issue. I figure we could absorb two to three months of double filling that position if we needed to, if we filled, say, in early January. To double fill that position for nine months, the way I've presented the budget we don't have the money to do that, unless some of these other positions, like this other position, if it stays vacant for a long period of time, then that would give us the ability or the flexibility to temporarily reclassify a position or come up with that funding.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, I won't dwell on that. Whatever the Commission wants to do is okay.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: I move we approve this.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Second.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Discussion. I guess I want to understand a little bit. David and Jack, we'd originally proposed the ombudsperson about three years

ago to be an individual in Land Use, and I'd be interested to hear reactions from the Commissioners on this, that would be the customer service person, so that if someone came in, you had someone that was instantly, readily available to address their concerns. If there were complaints in the Land Use Department, there would be some there who would be able to address the complaints and get back timely responses. Basically, a caretaker for people who don't understand what can be a very complicated process.

I haven't heard much about that position since we created it and I want to know how Martha is used and if she's used to fill those objectives.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I agree, because I see her doing mainly taking development permits and I don't see her trying to deal with problems.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I mean, that's why it's an ombudsperson, to be able to deal with exactly what I've talked about.

JACK KOLKMEYER (Planning Director): Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, it's probably true that some times you see her taking development permits but that's more a function -- that might be on a busy day when the two people at the desk can't do that. She actually does serve quite effectively as an ombudsperson. She's the first one you see as you come in the door so she's able to direct. Most people stop there unless they have a permit and they know to go to either Frank or Vicente, they go to her and in Planning and Code Enforcement, we frequently get calls from Martha directing them to us, either by phone, or she directs them to our offices if it's a code enforcement or it's a planning issue.

I think it may be a function of sometimes processing permits comes and goes. Some days are enormously busy and others are really slow. But she also takes care of all the documents, all the planning documents and copies of the ordinances and codes that go out to people. So frequently someone will come in with a question and she can respond to that by giving them a copy of a particular code or a portion of an ordinance that solves the problem or redirects them. But she does function in that capacity.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So we do know that if there are complaints, or people who haven't been treated the way they feel they should be treated, she is an individual that we focus on to assist people.

MR. KOLKMEYER: Yes, sir, that's correct. In fact, if you remember, she was designated employee of the month for how effectively she was accomplishing that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: But I think the problem is, we have her there, but no one who goes in there and leaves with their tail between their legs knows that there's anybody there to help them out. I think we need to have something there, maybe a big sign that says, What's your problem? Something that tells that this person is there to help them out if they disagree or they need some help. Because she looks just like someone taking -- part of the staff. She doesn't look like -- her ombudsman's position isn't -- I think a lot of people coming in don't even know what an ombudsman is. I think that there needs to be some designation that this is an individual that can help. And I think that needs to be in

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plain English. Don't you agree?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Right. Because I think all of continue to get some complaints. It's a tough department and you're going to get complaints because the department continually has to tell people on many occasions no, no, no, you can't do things because they're contrary with the Code, or they don't understand how Code enforcement works or they go in and it's just a very convoluted process. So I think that we're always going to continue to get these complaints and maybe there needs to be a greater effort in making sure people understand that we have an individual there that is focused solely on helping them with their problems.

And if you're telling me that Martha is doing that job and it's only when the front desk is busy that she's processing permits then I think that she's meeting the intent. I'm a little disappointed, maybe you could point to me, because I'm just looking through this, but I really didn't see where the Land Use Department has stated their goals for increasing customer service.

MR. KOLKMEYER: For the overall department, Commissioner, do you mean?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: There's statements of goals and objectives that focus on educating the staff and properly implementing the budget and doing training but I don't really see anything that focuses on how we're going to better deal with the public. I don't know if it's entirely focused but neither one of them is focused on dealing with the public.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: In line with that, sometimes, I think it would be nice, have a report on a monthly basis on people that went in there. I really think that the Code should be constantly scrutinized and updated and amended when it's discovered that it really doesn't deal with life in the '90's. It was created -- when was it created?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: 1981. But your point is true. There's a lot of inconsistencies in the Code that don't help people out.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So it would be nice to know, and I don't know how you do this, but it would be nice to know, have a running list of what was denied, or decisions that were made, so that we know there's some consistency. If it's a problem that comes up all the time.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Mr. Chairman, it would be sort of hard to do now because we're in a transitional period, going from the existing 1981 Code to the new General Plan and the community planning and regional planning and all of those sorts of things. So essentially, the Code that we have in place now is obsolete.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Well, then maybe the ombudsman should be someone who, and I'm not saying it shouldn't be Martha, but maybe she should be kind of delving into problems more than a way for them to come to terms.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: To be more assertive in trying to be able to track where there's inconsistencies or people have continuous problems.

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CHAIRMAN DURAN: Right. And be a bit more proactive in her job.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: But I guess I wanted to, before we move on to that, Mr. Chairman, if we can address the issue of customer service.

MR. KOLKMEYER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I think perhaps you don't have it but if you look under each division. For example, if you turn to planning, you'll see that we have quite a list of ways to improve customer service for planning, including a number of meetings that are attended and community meetings that are attended and you start to see that that's fairly significant. And each section, for example under Code Enforcement, the goal there for improving customer service is a one-day turn-around on phone calls that are made and each section does in fact address goals and objectives for improving customer service. In the case of planning it's fairly detailed because we wanted to give you a fairly clear understanding, of for example the numbers of meetings that we attend for community planning, which is a customer service.

Under the Development Review, for example one of the things here is an updated zoning map that makes things easy. I'd just like to make another comment too about the ombudsman position, is I think sometimes there's some confusion. If people have a complaint, frequently they'll call the County Manager's Office. It depends on what it's a complaint about. In the case of the ombudsman position for land use, the questions really vary. They may be Code infractions, again about junked vehicles, or they may be how does, what's Eldorado supposed to do about community planning. In some of those cases, the ombudsman, it's true, may not know the answer to that, but that's why there are other staff people that she could direct them to.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: What if they fill out a complaint form?

MR. KOLKMEYER: There are complaint forms for Code infractions that have to be filled out. I guess maybe there's some confusion about what kind of complaints and what specific things would you view the ombudsman position that they're not doing now?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I think everyone up here, Jack, wants a user-friendly environment in a very complicated department that deals with enormous codes and processes. And the fact that if you have an individual who walks in and wants to do a simple lot split, all the way up to an individual that does a subdivision. Or individuals who are having problems with even our development review staff because they disagree with them and they just don't have anywhere to go. We've had occasions where I understand that our staff has just put up a road block and people feel that they have no option anywhere else. It's those frustrating times, it's those situations that I think, I want to see that kind of environment there in Land Use.

I got a call today from a gentleman who is just panicked because he got a criminal summons from our Code enforcement and they don't know what the heck's going on, other than a Code enforcement officer saying you're out of compliance. No one there to them, other than you come back into compliance or you're going to go to court. Those are things

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that, and I guess I disagree a little bit in that I didn't see as much customer service in here. I think that the community meetings and all that, that's great, but it's not really customer service. I think it's actually expected that we need to go out and inform the community on things that we're doing.

Those are things that this Land Use Department, I think that we all just want to make sure that the little guy who goes in there, or who's having to deal with it is treated fairly and given answers to very complicated issues. Often, we find ourselves having to get in the middle between Land Use staff and whoever the individual is to try to solve the problems and that's why the Commission approved this ombudsperson three years ago.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: And I don't think that's the rule. I really think that the department does well. I think what Commissioner Gonzales is saying, I think we have a lot of faith in the department it's just that we need a little bit of fine-tuning. A little bit more than what you guys do.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Mr. Chairman, I spend maybe five to seven, maybe eight hours a day here, so I see a lot and a lot of people come to me because Commissioners don't return their calls to their constituents, so I have to deal with them. And that's the actual problem that I deal with most of the time, is you guys not returning your calls to your constituents. They end up coming, talking to me here and then I have to get in the middle because you guys don't do your job.

But anyway, I want to come back and say something about --

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I'm listed in the telephone directory. If they want to get a hold of me, they know how.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Coming back to Martha's situation, I spend a lot of time back and forth, in and out, dealing with constituents or dealing with personal things that I miss of one too to get myself involved in, and I still to this point, Martha does an excellent job. Also, in my experience here now for 2 1/2 years, also you have people that are unreasonable. They're really unreasonable and they make it very difficult and it's even hard sometimes to calm them down and be able to get staff to at least bring a friendly environment to them to make them understand. And sometimes I've had to turn to people and say, Look, if you're not going to calm down and listen to us, so we can work something out and come to a resolution, then I tell them we're not going to work with them. So there's two sides to everything. So that's all I want to say.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I agree with Commissioner Griñé and Debra will verify this and anytime I need to get a hold of anybody in Land Use I tell her to contact Martha and Martha finds any one of you instantly. Otherwise I'd get the answering machine or I'd have to wait and then we play phone tag from there on so, I think her position -- I think what Commissioner Gonzales is suggesting is that her position be expanded to meet more the needs of the public. Am I correct, Commissioner Gonzales?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Yes, and I'm not sure, Commissioner Griñé, what you're hearing me say, I'm not. This is not an attack on the Land Use

Department or anything that I'm thinking is going bad. I think every department out there's function is to continue of service and improving service. And I think because we have come a huge way in the last four years to where it used to be. And there's no doubt that it's a day and night situation, but to me it's not enough to be satisfied with where we are. We need to move on that continuous road of improving customer service and my questions relate to how are we going to continue that. Are we using the ombudsperson in the role that we are. It's not that those functions aren't working for us, or that we don't have a Land Use staff that isn't functioning well, but there are individuals out there who, as Commissioner Griñé indicated, create the problem themselves.

But I know that there are a lot of elderly people out there and others that -- they don't complain about this stuff it's just they don't understand it. So they're intimidated by it and the staff is so busy on a daily basis that sometimes it's hard for them to be able to give the individual the attention that they need that hopefully an ombudsman person can do. And that was really my goal when I approached the Commissioners on this, and we don't have to beat this thing any more because if you're telling me that she's doing her job, that's great. I think that one of the things that Chairman Duran brought up which was good is maybe that a simple sign that basically -- I don't know what the sign's going to read, but someone needs to know that she's there to take of them.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Public relations.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Something like that. And that's all, just so that the public knows when they walk in, here's an individual who can handle the simplest inquiry or even the most complicated problem that I'm dealing with, because it may be that they go to Martha and they say, the staff is stonewalling me on this issue. I don't have anywhere to go. Martha doesn't have the authority to do anything. She's going to go to you or Diana. Diana is going to say, well, we're probably going to bring in the Manager or the Commissioner from that district to come in to this. But at least they know that there was a venue for them to go out and do that. And often, we're getting the call really when people are just absolutely frustrated and don't know where else to go. I think little things like that really go a long way in people's minds as to how they're being taken care of by this County.

MR. KOLKMEYER: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I think that's really a great suggestion because part of the problem also is some of the complex things are things that should be handled by the Land Use Administrator. If they get to be legal questions, the ombudsman person shouldn't be expected to have to know that. I think maybe what's missing, a part of what's missing here is we never really did clearly define in writing what the ombudsman should do and what their responsibilities are and what questions they should answer and what relationship they'd have and I'd like to suggest that we do that as the next step, to make it really clear, as well as the public relations thing. I'm here to help you or a little brochure that says what the ombudsman person can do. We could do that. And then it would be very clear exactly what that role is so that it doesn't get fuzzy. The Land Use Administrator ought to be responding to something that gets thrown onto the

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shoulders of the ombudsman person, who shouldn't be expected to do certain things.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Sometimes you just need someone to hold someone's hand or to walk it through. I'm not expecting the ombudsperson to solve people's problems, but to at least show them their options, and where to go.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Commissioner Gonzales just said something very important. That the Land Use Administrator of the department head should say we need to get the attorney, the Land Use Administrator in, and maybe the Commissioner from that district. And I really think that if the public believes or understands that the Commissioner could get involved in listening to the problem that would help a lot. But the problem that I've experienced with the department is that when someone asks for a Commissioner to get involved, the Land Use Department feels that we're interfering. It's happened to me several times. A situation has come up where I've been asked to check into it, and rather than let me get involved and listen to the applicant's problem --

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: -- You want to really get into some of this sticky stuff that you get involved in? I'm familiar with them. You want to air them out?

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So anyway, I'm actually concerned about, I think what Commissioner Gonzales said, is important. That the Commissioners are available for those individuals whenever they need it. That's what my point was.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I think that's the case in my district. The community understands that I'm a conduit for my constituency and I get involved. I don't know where Commissioner Griñé is coming from, that he's absorbing a lot of the walk-in traffic and addressing a lot of the problems throughout the county, but I have meetings on a regular basis and if he wants to take over a lot more of my meetings I'd be more than happy to give them up. But I serve as a conduit to my district and I get involved in every issue from family transfers to improving roads, to lot splits, to subdivisions.

I understand the pulse of the community and I know, I know that when we came into office, Commissioner Gonzales and this Commission is congruent with the fact that we wanted to give impetus to the Land Use Department being more user-friendly and being more responsive. And that is happening. That is happening. We need a little bit of work. We need to make sure that the ombudsman is used as an ombudsman and that instead of give me another rock, give me another rock, give me another rock. We provide the guidance so things get done for those people that are not in land use on a regular basis. For those people that use the department every once in a while, once in their lifetimes. They're not developers. And that's the essence of what we were trying to do when we were elected.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Mr. Chairman, I don't want to beat this thing to death, and my I took it on the hard context, but what I mean is continuously, if you ask our front office staff, they say, my Commissioner doesn't return my calls, they say then just ask them to speak to any Commissioner. So they go into my office and they say, will you please speak to this person, because so and so doesn't return the calls. So those are the situations I normally end up with. Now, the other issues, you know, Paul says he sometimes gets in

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the middle between --

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Joe, we're not going to go there.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Okay, let's stop it then.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I'm listed and I always return my calls.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Can I continue, Mr. Chairman? So we got the point of where we need to go as far as making sure that the ombudsperson is doing their role. So thank you for answering that for us. But this is a continuous improvement process. We just need to make sure that our customer service stays in that area.

The other area that I want to talk specifically about is the -- and this whole area has grown quite a bit over the last three years and that's the building and hydrology, where we have a vacant director and in there we've got the hydrologist and the engineering technician and the plans examiner and I guess I don't quite understand, and Jack you can explain to me, it seems to me that the hydrologist and the engineer are doing continuous work under the development review. Isn't that right? A lot of their functions occur for development review. The hydrologist reviews subdivisions, the lot splits. The engineer goes out and assures that terrain management is met. And that's all part of the development review process.

MR. KOLKMEYER: That's correct. In fact, front end to review all those issues as they come in. That's correct.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So then, I guess I don't understand why there would be a director's position there and why we wouldn't have those two positions under development review.

MR. KOLKMEYER: I believe that's a question, Commissioner, that has come up, particularly with the vacancy this time of that issue and that maybe there might be some other ways to arrange this that there would be for example a team leader of some sort that could be at the front end. The other two positions under there are plans examiners, who actually take the project proposals as they come in and fill out the permit applications. And then there is the engineering and the hydrology review, and then they're turned over to a case planner to represent them to the various boards for approval. That's a possibility.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Well I guess, and I'm not going to ask or propose that we make any changes but I would like to put a hold on at least, or if the Commissioners consent to it, to looking at the department's structure, and I need to spend more time talking to Diana of why Code enforcement, from what I understand, the line is being drawn to you. So are you overseeing Code enforcement?

MR. KOLKMEYER: No, actually, that's probably -- I was looking at that before also. The way that this has traditionally been handled, at least as long as I've been here, is the assistant Land Use Administrator has been the person directly responsible for Code enforcement. And Corky's here too. He may -- wasn't that the case, Corky, as you remember it as well that that position directly oversees Code enforcement?

MR. OJINAGA: That's correct. The Code enforcement is the responsibility

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of the Deputy Land Use Administrator.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So I guess the question now is that if the Commission approves abolishing the deputy Land Use Administrator, what happens to Code enforcement and if they fall under the Land Use Administrator. And I don't know how the Commission wants to handle this but maybe there's a way where we can hold off on approving the organizational structure, hold off on hiring that vacant director, and letting Diana go back and maybe show us or show how we can absorb some into the development review and possibly create a division for Code enforcement.

She's now absorbing two positions, basically, being Land Use Administrator and having to be the deputy, overseeing Code enforcement. And I don't want to make any proposal to any changes unless we can talk to her about how this structure would occur. Do you see a problem with that David, if we were to hold off on approving the organizational structure so we can visit with Diana on this whole issue of the building and hydrology division, because we can do away with that and create at least a Code enforcement it might be more helpful for her.

And then we actually have Jack Frost and Paul Kavanaugh that are under the director of development review who they probably take the majority of the direction from anyway.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, that's one of the things that Diana was in the process of working on was reviewing the structure of the department now that we don't have the deputy in place. And the reporting structure of Code enforcement as well as building and hydrology, and I specifically talked to her about the two positions with engineering background that are mixed in with this other group. She was reviewing that. She hadn't finished the plan. We had talked about some different scenarios. She had to be out this week because her son is getting married in Boston I believe. But these are classified positions. We can look at the structure and what works best with those positions.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So does the Commission have a problem with holding off to consult with Diana on how to best deal with the structure of the organization.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: That would be fine, Commissioner Gonzales.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Commissioner Gonzales, we'd still have to budget for it.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Right. I'm in support of the budget. All I'm saying is I don't want to formally approve the structure of the Land Use Department because it may be that we can do some adjustments in consultation with her that would allow for us to do away with the building and hydrology division and possibly create a Code enforcement, which would be more beneficial for her because I think right now she has a lot on her plate. She just hasn't had a chance to come forward with an organizational structure yet.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: I guess, I made the motion and he seconded. It's

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fine if you do that now. The only thing is that don't we still have like next month to have a final approval budget or is this going to happen today?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Grinë, this is it. We have to have a budget by --

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I would just ask for a friendly amendment that we withhold approving the Land Use Structure and the organization at this point.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: That would be fine. I'll amend it.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I can agree with that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Any further discussion? If not, all those in favor signify by saying "aye."

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: One other thing Jack, and I'll visit with Diana more on this but when she comes back with her structure I do want to see more specific goals as far as customer service.

MR. KOLKMEYER: Yes sir.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I think what she's proposing in each of the divisions, staff training and all those areas are very important and I'm assuming in that training it deals with customer service but there may be some specific things out there that she may think of that we could work on.

MR. KOLKMEYER: I'll relay that message to her.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, I know we talked about the structure and everything and just for the record, that action was to approve the numbers also. I just wanted to point out that the budget for Land Use is down by about \$170,000 for two reasons. We cut contractual services are down, and the salaries and benefits are down because of the reduction in the positions. So I just wanted to point that out since we didn't really talk in detail about the numbers.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Thank you, David.

V. D. COUNTY MANAGER

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, in regard to my budget, we can talk about the structure and the FTE first of all. The policy analyst position has been filled this fiscal year, the one that Terry fills as a term position and I have in here a request if the Commission wishes to keep that position on to convert it, to validate that position through the budget process. If you can turn to the numbers for a minute, after you get through all the goals and objectives you get into a summary of the numbers. The third page in on the numbers, it should start off on the left hand corner saying, it says County Manager administration. Everybody find that?

My budget is, I'm requesting \$695,000 for contractual services. I just wanted to

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point our real quick what's included in the contractual services, since that's such a significant number. Overall, my budget is down because contractual services are down from \$1 million to \$695,000. But still, included in the \$695,000 in this other hand-out that Debra just gave you, which includes our justifications, on page 4 and 5 is a breakdown of what's included in contractual services and you had asked me yesterday, I think, Commissioner Grinë, if we included anything in our budgets on the joint services agreement.

On page 5 of the justifications, you can see the break-out of what I've identified in the budget for the joint services agreement between the County and the City. On that hand-out, Commissioner Trujillo, you can see there's a total request for the category on page 4 for the justifications that shows \$695,000, which matches the number that's in the budget request. And then the big piece of that 695 is money that's set aside, \$400,000 for the joint services agreement between the City and the County. And there's a break-out on page 5 of what that is. I just wanted to make sure you guys understood that we've set aside or earmarked or if you approve this, earmarked money for that. It's for emergency dispatch services, parking, senior citizens programs, federal emergency manager, para-transit and other. The para-transit is the handicapped, the transit system they have for handicapped. It's not for the City's transit system itself.

The other big piece is we set aside \$35,000 there for economic development, back on page 4. That money traditionally in the past had gone to trade and SFEDI. We're not earmarking it in this case for any specific purpose, we're just identifying it for economic development in this budget. And that will be the Commission's call on how to specifically spend the money. I wanted to point out those specific items. Overall, my budget, which includes the budget that is set aside for the Commission is down as a whole.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Any questions of David?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I have none, Mr. Chairman.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: If not, what's the wishes of the Board?

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I want to move approval.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: One question, on the budget set aside for the Commission, how much is that?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, there's a total of \$411,000 for the Commission. I could walk you through that piece real quick if you'd like.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Please.

MR. WOLF: In the justifications, Commissioner Trujillo, it starts on page 15, so I can explain to you what makes up the \$411,000. First of all, there's about \$115,000 that's for salaries and benefits. Then \$12,000 for travel, which is consistent with what's included in this year's budget. A small amount of money for maintenance. \$275,000 for contractual services and let me explain what that is. That's on page 17. On page 17, you can see the detail that makes up that \$275,000. There's \$50,000 for the Santa Fe Business Incubator, \$10,000 for regional planning between the City and the County in case we need to hire somebody to help facilitate that like we did this year, \$10,000 for support

services, \$100,000 again for the Park and Ride -- I don't know if that's going to materialize or not but we earmarked that again since we had that in this year's budget. I identified another \$105,000 this year to basically just be safe.

During the course of the year you guys come to me with a number of things or we need to spend contractual service money for different items and that gives us the ability to do some of that. The money that's set aside for the school programs, I know you've been interested in that, Commissioner Trujillo, for Pojoaque and the Edgewood area, is in General Services Department, so we're setting aside a specific group to track recreational type costs. The reason this number is less than last year is we transferred that money to Corky's budget in General Services including the money for the Boys and Girls Club. So that isn't included in this years. It's in the budget but not in my budget.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: And it's earmarked for the Boys and Girls Club, right?

MR. WOLF: Yes, when we get to Corky's budget there's \$75,000 set aside for that purpose. They're going to have to bid. We're going to have to do an RFP and they'll have to respond and bid on it but it is set aside for recreational purposes. Are there any other questions?

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Mr. Chairman, David, is this the area where we have a situation with the Ridgetop Road? Is this the area where we talk about it, or does that come later on? There was \$87,500 that was approved last year that was never budgeted that we committed to provide it, but we need to budget it.

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, what I was thinking in regard to that is we were able to fund that other \$80,000 that we needed to out of this year's budget. I don't know if Park and Ride will be up and running for the next year, for any of the year, or part of the year. So maybe we could pull some money out of that \$100,000 for the Park and Ride to fund part of that. And then maybe we could pull a little bit of money out of that other \$105,000. I'd recommend we pull \$40,000 out of the Park and Ride, and another \$47,000 out of that \$105,000 item to fund that.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Do we have to do that in a motion?

MR. WOLF: I think that would be appropriate.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I make a motion then to transfer monies in the amount of \$87,500 for the purpose of helping fund the Santa Fe Ridgetop Road as the County Manager has stipulated, has recommended.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I'll second.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Any further discussion? All those in favor signify by saying "aye." [Unanimous]

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the County Manager's budget and Commissioner Trujillo seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. [Commissioner Gonzales was not present for this vote.]

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V. E. COUNTY SHERIFF

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Now we move on to the County Treasurer's Department.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, we'll see if Phillip's available. Mr. Chairman, if you want to move on to the Sheriff's budget.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Let's go ahead and move on to the Sheriff's submittals. That's tab 10.

RAY SISNEROS (Sheriff): Mr. Chairman, members of the Commission, thank you for your consideration. Benjie and I will leave now and let you make your decisions.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, my recommendation to the Board doesn't include any changes in FTE, although during the budget hearings the Sheriff did make, I think a fairly good argument of why they could use additional FTE because of the security requirements, transport and extradition requirements, but given the limited resources, my recommendation doesn't include any additional FTE. The structure, the way I'm recommending it would stay, in essence the same.

The budget for the most part, the FTE would stay flat at 108. They have their goals and objectives included here in the budget and for the most part, other than the increase to salaries and wages because of the increase that was approved mid-year this fiscal year, the budget is in essence flat. And then the capital package addresses the cars and the needed equipment that would need to go with it. That's just a brief overview and I think maybe if the Sheriff would like to go into any more detail it might be appropriate.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Do you want to say anything, Sheriff Sisneros?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, we went through this budget quite extensively with the Manager and we understand the cuts that he had to do and I'm not going to sit here and argue those. I agree with what he had to do and I'll let it stand at that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, we have a couple of questions for you and Benjie. I remember last year having the conversation with you on the additional FTEs and we had talked about your efforts to try and reduce response time and how you would try and at least throughout the year, to some degree, try and measure if indeed response time was shortened. Have you found that the additional FTEs have helped in that area or has the population increased where we really haven't been able to make much gain on that?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, if you recall last year with the budget problems that the County ran into, those positions were frozen until January. We are now just starting to fill those positions and get those back into patrol, plus we just got back four people out of the academy about two weeks ago, Benjie?

BENJIE MONTANO (Deputy Sheriff): Yes, sir.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: And right now I cannot say that that has occurred but

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we have done some in-house restructuring where it's helped. Yes.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So the positions would just be coming on line so we can start looking at that effort?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Yes sir. I believe so.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: My next question, and I was just talking to --

SHERIFF SISNEROS: No sir. I don't want the jail.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: How'd you know? I'm glad that the recent relationship that we have with this operator as opposed to the previous operator, you and the previous Sheriff Montano, have taken a very active role at least in sitting down and understanding some of the relationship and how it occurs. What's your feedback now as far as the operations being under private management now? I know you can't analyze it from a cost standpoint but I understand -- is Cornell interacting with you and are you able to have some oversight of the facility?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, that's correct. We explained to the Manager that with the change of operators there's going to be, probably the first year a transition period for Cornell, needs to find out how the County wants things done. We need to let Cornell know and find out how they do things different than CCA. And that's where we have been in a transition period. But they have bent over backwards to work with us and make the changes that Benjie's recommended because per contract, you people named me as a jail monitor or my designee. So getting even with Benjie I appointed him as the jail monitor. And it's taking up, I'll be honest with you, about 40% of his time. It's quite extensive, which is a lot more than what we did before with CCA. So as of now we have two facilities where previously we only had one.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So would you say, as comfortable as you could say or as confident as you could say that the operations are satisfactory, at least satisfactory out there?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, yes, I'm happy with them and I'd like Benjie to address that. He works closer than I do.

MR. MONTANO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, we've had to deal with them as Ray said, quite extensively with defense attorneys, prosecuting attorneys, general public, dealing with medical issues, dealing with the food issues, dealing with inmate issues and the classification process they have to go through from bringing inmates from say, the federal system, or other communities, and like the Sheriff said, they have bent over backwards. They've been very responsive. It's a little nice in my position right now because I can get them afraid of David and Ray, so they don't want me to go back to David and Ray with bad words so it works pretty good. But they've been really good with us and I think that Ray and I and David and Berron have learned an awful lot about the process in this last year.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: From the juvenile perspective have you seen

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a measurable difference in how the juveniles are treated now as opposed to how they were treated three years ago?

MR. MONTANO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, a bit difference, and there's a big difference in attitude of the juveniles, but I think one concern that I'll bring here and we've dealt with with the Manager and the Sheriff and the Cornell Abraxis is it's a detention facility and we've got to, I think, figure out which direction we're going. Is this going to be a therapeutic or a system facility or detention facility and we're looking at the security end of that, but again, they've bent over backwards to go with what the Sheriff and the Manager want.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: But there is a measurable difference then?

MR. MONTANO: A big difference.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Because [inaudible] had indicated that one of his primary reasons for supporting the new facility and being able to turn the old facility into a juvenile center was that we would actually have programs or there would be a measurable difference in how juveniles are being treated at Santa Fe County.

MR. MONTANO: A big difference. We've had problems. Yesterday we had an inmate strike a guard but these things are going to happen in jails. But the response was quick. When we've had, with the exception of once where we've had some situations that could have gotten out of hand, they were dealt with quickly, swiftly and professionally. And we're really happy about that. One of our concerns within the last couple of weeks, because they're in the process of remodeling is that we feel they should have classrooms and the short term, Santa Fe County side and classrooms on the federal, or long-term side because we do not want those people interacting because it could be dangerous, and they've been responsive, David, to that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Just a comment, and this is a constructive comment. As Commissioner Gonzales was saying, when we appropriated or allocated the nine FTEs to the Sheriff's department, we impressed on you that they should be dedicated to the outlying areas. The concern that I'm getting is that the Sheriff's Department, the cars are usually on main thoroughfares or giving tickets there. They're not in the outlying areas and essentially what they're saying is that there's a duplication of effort with the State Highway Department and the BIA and everybody's concentrated in the main highways. And the concern that the response or the presence in the outlying areas is just not there.

MR. MONTANO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, we get those calls. We get those calls daily. Our biggest -- we have to deal with you name it -- burglaries, rapes, murders, larcenies, what have you, but the biggest complaint we get deals with speeding and patrol. And we try to send people, if a Commissioners calls or the County Manager calls on whether it be 599 or Shady Lane, we try to send people there. But we also get the calls that we're not on. Every morning for instance, at least once a week we'll get a call that the traffic coming from Española to Santa Fe is so heavy they never see a

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Sheriff's deputy. And five minutes later we can get a call that they never see them, that we're always on 84/285.

We're giving tickets from Edgewood to White Rock to Chimayo and I just say yesterday there's quite a few of them. Plus handling all the calls on everything we're responsive to. But we're trying to respond to where the people call and we're trying to respond and send these people to where we're losing lives and having heavy injuries. And for us to say, Sorry this is a State Road, State Police, you handle it, I think is being very unprofessional to the public and is being negligent. And the State Police feels the same way because they handled the call in Valle Vista stabbing last night. For them to say, no, that's in the county, that should go to the Sheriff's Department -- it's not professional. They get called, we get called and we have to do it.

But we are trying. We have concentrated more on County Roads but again, there is certain grants that come through that we have to hit the highways.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, what I think Commissioner Trujillo is alluding to is more Sheriff's exposure at the outer boundaries. I know Benjie gave a lot of detail in there, but I don't think that question was answered.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: That's what I'm trying to expand on.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I want to say something after this too.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, part of the in-house shuffling that we did with those new positions coming up is we dedicated a couple of people to handle the traffic complaints and be there to issue those and not take away from the shifts to cover the outlying areas. That's what was done. Those that are running the radar and doing the traffic citations are obviously very busy when they're on the major thoroughfares. That's very obvious. As Benjie explained, we get those grants out of traffic safety to run the seat belt enforcement, the DUI roadblocks, etc. when they are at times running the seatbelt enforcement, they will also issue any moving violations and other traffic violations they see.

That deputy that the public sees, is a deputy that is being paid overtime on his day off or her day off and is not a deputy that would have been assigned to an outlying area any way. We have not taken away from that. We are still doing that.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: For example last night, when Chairman Duran and I left the EZA meeting, the visibility is there, Sheriff's units at night. And I'm wondering why units should be patrolling in town at night. When I came off the transportation policy board meeting last week, met with the Mayor and everything, on my way home, down Cerrillos Road, these Sheriff's units are rushing across the City of Santa Fe to probably State Road 14, three units. And the visibility at night is awfully high. I can understand it during the day when you're sending our warrants or whatever procedures that need to be done for court procedures, but the visibility at night is very high with the Sheriff's Department, Ray, and I do it constructively like Commissioner Trujillo started out to. I just wonder why are we enhancing the City Police efforts? Is the budget going in that direction?

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SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, that's not correct. In the couple of incidents that you happened to see, what may have occurred there, and without knowing the exact details, what I've seen occur times when I've been out there myself, and Benjie the same, is if they're on their lunch break, and say they're at the Village Inn as an example, or they're at J.B.'s at Cerrillos and Osage. If they get called out on an emergency, they're being called out of their lunch break. I know Joe, when he ran the Village Inn saw them leave many, many times out of there where they're called out in the middle of their meal break. But they're taking their meal break inside the city, we do not limit them to do that. And if they're taking off and they -- the shortest point between two points is a straight line and to get down Cerrillos Road to get out to 14, if that's the shortest way, that's the way they're going to go.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Understandably.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: No, we're not enhancing that. And in fact that's a little bit funny because Chief Denko and I were laughing the other day that he's getting complaints, and so has City Hall of people seeing his units out of State 14. What they don't realize is the City units are on State 14 because they're either going or coming from the jail. And before hand when it was on Airport Road, even I never got those complaints when I was chief. He's getting them now because they see all these City units that are leaving the city going all the way out to the jail because of the location of the jail now. John and I just thought it was hilarious. It's a similar situation.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I'm not sure whether Commissioner Trujillo's concern was addressed.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Yesterday, just as an example when I left the meeting, there was a Sheriff's unit parked on top of the hill here, a speed trap. First thing when I got home somebody calls me: What is a Sheriff's unit doing on a state highway issuing tickets or monitoring the speed of traffic? Here we are in El Rancho or in Nambe or in Chimayo and there's no presence whatsoever. We see them every once in a while, but they're conspicuous on state roads and main thoroughfares and they're up and down the highways and we hardly ever see them here. And that's the communication, the information that I'm getting from those rural outlying areas.

MR. MONTANO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, what I could suggest because I'm not and Ray's not going to sit here and say some of them aren't doing what they shouldn't be doing. That would be crazy. But if you see that, and you get a unit number and a day and a time, and let the Sheriff or I know, we'll be happy to -- that's how we follow up on speeding by deputies and everything else. Give us a time, a unit number, a location. Other than that, we know from being police officers, and we know from being out there that many times, there's far north and close north. This is what we call it in our different sections.

If they handle a call in La Tierra and they pull out to the freeway, it may look like they're running radar. But what they're in a sense doing is writing a report because they

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have to write those reports before the end of the shift. Normally, that's what they're doing. But if any of you want to call us when you see that, we'd be happy to follow up on it because if they are doing something wrong, we'll take care of business. It's really hard to handle in general because it could be a lot of reasons.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Moving off of that subject and on to the issue of the staffing that you're doing for the District and the Magistrate Courts. Sheriff, you proposed a program last year where you'd be able to use retired police officers on a part time basis and be able to rotate them and that's going to couple into my next question. We have that new facility and we have a courtroom out there. Let me ask you one question. One, has your program worked, that you brought into play first of all, on the using the part timers and shifting between District Court and the Magistrate, and two, are we utilizing, or have you been able to see any decrease in your transportation budget as a result of us building a courtroom out at the new facility, which we would expect to happen.

As far as having to drive out to 14 and then come back in to Galisteo and then back out to 14 and then back in.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, the positions themselves are being used tremendously. They're great. They're absolutely great. About three weeks ago I had a discussion with Judge Dimas because we're running so many problems in District Court, and now that the Hobbes prison is open, you would not believe the number of trips we're having to make to Hobbes on those transports. But the discussion I had with Judge Dimas had to do with that issue and in discussions with him, Judge Dimas has never even seen the new courtroom at the jail. He's never been out there.

I suggested that he go out there. That courtroom has not been used, other than as staff in-house meeting room right now. It's never been used since the facility opened.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: What would it take, David, for us to start using it? Because we made an expenditure on that so that we could use the facility to reduce transportation costs. I want to ask about that and then the second one is the video arraignment and see how that's progressing.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, two things. I'll address the video arraignment first. Video arraignment is going to cost us some additional money. Berron's been looking to see if there's any grant money we could come up with or a way to fund that. Then we need to get the buy-in of the judges to do that. A lot of progress has been made on that and I think we're almost close to where he's going to make a recommendation to me on what to buy and when to buy it.

Then the other issue is getting the judges just to use the courtroom. My understanding is the two judges are for it and Judge Dimas is not in agreement to go out there and hold the court. Now, I had told Ray and Benjie that I would call Judge Dimas to follow up with him to see what we could do to get that process in place because it's really clobbering the Sheriff's Department on having to use deputies to transport people back and forth to court all the time. I haven't called him yet to find out exactly what his story is. But

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that's something we need to implement.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So we know there'd be a considerable decrease in the cost of transportation. I'm assuming the way you'd work is they'd have to drive out to the facility. Would they have to drive out there every day.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, they arraign on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: All three of them at the same time?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: No, it's usually one judge will handle the majority of the arraignments and they can be done out there. There's also times where they set up a hearing where the hearing is on people that are still incarcerated and have not made bail. They have a certain time that they have to get into court. So they'll schedule anywhere from eight to ten hearings in a morning and we have to transport those people to Magistrate Court. Now, if those hearings were held in that courtroom, that is a secure courtroom. The security right there is even better than it is at Magistrate Court, which Judge Dimas did not know. But then we would not have one transport in that case. We would not even have a deputy there. The jail staff would be walking the inmates from their assigned housing to that court facility.

You've all been out there and seen the facility. You've seen that courtroom. There is no contact between the inmates and the public whatsoever. At Magistrate Court, there can be contact. That's where the security comes in to play. It's bothered our transport people ever since the girl from T or C was killed.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Let me ask this question. So we have one full time security officer at Magistrate, right? Two individuals that equal one full time?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: That's correct. And I explained to Judge Dimas that I'm running into a problem in District Court because of the number of trials. There's been three times in the last month that we had to lock the front door where the metal detector is, because that deputy was pulled off the door to get into a courtroom by one of the judges. We have actually locked the door to the public because we had no one to put at that door. And I told Judge Dimas that by statute, I'm responsible for District Court and not Magistrate Court and if it gets any worse, I'm going to have to put that position at District Court. I would have no choice.

I've discussed that with Judge Vigil also. And Judge Vigil reminded me of my statutory requirements.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Sheriff, I can understand by your doing that really puts us in an awkward position in that we had funded the position specifically for Magistrate so that basically it would put the Commissioners at some odds, I guess with the Magistrates and your making that decision and I would hope that you would consult with us before you make that decision. But I guess, let me ask you this question then. It seems a full FTE is about \$30,000-plus, with benefits and everything, somewhere around there. It seems to me -- is it problematic that if we would fund this FTE position again, because we

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said basically we're funding as we needed it and I'm assuming this year that you've requested it to be funded again. That if we funded it, it would be contingent on utilization and the use of the Magistrates using that courtroom so that we can at least reduce the cost of transportation to help pay for that position if you will.

I don't know if we'll go the full extent, but is it problematic to do that, to say basically it's contingent on the use of the courtroom out there or is that infringing our authority on the authority of the Magistrate Court and them deciding where they want to hold court?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, no it's not infringing on theirs, Commissioner Gonzales, because statutorily we're not required to handle security in Magistrate Court. We are at District Court. So you could make that as a condition and if something isn't worked out by July 1 and the new budget, then that position would transfer to District Court to help our problems over there. If that's the decision of the Commission, that's your decision.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I just think that we built that courtroom to minimize costs and it isn't being used. It seems to me if the Sheriffs have indicated and we have the support of two of the Magistrate judges in using it, that it just seems that we would attach this position to the use of the courtroom and if they use it they can keep it. If they don't, I can understand the concern that the Sheriff has but we need the Magistrates' support in this and I don't know how else to get it. Are you saying because he's the chief judge, he gets to decide whether to use it or not?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, there's some administrative matters that every presiding judge has control over. It's not my parameters to get into it. Judge Dimas and I butted heads a couple of weeks ago on some administrative matters so I don't really want to get into it, but there is some administrative authority, I guess is the best way I can put it.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I guess I'd like to so we can move on, Mr. Chairman, ask if the Commission is in concurrence with that effort so we start utilizing that courtroom and at least direct the Manager to work with the presiding judge on the utilization of that and say that we want to fund the use of that. I think they need it. I think they need an officer, but we also need them to help us in dealing with our costs, especially when we know that we can reduce those costs of transportation just by them utilizing the Sheriffs and them going down to that facility. So I think it's reasonable that we ask the Magistrates that the -- or if we indicated to the Magistrates that the position would be theirs contingent on them using our courtroom, so that we can at least recoup some of the costs to pay for that position, which is about \$30,000, which we're not required to pay for, but we're doing it because we recognize that there's a security risk that could potentially occur in their courtrooms.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: And this is an existing position?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: It's an existing position and as the Sheriff

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is indicating now, and it's a position he's not able to use per se because we've just funded the Magistrates but he has a huge burden at the District Court right now.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: To what extent, Commissioner, does our responsibility go to protect the Magistrate Court? It seems to me that that would be more of a liability to the State Police Force, thereby opening up that one unit to go help with what our obligation in the District Courts.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, there is no obligation on our part, as the Sheriff has indicated, to do that. I think we heard from all of the Magistrates last year about the need at least for some type of court security and the concern that they have that there is no presence of officers there throughout the day with them. And so I think we responded to that by allowing them, and Sheriff Sisneros came up with a program where he could utilize retired officers on a part time basis and rotating basis to maximize the effort.

But the question has come up, they're not using our courtroom, and if they were to use our courtroom, it would minimize some of the transportation costs that the Sheriff is currently having to pay for. And so if we require them to use the courtroom, at least we can minimize some of those costs. It just doesn't seem like it's going to be too much of a burden for one Magistrate to spend three days a week out there doing arraignments. Am I wrong? I don't understand it but it just seems that that may happen. So I would just ask for concurrence by the Commission that we could attach the one security position to the utilization of the court out at the new jail facility.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I'm for that.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: No problem.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: That's fine.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: It's worth a try.

MR. WOLF: I think Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, my opinion is it's a good idea. It ties an existing position to help us reduce our manpower costs that the Sheriff's having to tie up my moving these people back and forth and the wear and tear on the vehicles. That kind of thing. I think it's a good idea. Sheriff, are you okay with that?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: I have no problem with it.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: If he tells you that he doesn't want to use it, then I guess he's not obligated or they're not obligated to use that courtroom but then what we do as the Sheriff has suggested and let them know that he better understand that as the Sheriff needs that individual to go and take care of the District Court that that may be required or that he may have to do that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I get along well with him if you need any help talking to him.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I think, yes, so do I. I'd be happy to have the conversation with him.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, Judge Dimas and I know each other

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very well. We had a long discussion about this and it was a good discussion. The butting of heads had something to do with something different. That was totally different. But Bill and I get along pretty good.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Are we through with the Sheriffs?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, just one more thing. So we need to review the capital outlay. We have the vehicles in there. It would fund 15 vehicles I believe, roughly, at \$300,000 and the money set aside for the associated improvements that would need to go in the vehicles also.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, I think this is merited, just looking at the age and the milage of the thirteen vehicles. I think it's merited that we go ahead and approve them.

MR. WOLF: This represents about a fifth of the fleet and if we can get a five-year life out of the fleet I think we're doing pretty good.

Commissioner Griñé moved for approval with the proviso that the use of deputy service for the Magistrate Court be tied to the use of the courtroom. Commissioner Trujillo seconded.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: For discussion, did you guys talk at all about the jail?

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Mr. Chairman, I explained I didn't want it.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Ray, I don't blame you at all because one of the things that we'd have to consider too would be we'd have to be self-insured which would go into the multi-line pool. But I think, just as a check and balance like I mentioned earlier, that we look at that procedure and possibly get some figures before us and maybe study other counties that do their own jailing, just to see, just to get an idea. It doesn't hurt to try to keep a balance.

SHERIFF SISNEROS: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, I agree and Benjie and I were listening earlier when the discussion was made and I believe their direction, correct me if I'm wrong, but I believe the direction that you gave Mr. Wolf was to come back with a feasibility study on the jail. One of the things I'll tell you up front is if we take it over, we're going to lose all the top administrators, including one that I just found our recently, Benjie forgot to tell me, that got hired who's their new business manager, Max Baca, who retired from DFA. These retired state people that they have in the top positions in corrections, experienced people, they can work for a private company. But retired, they cannot work for the County. So we would lose them. That would be difficult to find a good jail director then.

Last week, a Commissioner from San Miguel County called me, asking me if I knew anybody that had experience that they could look at to run their jail in San Miguel, because they're having a problem finding somebody and they went on a nation-wide search. So that's just another consideration. Sure, there's a lot of things that we have to look at, the

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liability risk, I think you ruined Jeff Trujillo's lunch when he heard about it before lunch because I ran into him in the hallway. He was giving me an earful out there, but it's a study I guess we'll be involved in I'm sure.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Well, just to leave you with this thought, the possibility of a County take-over could happen. I personally would like to see some figures, something to justify the actions that we're doing as far as the jails are concerned, now, today. It would probably just enhance our position anyway to privatization might be the right way to go. But I think that for the sake of study for the public and I think it's warranted.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: It's much better than when someone asks us why the County isn't running the jail we just shrug our shoulders. Be nice to have some information.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I've got just one question. Short answer. The sub-station in Chimayo, is that viable? Are you guys using it? Is it serving a purpose?

MR. MONTANO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, yes. Daily. They're not there all the time. They'll go in there to make phone calls, go in there to do paper work. We'll do briefing when we do saturation patrols. We've allowed the State Police to use it, Rio Arriba to use it when they have to so that there's a presence, but there's not somebody there all the time.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: The reason I'm asking is that if you're not using it, maybe it can be used for something else within the community, because it's a beautiful building. It's a great facility but if you're using it, that's totally fine, because that's what it's for.

MR. MONTANO: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, there's someone assigned to that area 24 hours a day, and they're to go in, part of their responsibility, part of their duty is to go, even if they don't have anything there, to check on the building but they're there pretty much every day because they've got to make phone calls and do paper work. It's a little easier there.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: There's a motion and a second. Those in favor signify by saying "aye." [Unanimous] Opposed? Motion carries.

[The Commission recessed from 1:45 to 1:55.]

V. F. COUNTY TREASURER

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, under tab 9 is the Treasurer's budget. No recommendation for any changes in FTE or structure in that department. The FTE would stay at ten, based on this recommendation. The Treasurer has their goals and objectives included in the budget and there's a slight increase in total to the Treasurer's budget but it's

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due to the increase in salaries and benefits. Other than that, the operating budget is in essence flat and the increase in salary and benefits were due to the increase of the across the board increase to all employees. So that's just a brief summary. If you'd like any more detail, I'm sure Phil would be happy to address those questions.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I have a couple questions. Phil, you took me back to the back of your office one day and showed me these antique machines.

MR. TRUJILLO: That's correct. Those are microfilm viewers. As you know, we need to keep forever -- it's not like for just a few years -- we need to keep the tax rolls. These have to be accessible to the public for viewing for posterity's sake. One of these machines, the paper and the toner isn't even available for them anymore and the other one was a hand-me-down from the Clerk's Office. It's a little embarrassing when we have to view film or when someone comes in and requests looking for film, for records and we can't furnish them that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Can you send them to the Clerk's Office though?

MR. TRUJILLO: Well, I've never imposed on the Clerk for that. I guess that could be done in a pinch. It's just that the microfilm that we have is on spool, as opposed to microfiche. We have some on fiche but mostly on spool. Some of these go back to the late 1800's and early 1900's. We did not include anything in our budget to replace these. I think we may have some money in our current budget that we will attempt to expend before June 30 in order to maybe buy a viewer and I'm currently looking at that, but it's not included in the new budget.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Do you think you might be able to --

MR. TRUJILLO: I think so. We're sure going to try. On another note, when the County Manager stated here that we had kept the budget flat, not only did we keep it flat, but we continued to look for places where we could cut. The one cellular phone that we had in our office, we did away with. We even did away with some of our travel and conferences and meetings. We cut those down in order to try and find some additional monies.

The only other comment I guess that I'd like to bring up, and I have talked to David briefly on this and that's something that still concerns me very much and that is security for our office. We still don't have any way -- if we were to be -- if someone went in there to try and steal or rob from the office, we don't have any way of signalling the police or the Sheriff. We don't have any kind of surveillance cameras. We've talked about this briefly in the past with other administrations and it's always been something that seems to be of importance but we don't really address it.

I think David had indicated to me a while back to maybe look into what it might cost to include that but I knew that we were trying to find places to cut in the budget and I really haven't pursued it that much. But it does continue to be a concern. It really is a concern and I worry especially about my cashiers, the three ladies behind the counter where all the money is of course.

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COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: What will it do, David, to try to address the security issue this year? I'm understanding that we're functioning within an austere budget situation, but this is a real need that I think has been timely to address and we've waited long enough to do it.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: You know, the City has bullet-proof glass for the people that collect -- their office is locked and the public doesn't really have access except through a bullet-proof glass. Is that possible? Do they have large amounts of money there? Maybe you don't want to say right now.

MR. TRUJILLO: Let's say, Commissioner, that it's a concern. Perhaps we could address this individually some time like you visited with me on those viewers. Perhaps individually the Commission would like to visit some time. I don't mean to put the County Manager on the spot here, because this really wasn't part of the presentation, I just wanted to bring this up that it continues to be a concern and I know with the budget the way it is. The only thing I had thought is perhaps not so much out of the Treasurer's budget but maybe out of the General Services, the buildings. Whatever money is used for the upkeep and maintenance of the buildings.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: And if we're going to save a little bit of money on the vehicles, on the cars, if we're going to put in place a pool and we can save some monies, maybe we can channel some of the savings to the security issue.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, if that works out to the be case, definitely. This is a priority and that's what I was saying earlier. It's been a tough budget to bring into balance. Everybody has come to me with priorities. And everything is a priority. And somehow we try to sort through these things and try to determine what has the highest priority. What we need to do, first of all, is identify what will work best for the Treasurer. Is it reconfiguring that office so those areas can be isolated, whether it's a bullet-proof glass or is it a silent alarm, is it a video kind of security? We haven't defined that yet. One of the things I had Corky do is look into what a security system would cost for the entire County with video and back-up video tapes and stuff like that, but all that probably will help us do is identify who it was that committed the crime, maybe not stop the crime from happening. I don't know. There's a lot of different ways we need to look at this. But so far we haven't created any savings in the budget. We've actually increased the budget. So maybe when we're done at the end of the day we need to bring this thing back into balance and then as we go forward we'll figure it out.

The other thing is, we've estimated what our cash balances will be at June 30. If my estimates turn out to be conservative and we have any additional cash left over, well, this would be one of the priorities I would look at. But we need to define what it is first that we need.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I don't think an alarm is going to take care of the issue. If someone goes in there and holds up some people that work for you, it's going to be too late. I think bullet-proof glass or getting them in an enclosure is probably the safest

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thing. If the concern is more for the safety of your employees, I think a bullet-proof enclosure would probably be the appropriate thing. Do you think that you could get estimates for that, Phil? So that we'd know what that would cost?

MR. TRUJILLO: Sure. I can work with Mr. Ojinaga from the General Services and we can work together on that in whatever direction.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Unless you think that something else works. I don't know. I'm not there every day.

MR. TRUJILLO: I don't know. I don't know, Chairman Duran. I just know that none of us are comfortable with the situation the way it is. It's a very comfortable office. We're very pleased to be there. As far as the facilities, it's warm in the winter. It's nice and cool. We have the air conditioning in the summer. The environment is very pleasant. It's just a question that keeps coming up from time to time about the security and the safety. When the OSHA team, Jeff Trujillo and those individuals went through, they were looking at tripping over cords, and they were looking about the exits and these kind of things and it just seemed to me that that might have been something that would have surfaced at that time to point out or call attention to the fact that we are a bank, so to speak and I think it needs to be viewed as such.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any other questions of the Treasurer?

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I know that in year's past your sensitivity has been to address training and expertise issues within your department. You're saying this year you're getting away from that because you've cut the travel budget and the training budget and things like that? Do you feel that your staff is at the appropriate level of expertise to provide the service that needs to be provided?

MR. TRUJILLO: Well, considering the money, Commissioner Trujillo, I think that we'll make do. We have to make do. When I'm directed to come in with a flat budget I realize that the County is strapped for money and the County Manager is giving us that direction and that's exactly the way we came. The only reason that we had -- I think we had some increase in printing costs, the printing of the tax bills. We have no control over that and of course the other increase was in the fact that there were personnel costs. Not that we added any more employees. When I first started working in the Treasurer's Office ten years ago, there was ten people. And here we are ten years later and we're still ten people. Ten staff. So we have not increased the staff. We work with the money that we have. If we don't have money for training we don't train. We just make do.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I'll sacrifice my training to give it to you. I haven't gone on a trip in the last five years. I think that's important.

MR. TRUJILLO: Don't misunderstand me. My staff is competent. They know what they're doing and if I was allowed any kind of opportunity for training, what I would encourage is we need technical support from data processing. I don't know that that would necessarily cost any money, but I would like to see the MIS staff get more involved in the work of the County Treasurer, so that appropriate programs and computer applications

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and those kind of things could be looked at. We need someone over in MIS that really knows the Treasurer's Office. And I'm not putting down the current staff now because they do an excellent job and they help us quite a bit, but we still, I still feel that we need to increase the knowledge of the MIS staff as it relates to the Treasurer's Office. And I would still like to see the Treasurer's report revisited. I would like to see the distribution looked at very closely.

There's been times that we've received information from the mortgage companies and we need to have the MIS Department help us with those. Sometimes there's been a problem with MIS. Sometimes it's been a problem with the mortgage companies. But in any case, we just need to really have someone over at MIS know the Treasurer's Office and know our needs, a liaison of sorts between the two offices. I don't know that that would cost any money. I guess everything costs money eventually. It all boils down to dollars when the dust clears but it's not like I'm asking for any kind of money in the budget to do that.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: That should be feasible, right. David?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, I think there's always room for us to make improvements. The tremendous concern I have is the whole financial area and stability so I can talk to Andrew to see what we can do to focus some additional efforts on the MIS staff to the Treasurer's Department. That will help tie the whole picture together anyway, between Treasurer and Finance. So I think where we can with given staff, that's definitely a good use of the staff time.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Okay, what's the pleasure of the Board.

Commissioner Grifé moved to approve the Treasurer's budget and Commissioner Anaya seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. G. PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

LARRY VELASQUEZ (Public Works Director): Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, good afternoon.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Good to see you.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, as far as the organizational structure with Public Works is the main change this year is we've pulled the Rural Addressing out of Public Works and move that into Administrative Services or the Health and Human Services Department. There's no additional FTE added to Larry's department. There was actually a decrease because of the transfer of the Rural Addressing staff.

Larry's included his goals and objectives and the general fund allocation to his budget is actually reduced fairly significantly. His budget is less than flat by close to a million dollars. I'll have Larry take this further.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Larry, I have just one question. You have an

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administrative assistant that's vacant.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: How long has that been vacant?

MR. VELASQUEZ: About two months.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Do you plan on filling it?

MR. VELASQUEZ: Actually, we have somebody that's supposed to come to work, was supposed to come Monday and they asked for an extension so they can complete their two weeks notice and they should be here on June 2.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So this person would work underneath both you and Robert?

MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: We're behind schedule on this thing so we don't we try and run through it quick. Try not to be too windy. Why don't we just find out if the Commissioners have any questions with your budget and take it from there.

Commissioner Griñé moved to approve the proposed Public Works budget. Commissioner Anaya seconded.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Are you happy with it?

MR. VELASQUEZ: I'm not happy but I guess I'll take it.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: There's a motion and a second. Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: For discussion. You and I have talked about a situation in La Puebla, about a short between the bridge and State Road 76.

MR. VELASQUEZ: We'll take care of that.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I just want to say, Larry, that your department is probably one of the most inundated with labor, work and stress and everything else as far as this institution is concerned and I really appreciate what your department does for the public out there.

MR. VELASQUEZ: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: And that was a great presentation that you made yesterday. I'd like a copy of those projects so that I can represent to the community that Public Works is not sitting down and twiddling their fingers. That was a great presentation. Could you provide that for me?

MR. VELASQUEZ: Yes. I'll actually make a copy for all the Commissioners.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Great.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: The other thing is, I see that the state finally put up the lights up on 599, so thanks for your efforts in pushing through that issue. I think the community should be really happy about it. I know you were pretty persistent in talking to the state to get it up and running, so thank you for that.

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Upon voice vote the motion passed unanimously.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, does that include the review of the capital outlay or do you need to do that separately.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: That includes everything.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: David, in your budget it includes it, right? Part of the budget is the capital outlay.

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman. That \$3.2 million that I represented covers these expenses.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So actually none of the department heads have come up and said they really need anything right away, right? Out of the capital outlay.

MR. WOLF: We really haven't had -- so far we've had the Sheriff. That's the only one that we've addressed with capital outlay. And the Clerk, she had \$91,000 in capital outlay. Before Larry leaves we should have him go over his capital outlay requests so we could look at the timing then of the use of those funds.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: That's okay.

V. H. GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Gonzales moved to approve the General Services budget. Commissioner Griné seconded.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Anybody have any questions? What's the pleasure of the Board?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Just real quick, on the Administrative Division, Corky, on the customer service section, to meet with the various community center committees, I think that's a really important step that we stay making because there's some communities that are really involved, as you know in their centers and others that aren't and maybe by having that personal outreach we might be able to get them more involved.

The other issue is I guess we're taking on a whole new role with that Agua Fria Park, with all the improvements that we've made in it, thanks to Senator Rodriguez, I think, well over a couple hundred thousand dollars, maybe. Is that what it's been?

MR. OJINAGA: That's correct, Mr. Chairman, Commissioner. We're moving forward on the Agua Fria Park and again, tomorrow we have a dedication of the Agua Fria Park that we would like all of you to attend.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: That's probably, in our park system, probably one of the most -- I don't know if sophisticated is the word, but most advanced as far as type of recreation. We have baseball, softball, a few other things.

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MR. OJINAGA: There's baseball fields and basketball courts, a tennis court, concession stand.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: They're going to pave 62? I asked Larry the other day. I actually called to tell them we needed to pave it and he said it's already in the works.

MR. OJINAGA: We're also building a sewer line in that vicinity as well as the paving. The construction will be simultaneously with that sewer line project.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I guess one other question. I know you're working with Commissioner Grifé on this, on the whole issue of the new District Court building. Is that reflected in this budget or do you think at some point you're going to come back with recommendations to us? Or how is that proceeding?

CHAIRMAN DURAN: We talked about that in executive session.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Okay. So I'll just catch up with these guys then on it.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any further discussion?

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I just want to say that I can attest to the fact that General Services and their availability and accessibility to the community works and the communities are really ecstatic about the services that you're providing and thank you very much for attending the meeting tomorrow with the community of Chimayo and the BLM. We're going out to community centers and meeting with center boards and discussing the issues and problems that are always there. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I think you've put together a good County government there, David.

MR. WOLF: We have I think. Thank you.

The motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

V. I. FIRE DEPARTMENT

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, this is one of the few places that we are requesting the addition of FTE and as I said earlier, it's for the firefighter-paramedics for the central and southern parts of the county. We would use a portion of the new gross of the redirected gross receipts tax to cover the expense of that and that piece is about a half million dollars. So there's no general fund impact for that piece. I think I should just let Stan take it from there to make sure, to walk you through that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Stan, bear in mind that we're behind schedule.

STAN HOLDEN (Fire Chief): You don't want the dog and pony show?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Quit while you're ahead.

MR. HOLDEN: That's fine. Perhaps I'll just give you a summary then of what the Fire Department intends to utilize the additional funds and the positions for. As

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the Commission knows, back in February we went back to the voters and asked them to approve the reallocation of a third, the third one-eighth of gross receipts tax for indigent care funds for emergency services and other health care needs. The Fire Department is proposing this budget to utilize approximately \$500,000 of those funds to implement the paramedic program on a regional basis county-wide.

If you recall, over the last fiscal year's budget we put paramedic crews in Pojoaque on the northern region on a 24-hour, seven-day a week basis as a pilot program. That program has been very successful and has been very supportive of our volunteers in the northern region. The Fire Department now is asking the Commission to approve a plan to implement that same program in the western, southern and eastern regions of the county. Specifically the paid staff will be 24-7, with paramedic crews based out of La Cienega, Edgewood, and right now we're still making a determination about whether the crew will be stationed in Hondo or Eldorado for this next fiscal year. And that's basically a summary of the program changes that the Fire Department is requesting for this year.

Commissioner Grifé moved for approval of the budget for the Fire Department. Commissioner Trujillo seconded.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I just wanted to, Stan, you've really brought this department at least into this century, certainly at least keeping it up to where we can better serve our community. One of the things that I can tell the Commissioners, Santa Fe County is very rare in this area. The innovation that we're seeing in this department, I don't think is being experienced in other counties as far as utilizing full time paramedics, seven days a week, 24 hours a day in communities that traditionally have not seen that at work. At best, they've been given volunteers to try and respond to fires. So this, clearly this is coming through the support of the voters and the reallocation of the tax, but it really is I think basically the framework that you started last year with David and I'm pleased that the Commission is going to continue to see that. Just again, to provide a safer environment for our community to live in and that's really what all our goal is. And so I just wanted to congratulate you on that and I was looking over your goals and objectives and I'm sure that in here there's going to be some outreach to the community and letting them know the services that are available to them from the Fire Department, as far as the paramedics and the need for volunteers and the training that goes on.

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, that is an on-going program. We began implementing that when we started the pilot program in the northern region by utilizing news stories and articles that were published in primarily the *Sun* up there. I notice that we have a local reporter in the audience who has been working hard on the story that was supposed to run a couple of Sundays ago and hasn't run yet, but I'm sure it will run soon that will notify if not all, a majority of the residents of Santa Fe County about the program and about how the County's been responsive to those specific needs.

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COMMISSIONER GONZALES: And you can look at what was in place four years ago and see where we are today. Since then, the Commissioners have adopted an ordinance that allows for revenues to be generated off of building permits. We've adopted a resolution that was taken to the voters, an increase in the property taxes that basically paid for new equipment. I believe that was in the amount of two million?

MR. HOLDEN: A million dollars.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: A million dollars that the voters gave for new equipment and the gross tax increase, this. This department probably out of any department in County government has really taken on a totally different image and its existence is very different today than what it was four years ago.

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I would probably agree with that and I think it has been a great response to a need that was recognized by the Commission long before I got here and the Fire Department certainly is appreciative of the Commission for their support and to the taxpayers for their support and recognition of the services that can be provided by the Fire Department if we have the adequate support in place to do it. On behalf of the Fire Department we would like to pass on our appreciation.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: Stan, what is the response that you're getting from your volunteers? The volunteer firefighters and all that, how are they receiving it now that we've gone a long ways, as Commissioner Gonzales in the last four years?

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Griné, specifically in the northern region, the volunteers have been extremely supportive. The volunteers of Tesuque, Pojoaque, La Puebla and Chimayo, which are the fire districts that make up the northern region, have been extremely supportive and have bought on to the concept. I could even allow firefighter/County Manager to respond to that because he is a member of the Pojoaque Department as well and he knows first hand about the interaction that goes on in the northern region.

If you'll recall, as part of the phase one regionalization concept, we also added some full time staff, eight to five, Monday through Friday in the western and in the southern regions. Those regions have also been very supportive. Obviously, there's always going to be some amount of conflict with change, but through a great deal of education and a number of meetings with volunteers and a very succinct educational standpoint on our mission and goals that we need to accomplish in our service to the citizens that we're responsible force, I can say that without reservation, 95-plus percent of the volunteers have been very supportive of the changes that we have made.

Now within this budget, one of the changes that we have asked for in order to accomplish regionalization in the other three parts of the county is that we are going to close the Edgewood dispatch center. Many of you know that we've had a dispatch center in Edgewood for the last decade that has been primarily staffed by volunteers who are paid on a per diem basis, casual pool employees, and two FTEs that the County has paid for. A couple months ago we came to the Commission for approval of a joint powers agreement

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with the City of Santa Fe to provide a regional dispatch center for the Fire Department so that all of our dispatch services for all fifteen fire districts will be provided by the City dispatch center. And that will allow us to upgrade the number of dispatchers that we have on duty, 24 hours a day, seven days a week from one to two, and it also allows our dispatch services to be computerized. It also allows for all E-911 calls to be answered in one location, and it also allows for the medical director to oversee the medical priority dispatch system and Pro-QA, the quality assurance system that goes with the dispatch services in one center.

So of course, there have been some concerns raised by the volunteers in Edgewood. They don't want to see their dispatch center closed, but they understand, I believe, to a great extent the fiscal resources that we have available to us and that we must utilize those resources to the best of our ability to effectively and efficiently serve all residents of Santa Fe County and not just a specific portion of Santa Fe County.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would imagine that Edgewood is probably one of the number one beneficiaries of the impact ordinance. Is that right? Because of the growth that's occurred out there?

MR. HOLDEN: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, that is correct.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: And your responsibilities have grown, but they also have received a good significant amount.

MR. HOLDEN: That's correct. Edgewood has been the largest benefactor of the impact fee ordinance thus far when compared to any other fire district.

Upon voice vote, the motion to approve the Fire Department budget passed unanimously.

V. J. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Anaya moved approval of the Health and Human Services budget and Commissioner Grifé seconded for discussion.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Anybody have any questions?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: A couple of questions. One, as they relate to rural addressing. Let me just say that I'm glad we didn't go to Saturdays to working. I know that that may have been as far as from a productive standpoint better, but I think from a family standpoint and the people that are working rural addressing, that probably would have been a really bad mistake. It would have been a bad mistake on everyone's part to go forward and ask them to take a Saturday away from their families. So I'm glad that we're not going down that manner from what I understand and hopefully we don't go down

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that manner.

ANDREW CHAVEZ (Health and Human Services Director): Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, we had preliminarily set a schedule that would involve Saturday and Sunday. The staff came forth and expressed their concern. First of all we put up the problem as it exists now. We listened to the staff and based on their input we changed that schedule so that they'll work now from 11:00 to 8:00 and they're all agreeable and it was based on their input.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Eleven to eight on what days?

MR. CHAVEZ: Monday through Friday. And they will no longer have to work on Saturdays and Sundays. And the reason for the schedule is so that we can catch people when they're at home.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I would have been really hard on their families.

MR. CHAVEZ: Yes, and we listened to that and we went ahead and changed that.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I appreciated that, appreciate the work of Linda Dutcher on the DWI project. Eppie, you're doing a great job in Indigent. Certainly your role is going to be really important now as we move forward now in this Health Planning Commission and that brings me up to the whole issue of -- I don't know if we've got the health planning budget that's sitting in your department, the emergency services and health plan, or where is that sitting, David?

MR. WOLF: Actually, that's in my budget, for now at least.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So the Health Planning Commission, is it going to be funded out of your budget, David?

MR. WOLF: At this point, I was going to fund the costs associated with it out of that special revenue money that's included as part of my budget, yes.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So I didn't get a chance -- did we already act on the La Familia and on the child abuse request?

MR. WOLF: We acted on my budget as a whole. But you weren't in here. We went over my budget but we didn't go into any of that detail. I just made a note. Maybe we need to go back and revisit that before the end of the day.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: There was only on that specific issue since we're under this area, the only concern I had is that we have funded La Familia \$150,000 and then we funded the child abuse study that came forward, \$100,000 out of the movement of the indigent tax. And I guess my concern was a couple things. One, this is a public hearing but I think we had told the public that we would go through a little bit more of a process before we allocated those monies. So what I wanted to ask -- and I apologize for not being here at the time, but what I wanted to ask the Commission is that if those two issues could be deferred to the Health Commission for review and just concurrence.

One of the things that we charged this Health Commission with was to look at where

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the needs were in this community, where they were deficient, and to hopefully assist us in how's the best way to prioritize the use of this money. I don't know if the Commission has many concerns with that.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: When do they meet? When's their next meeting?

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Well, they meet monthly, right Virginia?

MS. VIGIL: That's correct

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: And all I would ask is that those two issues are deferred to them, just for concurrence because I don't want to be setting a precedent of us starting to spend this money without review from this Health Planning Commission that's just really gotten involved heavily in this effort. So I wanted to see if we could defer on that, if possible.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: That's fine.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I'm with it.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to clarify the numbers. In the budget request for the use of those funds, there's \$105,000 that I've recommended be used for the child abuse program as you stated earlier, Commissioner, and \$100,000 for La Familia Medical Center for capital equipment, versus \$150,000. I just wanted to clarify the numbers. And we'll pull that out.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: And all I'm doing is asking the Health Commission to concur with it and if they've got problems to send a message back to us whether we have to address it or now. The other issue I guess, and GIS just -- I guess we're growing in leaps and bounds and at least the work that I've seen with Erle, I really appreciate what you're doing there and I'm still trying to understand all the important things that GIS. I wanted to thank Agnes for stepping in and taking over as an acting director. The only issue I guess is, I know we're still talking about this, but the whole webpage and how far we are from it actually being an interactive webpage if we're there already or not. Last time I checked, last month, I couldn't pull our agenda up off of it and we really wanted to make it more interactive with the community and I don't know if we've had that much success or not.

MR. CHAVEZ: I can start answering that and then Agnes can follow. We have Gavin Lujan now concentrating on that and he's holding meetings with the individuals from each department and he is going to get those agenda be kept up on whatever the period of time it is. If it's for the agenda of the Commission, every two weeks or every other week as you have your meetings, but we're working on that right now. Part of the problem that we had with the webpage is that we had a webpage that never changed. Now, the webpage does change and we're trying to coordinate that with the department. We want to make the departments responsible for what's on the webpage.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So how far away are we now, then, from it actually becoming a real interactive webpage. Because I think this is something that certainly I and Chairman Duran have been trying to pay attention to for the last year.

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MR. CHAVEZ: I believe that the Chairperson Duran's view of what the webpage would be in which we actually have access to some of the data that GIS keeps, we're far away from that.

AGNES LOPEZ (Systems Analyst): Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, as far as pulling down agendas and forms off the webpage, that is right at hand. I think that Gavin's working on getting those agendas on there and maybe application forms. And those you should be able to pull down. We will work on that if they're not already.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: And we also wanted to make sure that Land Use had the Code up on there, so that there could be word searches that were done for parts of the Code and people would be able to call up the applicable part. Things like that. Are we moving in that direction?

MS. LOPEZ: Yes, we are.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: Are we a long ways from that?

MS. LOPEZ: I think that personnel applications we should be able to pull down. If not, that's pretty simple. And the agendas, I believe Gavin is getting together with all the departments to get those on there. And then it's a simple matter of doing the Code to get them to pull them down. That part is pretty easy. The hard part is getting the agendas from the departments and getting them on there.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: So can I ask you Andrew and Agnes to basically supply me, you don't have to do it in a meeting, but with some type of report, with a time line of where you expect to be on all these, so we can expect something from the department. If you could provide it for each of the Commissioners. But something that's obviously reasonable for you that's not going to tie your hands too much but just a real honest assessment of how far off we are from seeing this become a reality. And that way we don't have to be waiting and waiting.

MS. LOPEZ: Okay. Yes.

COMMISSIONER GONZALES: I guess my last issue concerns Housing. I just want to commend Robert for doing an outstanding job, Robert, in a very tough area. I've heard nothing but good things from people in the housing community about the way they're treated and I know that we're making the move from moving your department out of General Services into this Health and Human Services Department and hope that that's a good fit, but I do want to make sure that you understand, certainly, our absolute belief in the job that you're doing, and appreciate what you're doing.

We just ask you to continue taking this department to another level of where it's serving people who need housing. One of the next policies we're going to need to work on that we've been talking about is the housing policy and really how we're going to transition people who are on a waiting list in and then those that are in, what we're going to do to help them move on, so that it's just a temporary stay and not so much a lifestyle or a culture that we're embedding in them. So I'm anxious in working with you on that over this next year because I think that that would really help define this Commission and our views on how we

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feel about public housing and its intended purposes.

ROBERT ANAYA (Housing Services Director): Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Gonzales, I just want to say real briefly that I'm thankful to the Commission that you made the choice to hold on to Santa Fe County Housing. I think it was a great choice and you've supported me and I appreciate that support. The staff is an excellent staff and the Manager has given a lot of support to housing and we'll afford Mr. Chavez whatever he needs to keep this agency moving forward. But I appreciate the comments. Thanks.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: So what's the pleasure of the Board?

The motion to approve the Health and Human Services budget passed by unanimous voice vote.

V. K. COUNTY ASSESSOR

Commissioner Grifé moved to approve the County Assessor's budget and Commissioner Trujillo seconded.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Ralph, we're on a tight schedule here so what we'll do, any questions from the Commissioners, we'll start from that.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: I think Dave, if you can just highlight any changes, I think that will suffice from here on in.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioners, no changes in FTE. The budget is essentially flat, again, other than the increases for the cost of living increase that was given for the salaries and benefits. The Assessor has an evaluation fund, which is a 1% fee that's tacked on to the property taxes that we collect that goes into a separate special revenue fund that allows us to have additional appraisers and more people in the field and that amount of money is being fully utilized also. So you have the general fund portion and the special revenue portion for their fund and both funds were fully utilized in the special revenue and the general fund allocation is in essence, flat, as I said earlier. And that's basically the highlights and summary of the budget.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any further questions?

The motion to approve the County Assessor's budget passed unanimously.
[Commissioner Gonzales was not present for this vote.]

V. L. PROBATE JUDGE

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the Probate Judge's budget and Commissioner Griñé seconded. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote. [Commissioner Gonzales was not present for this vote.]

V. M. FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Anaya moved approval of the Finance Department budget. Commissioner Griñé seconded for discussion.

MR. WOLF: Again, Mr. Chairman, no change in FTE in this department. The budget is essentially flat again, other than the changes in salaries and benefits. The general fund allocation at least. The Finance Department is also responsible for tracking all of our debt service and so those funds are built into their budget but the general fund allocation is essential other than salaries and benefits.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: So Dave, Finance now is pretty well connected with the Assessor's Office. All that's been taken care of and inclusive in this budget call?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Anaya, one of the things that we did during this fiscal year to make sure that we're year 2000 compliant is we went back to the HTE system and purchased the software. It's year 2000 compliant so we're back on one financial platform that everybody ties to the Treasurer's Office now. I don't know about the details as far as being directly linked to the Assessor's Office, but we're back on one system which is the same system that the Assessor uses.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I have a question. The Finance Department has grown by about three or four people over the last year? Or two? Were those approved positions during last year's budget?

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, Commissioner Trujillo, in the last fiscal year, fiscal year 98, we're in fiscal year 99 now. In fiscal year 98 they had 19 1/2 positions. This year they have 20 1/2 and next year I'm proposing 20 1/2. So the growth -- I don't have the history, but the growth must have been in fiscal year 97. So it's been a couple of years before anything has changed.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Because I know that two positions were filled this year, an accounting position --

MS. GARY: My position is in lieu of the deputy -- what were they called? The division director, Finance Division Director. And the deputy Finance Director is in lieu of the Controller. So we just replaced people. So we didn't have any additional FTEs.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: No net growth.

MS. GARY: Right.

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COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: It's a backfill sort of situation.

MS. GARY: Right.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Okay.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: No further discussion?

Upon voice vote, the motion to approve the Finance Department budget carried unanimously. [Commissioner Gonzales was not present for this vote.]

V. N. LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Anaya moved approval of the Legal Department budget and Commissioner Grinë seconded for discussion.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, the same number of FTE. There's a slight --

CHAIRMAN DURAN: She must have a lot of vacancy savings in that department.

MR. WOLF: A lot of vacancy savings. The budget is essentially flat. The claims that we're responsible for, the first \$10,000 of certain claims we're responsible for, but the budget is basically flat again.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: Are these positions, the deputy County Attorney and the assistant County Attorney, are they going to be filled?

MR. WOLF: Yes, Mr. Chairman, the fact is the deputy is already filled and there's been an offer and acceptance for the assistant attorney position that was open, and the paralegal position is filled now. So Denice is fully staffed at this point.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: How will the profile look? In the effort from a diversity standpoint, what are we doing to reflect community in this department?

MR. WOLF: I don't understand, Commissioner Trujillo, what you're asking.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I see that there's an under utilization of minorities in this department. What efforts are we making to attract and retain minorities as attorneys in this area, to reflect the availability and the workforce.

MR. WOLF: Let me have Denice respond to that. We've basically had a tough time attracting attorneys for that position. There have been a number of offers made.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: I talked to Denice about that too.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: I have too.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: There was like five Hispanic attorneys that applied and none of them took the position. None of them wanted it.

DENICE BROWN (County Attorney): Mr. Chairman, I'd be happy to respond. I can tell you the folks that we've made offers to in our office who turned us down. The first person was a guy that Javier had recommended to us. His name was Ken

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Gonzales. We interviewed him back in December. He was the first person we interviewed for the vacancy in my office. Ken thought about it for a few weeks and decided he did not want to come here.

The next person was Rod Ventura. Rod was from Arizona, from the Window Rock area and was employed for DNA Legal Services. We made the offer to him. I thought he was going to accept. His wife got accepted to graduate school, so they moved elsewhere. The third person was Andrew Sanchez. Andrew had moved back to Albuquerque from Washington D.C. where he'd worked for the CIA. He was able to obtain a job in Albuquerque, so he turned us down. He didn't want to commute. He was a single parent and understandably did not want to commute to Santa Fe.

The fourth person was Richard Salazar, who's at the DA's Office here in Santa Fe. He turned us down because he felt that he'd just gotten a promotion at the DA's Office and was making quite a bit more money than we were able to offer him.

The fifth person was Cindy Cordova, who is working for the DA's Office in Albuquerque and we thought we'd be able to snag Cindy over here because she actually commutes to Albuquerque to work for the DA's Office. She told me that she was happy with the amount of trial work she was able to get at the DA's Office and for any lawyer who wants to really be in court a lot, you either really need to be at the DA's Office of the Public Defender's Office. They're really the only two offices where you're in court every week. And she really felt, as a young attorney, she's been out of school slightly less than two years, that she was getting a lot of good trial work and wanted to continue with that.

So those are our efforts. I do know, I talked to Commissioner Grinë. He had spoken with the Attorney General's Office about the same issue. It's difficult. I think there just aren't enough Hispanic attorneys if you will, for the demand for them. I think most firms and most businesses and most government agencies in New Mexico have a strong desire, as my office does, to have a diverse work force.

COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: So you made the good faith effort.

MS. BROWN: There we are.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: And just for the record, now that Patricia Madrid took over as the Attorney General, they've had the same problem and they've had to go to California, Florida, Texas, in order to bring minorities in and they still haven't been able to find them. So it's a real difficult situation. And I've tried myself to try to find somebody. I made a strong, sincere effort and you know what? They're not available.

The motion to approve the Legal Department budget passed by unanimous voice vote.

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V. O. UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Anaya moved to approve the Utilities budget and Commissioner Grifé seconded.

MR. WOLF: Mr. Chairman, we've got a couple of choices here. Estevan had left. Things were going a little slower. He's on his way back down here. We can skip maybe and go to Personnel or I could explain the budget.

COMMISSIONER GRIÑÉ: Go ahead and explain it.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: The highlights, Dave.

MR. WOLF: Basically now, the Utilities Department is a self-funding utility. It stands on its own. It has a small subsidy from environmental gross receipts taxes. There's no change in the staff structure. No staffing increases or anything. It's getting its funding now from providing services, water and wastewater services and a small supplement from environmental gross receipts. No subsidy from the general fund.

So this is a self-balancing budget and it's starting to operate as an enterprise fund as it should. The budget is revenue-based and it's basically equivalent to or flat compared to the prior year. And that's the summary in a nutshell. I can go into more detail if you'd like.

COMMISSIONER ANAYA: Mr. Chairman, this is one department that I really, really support, going back to when I first started as a Commissioner here. I'm so glad and happy to see that it's materializing in the positive direction.

Upon voice vote, the motion to approve the Utilities Department budget passed unanimously. [Commissioner Gonzales was not present for this vote.]

V. P. PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Grifé moved to approve the Personnel Department budget, and Commissioner Anaya seconded.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: Any thing that we need to be aware of?

MR. WOLF: Actually, Mr. Chairman, the staffing levels are the same. The budget is actually slightly less than it was during this fiscal year and it's a completely general fund funded department.

The motion to approve the budget for the Personnel Department passed by unanimous voice vote. [Commissioner Gonzales was not present for this vote.]

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my history of being here this has got to be the biggest budget I've ever seen. It's gone up from when I started maybe four times what it used to be, which just reflects the productivity of our administration and the staff and all the efforts that have been put forth and it makes me really proud to be a Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER GRINÉ: A job well done.

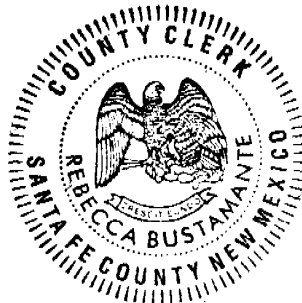
COMMISSIONER TRUJILLO: I'd just like to say thank you very much for the preparation and three, four, five and a half years I've been, this is the best one that I've seen. The presentation, the information that was presented. The buoyancy of the budget. A clear, objective, concise explanation. I commend all the departments and all the staff for their participation.

MR. WOLF: Thank you very much. I want to thank the Commission and thank you for your foresight and vision and the opportunity to bring this before you. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN DURAN: All in favor signify by saying "aye." [Unanimous]
Opposed? Motion carries.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Duran declared this meeting adjourned at approximately 2:55 p.m.



Approved by:

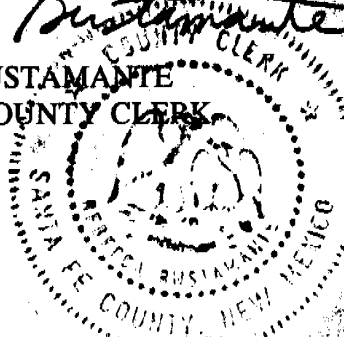
Board of County Commissioners
Paul Duran, Chairman

Respectfully submitted:

Karen Farrell, Commission Reporter

ATTEST TO:

REBECCA BUSTAMANTE
SANTA FE COUNTY CLERK



1077.895
COUNTY OF SANTA FE)SS
STATE OF NEW MEXICO)

I hereby certify that this instrument was filed
for record on the 9 day of June A.D.
19 99, at 4:05 o'clock P.M.
and was duly recorded in book 1651
page 211 of the records of
Santa Fe County.

Witness my Hand and Seal of Office

Rebecca Bustamante
County Clerk, Santa Fe County, N.M.

Marcelle Salazar
Deputy