

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BUDGET HEARING 2023  
MILLARD COUNTY THE 6th DAY OF DECEMBER 2022  
AT THE COURTHOUSE, FILLMORE, UTAH

PRESENT: Evelyn Warnick. . . . . Chairperson  
Dean Draper. . . . . Commissioner  
Bill Wright. . . . . Commissioner  
Pat Finlinson. . . . . County Attorney  
Marki Rowley. . . . . County Clerk  
Kayla Freeman. . . . . Deputy County Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Sheri Dearden. . . . . County Treasurer  
Sierra Dickens and Shonda Robinson . . . . . County Recorder’s Office  
Bonnie Smith. . . . . County Auditor’s Office  
Bruce Giles, Jim Giles, Tyson Ingrame, Randy England, Darren Brunson,  
Austin Monroe, Mike Monroe, Jeremy Petersen, Sam Stevens, Morgan Tolbert,  
Jeff Johnson, Joseph Taylor, Kraig Payne, Teri Howell, Darren Mason,  
Mark Stevens, Darci Winget and Brandon Winget. . . . County Road Department  
Russell Finlinson, David Edwards, Devan Wilcox, Chase Holt, Tom Huffer,  
Corey Woods, and John Higgins, . . . . . County Landfill Department  
Derek Curtis, Tyrell Curtis, Shayne Brunson, Chad Imlay, Pat Bennett,  
Jerid Bennett, Lindsay Mitchell, Kenyon James, Jenni Jensen,  
Chantell Edwards, Steve Mitchell, Deanne Hare, Ben Stephenson,  
Tyler Hathaway, Rob Clark, Taylor Frampton, Michael Blad, Kay Roper,  
Cathi Kooyman, Lane Gardner, and Richard Jacobson. . . County Sheriff’s Office  
Matt Ward. . . . . Chronicle Progress  
Kim Rowell and Paul Kennington . . . . . County EMS  
Vicki Lyman. . . . . Commissioner Elect  
Jamie Hair. . . . . County Clerk’s Office  
Kalen Taylor and Eva Timothy. . . . . USU Extension  
O. John Orullian and Klint Penny. . . . . East County Maintenance  
Cyndee Probert. . . . . Justice Court  
Nicole Ingram, Necia Johnson, Elise Harris, Ivy Huffer, Jeff Mitchell,  
Ron Baker, Shannon Bennett, Paula Mason, Kary Kesler, Susan Kesler,  
Matthew Kesler, Dale Prows, Wendy Loe, Matt Loe, Brandon Loe, Sara Blad,  
Cheryle Payne and Miriam Waddingham. . . . . Citizens

PURSUANT TO AN AGENDA WHICH HERETOFORE HAD BEEN PROVIDED TO each member of the governing body, posted at the principal office of the Millard County Commission, posted on the Utah Public Notice Website, and provided to the Millard County Chronicle Progress, a newspaper of general circulation within Millard County, Utah, as required by law, the following proceedings were had:

Commissioner Warnick welcomed the public. Sheriff Jacobson said the invocation.

Commissioner Warnick called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. and then turned the time over to Auditor Smith.

Auditor Smith covered information relative to the adoption of the 2023 budget. She explained that the 2023 Tentative Budget was adopted by the County Commission on November 1, 2022. Public Notices were run in the Chronicle Progress on September 28, 2022, October 5, 2022, November 9, 2022, and November 16, 2022 indicating that the tentative budget had been adopted and that it was available for inspection at both the County Courthouse in Fillmore and the County offices in Delta; it was also available on the County's website and stated that today would be the date for the public hearing.

Public notice was also provided and published in the Chronicle Progress, prior to budget work meetings held October 3, 2022, October 13, 2022, October 31, 2022, November 7, 2022, November 9, 2022, November 21, 2022, and November 25, 2022. Notices of tonight's budget hearing were also printed on each property tax bill.

Auditor Smith explained that during the budget meetings, the commissioners and the Auditor's Office met with most offices and departments prior to the adoption of the tentative budget and continued to work on the budget, up until the proposed budget was posted on November 25, 2022.

Auditor Smith explained that the budget was ultimately prepared at the Commission's discretion and that it is anticipated that there will be funding for all regular step increases. The wages budgeted for at this time are as follows:

- A \$4.00 per hour wage increase for all POST-certified public safety employees.
- The minimum starting hourly wage for public safety duty is increased to \$23.50 per hour and a \$10,000.00 recruitment bonus with a signed contract.
- A \$5.00 per hour wage increase for all Road Department employees in exchange for not filling the two vacant positions and the prior year fund balance will not be utilized.
- A \$4.00 per hour wage increase for all Landfill Department employees and the prior year fund balance will not be utilized.
- A eight percent COLA has been included for all other full-time positions.
- A \$4.00 per hour wage increase for all part-time Weed Department employees.
- All other part-time employees who work an average of twenty or more hours per week will receive a three percent COLA.
- All part-time employees will start at a minimum of \$10.00 per hour.

Auditor Smith explained that capital projects budgeting will change for 2023, in an effort

to bring more transparency to the total cost of the department or office expenses. Qualifying capital expenses will include the capital budget line item within the respective fund and department and will be broken down by “capital outlay other” and/or “capital outlay software.” Capital funds can not be used for other expenses not approved as a capital expense under the Governmental Accounting Board Standards.

The capital projects for 2023 are as follows:

- \$42,000.00 for a new pump control and pipe resizing for the golf course and \$6,500.00 for software, totaling \$48,500.00.
- \$4,000.00 for the East Millard Pool to switch to culinary sprinklers and \$1,200.00 annual software totaling \$5,200.00.
- \$49,000.00 for the West Millard Pool to replace the roof top heat exchanges, drain pump, and to repair damaged stucco and \$1,200.00 annually for software, totaling \$52,000.00.
- \$13,500.00 for West Parks to replace a scoreboard, concrete, and security lighting and \$1,200.00 annually for software, totaling \$52,000.00.
- \$1,700.00 for the East Recreation to replace a score board receiver at \$1,700.00 and \$1,200.00 annually for software, totaling \$2,900.00.
- \$8,800.00 for the Fair Exhibit building to add panels and fans.
- \$14,000.00 for an arena conditioner and spreader for the rodeo grounds.
- \$3,000.00 for the Treasurer’s Office for Quickbooks software.
- \$62,000.00 for the Sheriff’s Office for operating software.
- \$5,500.00 for the Building Inspector’s Office for operating software.
- \$1,300.00 for E911 annual maintenance software.

Special projects of greater significance using 2023 ARPA funds:

- \$272,000.00 to purchase another ambulance and generators for each ambulance
- \$300,000.00 for public safety vehicles
- \$250,000.00 for the jail inner door system, intercoms, and inmate phones

Projects carried over from 2022 ARPA funds:

- \$225,000.00 for landfill bins
- \$18,000.00 for policy manual updates and on board training
- \$282,000.00 for the Sheriff’s Office dash cams and mics.

Changes to the 2023 proposed budget:

- 2022 Capital projects, ambulance grants, tourism grants, ARPA funded projects not completed or paid for this year, all will be carried over to the

## 2023 budget

Auditor Smith expressed her concern over continually having a deficit spending plan and the methodology used to determine wage changes. Fiscal responsibility for wages is based on the actual job description, knowledge, and the current market, not government revenue streams. She also said that fiscal responsibility includes sustainability and the proposed wage increases will cause a deficit in the budget that will be filled by one-time funds.

Auditor Smith concluded that it is up to the Commission majority to decide what the adopted budget is and to make decisions that are sustainable in an unforeseeable future.

Treasurer Dearden then addressed the audience, further discussing financial concerns. See Attachment A.

Sheriff Jacobson expressed his disappointment with the Paypoint wage study and his desire to do whatever it takes to properly compensate his department, including forgoing any raise to himself. He quoted Adam Grant, saying “ In hard times, people don't want to be told to look on the bright side. They want to know you're on their side. Even if you can't help them feel better, you can always help them feel seen. The best way to support others is not to cheer them up. It's to show up.”

Susan Kesler then commented that she was very much relieved after listening to Auditor Smith and Treasurer Dearden, saying that they addressed the concerns that she had. She then asked if money would be owed to IPP, and if so, would the funds come from taxing the citizens. Auditor Smith replied that the County has prepared for the IPP bill with \$12,000,000.00 set aside in the Tax Stability Trust Fund.

Brandon Winget shared his opinion that wage increases need to happen in order to keep employees with the County. He said that if the County does not increase wages, then employees will leave find other jobs. He then stated that citizens do get something out of taxes, such as police officers and plowed roads.

Commissioner Warnick said that the Commission will tentatively adopt the 2023 budget on December 20, 2022 . She has received many phone calls and letters that will be filed as part of the record.

Commissioner Wright echoed Treasurer Dearden in being cautious, saying that after three and half years, hopefully the County will have more revenue, if not, he hasn't heard any feasible options on how to continue to fund the County once the LATCF funds have run out. He disagreed with using unearned funds to pay for something replaceable, as when it is time to replace something, those one time funds will not be around to cover that new expense. He also said that using the tax stability fund as a bailout is not advisable as

there will always be liabilities with tax abatements and court case appeals. Commissioner Wright said that the County citizens would be appalled if they were able to see the amounts that the County has tied up in these court appeals. Even if new progress comes, there will be always be appeals and the County will always have those liabilities.

Commissioner Wright said that the County has 144 employees and 281 tax abatements that were brought to the commissioners from citizens who can not pay their taxes. He said that moving forward anything that is done must be good for both the County employees and its citizens. He said he is willing to put forth resources to bridge the gap, that he is not willing to dig the debt hole deeper with no plan on how to get out.

Commissioner Wright concluded that there is a lot of stress right now but if the Commission has to cut budgets in order to cover their deficit spending then it would get a lot more stressful on the employees.

Commissioner Draper said he did not agree with Commissioner Wright's grim outlook and suggested taking proactive action. He said that growth will come. He continued, saying that the County has spent money on non essential services for a long time and that if you don't raise taxes then you must reduce services. He said that balancing the budget on the backs of employees is not proper. He explained that the County operates as a business that cannot function without employees. He said that ongoing expenses like the eight percent COLA are built into future budgets.

Commissioner Draper then explained that there was inflation before the start of the Paypoint salary study and that the study failed to address recent inflation; Therefore in his opinion, it was deficient. He explained that while it may have had a few stellar points, it got released before it should have and caused contention throughout the County Departments.

Commissioner Draper said that the County has to take care of its employees; they are taxpayers too and provide services that the County cannot do without. He said that one of the purposes of County Government is to budget funds that enable the County to operate. He further said that the proposed wage increases were already budgeted into the 2022 budget, without knowing that the LATCF funds were going to come to the County. He said that the County used only a small portion of the budgeted funds and estimated that if the LATCF funds are budgeted correctly, it could last for six years.

Commissioner Draper explained that the County has an economic development board that will help the County as a whole when new projects come into the County. Commissioner Draper concluded that the County does have a bright future ahead, but it needs to take care of its employees in order for that to happen.

Commissioner Warnick thanked in attendance and then closed the budget hearing at approximately 6:53 p.m.

WHERE UPON THE MEETING ADJOURNED

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved: \_\_\_\_\_