



# GREENE COUNTY COMMISSION

HAROLD BENGSCHE  
COMMISSIONER 1<sup>ST</sup> DISTRICT

BOB CIRTIN  
PRESIDING COMMISSIONER

LINCOLN P. HOUGH  
COMMISSIONER 2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

## MINUTES

Daily Briefing October 04, 2017  
Greene County Commission Office  
9:00 a.m.

Present: Scott Marrs, Jerry Burch, Chris Coulter, Bob Cirtin, Lincoln Hough, Harold Bengsch, Kate Morris, Cindy Stein, Tina Phillips, Jeff Scott, Phillip Corcoran, Kevin Spaulding, Jim Arnott, Trysta Herzog, and Leah Betts.

Commissioner Cirtin opened the meeting at 9 a.m.

Budget Officer Jeff Scott presented a funding plan involving General Revenue I and GR II for a 20-year period, which includes a starting number of beds and sustainable salary structure for employees. Commissioner Cirtin noted that Scott expressed a desire to have Auditor Cindy Stein and Treasurer Justin Hill verify the numbers in the plan.

Commissioner Cirtin was called to an unexpected meeting off campus, and therefore put forth a motion to approve the plan, pending review by Jeff Scott, Justin Hill, and Cindy Stein. Commissioner Bengsch added to the motion that this new plan would not change the wording of Resolution 17-ACR, which was adopted recently by the Commission. Commissioners Cirtin and Hough agreed to the stipulation. Commissioner Bengsch seconded the motion.

(Commissioner Cirtin left, with the plan to be phoned once it was time to vote.)

Jeff Scott provided two documents (Exhibits A and B). The top four lines of B reflect what is in Resolution 17-ACR. The documents reflect a restructuring for all employees and the impact of taking one floor (192 beds) out of the proposed jail expansion. Per the Bill Garnos jail study, it was determined that 1,407 beds would be an adequate amount to year 2029. With the proposed plan in the documents provided, that would change to 1,215 beds; reaching full occupancy in 2024. This plan puts more faith into court efficiencies, mental health services, and other community services over the next seven years. If these services and efficiencies don't make the needed impact, there will exist a footprint upon which jail expansion may take place, but funding will still be needed for expansion.

The proposed plan includes a reduction of 58 jail staff. It also includes cutting the vacancy rate of jail staff from 20% to 5% and filling those positions first, ensuring that the County meets

commitments made to the public to fill those positions. This creates a 15% impact in vacancies in the existing General Revenue I. Scott said cash reserves levels in General Revenue I would decline over the first five years of the plan. Scott said there will be inadequate reserve to GR I spending that will limit Commission's ability to provide step and possibly cost of living increases over the five years. All funds combined, however, would result in levels deemed adequate, he noted. Scott said he will also be looking into the impact reciprocity might have on this plan in later years. Sheriff Arnott noted that the temporary jail wasn't factored in after 2020, and would likely make a difference in the reciprocity impact.

Commissioner Hough said it might be difficult finding people to fill the remaining 277 positions, noting the low unemployment rate, which is currently 3.6%. Cindy Stein said she would spend the afternoon reviewing the proposed plan. Commissioner Hough stated that the plan should not keep changing and that this proposed plan should be the final plan. Commissioner Bengsch agreed. Trysta Herzog noted her concern that repeatedly changing this plan would appear disingenuous to the public, but is willing to help present the new plan. Sheriff Arnott said he is good with the proposed plan.

Chris Coulter phoned Commissioner Cirtin. Cirtin repeated the motion to approve the plan proposed by Jeff Scott, pending review from Justin Hill and Cindy Stein and with the stipulation that this plan does not change the wording in Resolution 17-ACR. Since there was already a second by Commission Bengsch on the floor, Commissioners voted and the motion passed unanimously.

Aye: Bengsch, Cirtin, Hough    Nay: None    Abstain: None    Absent: None

Scott Marrs and Jerry Burch of Burch and Associates updated the Commission on the legislative consulting services provided to the Commission. Marrs stated that they would like to meet with Commission twice before legislative session commences, and maybe once after. Burch suggested the County send department representatives to Jefferson City when the County wants to voice a position on a bill relevant to the department representative's expertise.

Burch noted the recent \$1 increase in per diem from the state. He said he only recently learned about the six-to-nine-month backlog of per diem reimbursements from the state, and vowed to address this with the state budget committee. Cindy Stein noted that the reimbursement process has somewhat improved over the last two years.

There was some discussion regarding prevailing wage and the possibility of creating a state average. Currently, each county uses its own average of various services. If a state average were to be applied, Greene County would go from an average of \$19.33 per hour to \$22.39 per hour.

Commission, Cindy Stein, and staff expressed opposition to this at first review, and would like to look into this further. Burch and Marrs agreed to look further into this, as well.

Burch and Marrs listed House Bills 6, 7, and 9 as bills coming up that might be relevant to Greene County. They will keep Commission updated on those bills. He said he'd like to have a breakfast meeting with the Commission to discuss the County legislative priorities prior session. Commissioner Bengsch stated that much of the help from Burch and Associates this past year has been in the form of blocking unwanted legislation. Bill 283, the St Louis Zoo Bill, was mentioned. This bill included language that now makes it impossible for governing bodies such as the Commission to put a failed items under RSMo 67.505 back on the ballot for a two year period.

The annual contract with Burch and Associates was renewed, for the sum of \$27,000 to be paid in four installments for a service period of September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

There were no updates from Chris Coulter or Trysta Herzog. Commissioner Bengsch adjourned the meeting.