



## BUDGET BOARD

### MINUTES

**MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**

**This Regular meeting was conducted under 25 O.S §306 (C) (Signed and enacted March 18, 2020). The meeting took place in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room and through teleconference. The public dialed (312)626-6799, and used the meeting ID 832 3342 3845, Passcode: 437716 and <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83233423845> for video. Public comment was provided by calling ahead at (405)366-0200 to be added to the list.**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order at 10:30 a.m. this 8<sup>th</sup> day of March 2021, in conference room 200 of the Cleveland County Office Building, 201 South Jones, by Chairman Darry Stacy. Linda Atkins, Deputy County Clerk/Secretary, called roll and those present were:

Darry Stacy, Chairman  
Jim Reynolds, Vice-Chairman  
Tammy Belinson, Clerk/Secretary  
Sheriff Chris Amason, Member  
Rod Cleveland, Member  
Harold Haralson, Member  
Douglas Warr, Member  
Marilyn Williams, Member

**Others present were:** Assistant District Attorney Kristina Bell, Leann Clements, Mark Braley, Alison Vinson, Sarita Scott, Hussein Torbati, Melinda Duke, Bryan Jenkins, Brenda Hill, Jacob McHughes, Bryant Rains, Lisa Ward, Billijo Ragland, Melissa Nies, Brian Wint, John Roberts, Joy Hampton, Kay Osborn, Daniel Thatcher (Zoom), Carm Harvey, Sarita Scott, Shannon Largent, and Duke Senter.

After the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of **February 8, 2021**, and there being no additions and/or corrections, Sheriff Chris Amason moved to **approve** the minutes.

Harold Haralson seconded the motion.

The vote was: Darry Stacy, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Chris Amason, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Harold Haralson, yes; Douglas Warr, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes. Motion carried.

**A. Items of Business:**

- 1. Chairman Jim Reynolds** said that the **Employee Benefits Committee** met last week and did some housecleaning and the only thing they have going forward is the additional female counselor. He said that it can be discussed next month since there is nothing significant to report at this time.
- 2. Chairman Douglas Warr** said that the **Infrastructure Committee** met on February 25, 2021, and had great discussions and updates from Brian Wint and they looked at some material samples for the Lobby areas in the Courthouse. Brian Wint said the bids are due Friday, March 12, 2021, and opened on Monday, March 15, 2021, in the Board of County Commissioners meeting. Douglas Warr said that other discussions concerned parking for the Public and the Sheriff's Department. A couple of proposals were brought to the Infrastructure Committee on the north parking lot. The surface will be gated with a blacktop surface to accommodate 129 designated spots. The Infrastructure Committee voted to recommend to the Budget Board to blacktop the lot to the north of the County Office Building according to the proposal submitted by ADG for the 129 spots and that it be gated to control who parks there since the priority will be for the Sheriff's office and the Public. Chairman Stacy stated that the employee parking lot on the south side of the Courthouse will receive some improvements.

A discussion was had concerning the surface lot's number of parking spaces in comparison to the parking garage's number of spaces. Jim Reynolds asked if they discussed the cost.

Douglas Warr said that the cost was not addressed because they thought it best to create a parking authority first for the gated and fenced parking lot.

A discussion was had about the trees. It was stated that it will not be a flat lot; it will look nice with shrubberies and maybe some trees.

Douglas Warr moved to **approve** that the Budget Board recommends to the Board of County Commissioners as follows: (1) Create a Parking Authority; (2) blacktop the surface lot on the north side of the County Office Building for Public Parking and Reserve Parking for the Sheriff's Department; (3) enclosed and gated parking; and (4) improvements to the South Employee Parking Lot.

Marilyn Williams seconded the motion.

The vote was: Darry Stacy, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Sheriff Chris Amason; Rod Cleveland, yes; Harold Haralson, yes; Douglas Warr, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes.

Motion carried.

Douglas Warr said that the Infrastructure Committee discussed the continuation of the newly formed committees once it changes from the Budget Board to the Excise Board.

3. Sarita Scott said there were **no new updates to present** for the HR Department.
4. Melinda Duke, Purchasing Department, said that the next auction will start March 26, 2021, and will end April 27, 2021, and the auction publication date is next Friday, March 12, 2021.
5. **Jacob McHughes presented an update and overview on the Legislative Session.** He said that it has been a very busy session that started with 3,000 Bills and is down to 1,100 Bills. March 11, 2021, is the deadline to get any active bills off the floor. He said that Cleveland County has 16 active Bills that are still alive. SB 677: One concern is the elimination of paper copies in the Court Clerk's Office. It streamlines County government to where if there are digital copies of the records then it is permissible to eliminate the paper document of these records. The COVID Bill was run last year and made it through one chamber and then it died due to time constraints and is on the House Floor agenda today. HB1965 is a joint measure with Tulsa County and Cleveland County and it has to do with Continuing Education for County Employees and essentially there are different safeguards mirrored off what the State program does for their State employees and is basically a follow up Bill. Tulsa County does a lot of recruitment and so they will hire new employees and recruit with that tool, and so it is a cleanup Bill; and it is on the House Floor today. HB1632 is a Bill that has passed the House Floor and that one safeguards our Sheriff's Office. It has to do with the Landlord-Tenant Act and is mostly cleanup language and it has to do with the eviction process when the Sheriff has to assist in an eviction. There are a couple of pieces in the law that basically ties the county to the property in the eviction process and this safeguards the county where it is not liable to house the property and having to auction off the property. In his opinion, it is good for the county. SB280: He said that it mirrors the Rainy Day Fund for the State at the county level. It was requested by Rogers County, but Cleveland County has helped and assisted with the Bill because they feel it is a nice safeguard for the counties essentially because it is an optional account for the counties to use as a rainy day fund. A few of them that are noteworthy is HB2324, it is in regards to how a taxpayer pays their ad valorem bill and allows the discretion of how many payments one wants to make and is essentially up to the County Treasurer at that point and time. He said that the Bill is being monitored, because they are worried that from one county to the next they could have four or five Ad Valorem payments and one county could say they will accept ten payments.

Chairman Stacy asked if that would be problematic for the County Assessor as well.

Jacob McHughes said that it is very problematic and add that the County Treasurers' Association is opposing the Bill. It is an individual county request and he understands that 76 counties are in opposition with one county being in favor of the Bill.

Jacob said that the software and logistics of keeping track of the payments would be a nightmare. He said that another Session starts up this afternoon with two items

on the agenda and said that is all. He said that time is the enemy because they have all these timelines at the State Capitol and it is a filtering process and they have to get these Bills through at a fast paced process. The Budget Board members thanked Jacob McHughes for the updates.

6. Tammy Belinson moved, seconded by Harold Haralson, to approve the following **Cash Fund Appropriations**:

a.	Assessor Revolving	\$	54.25
b.	Bridge Capital Improvement	\$	21.61
c.	County Clerk Lien Fee	\$	9,285.17
d.	Co Bridge & Road Improvement	\$	40,834.67
e.	Court Clerk Revolving Fund	\$	7,639.10
f.	Cty Clerk Rec Mgmt./Preserv Fee	\$	67,420.00
g.	District Court Rev Fund	\$	5,105.60
h.	Drug Court Contribution/Donation	\$	507.78
i.	Emergency Rent Asst Grant Fund	\$	6,421,674.90
j.	Fairgrounds	\$	18,611.50
k.	Health	\$	15.00
l.	Highway	\$	442,320.26
m.	Jail Commissary	\$	57,807.99
n.	Juvenile Drug Court Revolving Fund	\$	1,065.75
o.	Sales Tax	\$	498,334.08
p.	Sheriff Service Fees	\$	320,278.37
q.	Treasurer Certification Fee	\$	5,295.00

The vote was: Darry Stacy, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Sheriff Chris Amason, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Harold Haralson, yes; Douglas Warr, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes.  
Motion carried.

**B. No new business to present at this time.**

- C. During Budget Board Members' discussions regarding County Business,** Commissioner Haralson gave Jacob McHughes kudos for the IT Bill that has finally passed concerning recruitment issues and the other Bill is concerning the Nuisance Property Bill.

Jacob McHughes said the IT Bill has antiquated language from years ago; the issue is that IT falls outside of the pay formula because the open market can pay someone more money than the County can due to current Statutes. There was a component in there that years ago it was called Data Processing and was tied to the Commissioners' term and technically when the Commissioner is out of office, according to the law it is tethered to their term and what this Bill does it strikes that and opens it up where once an IT staff is hired they can work from thereon. He said that is one component of the Bill and added that a lot of other counties were having the same problem. Mr. McHughes said

that is if you have great IT people it is natural to want to hang on to them. Jacob McHughes addressed the Nuisance Property, Greenbelts, and Common Areas, which are areas that get converted over to the County through nonpayment. It has been an issue for years and the costs of mowing can be \$38,000 per year. Essentially, what they did is Commissioner Mark Hader and wife, Representative Denise Hader, filed a Bill and they came up with some different nuisances that they thought would be acceptable and worked with the municipal league on it and he thinks they have a handshake deal that they feel good about. He said that it is really good for the counties. They think that it's finally addressed and are one-third of the way through the process.

Jim Reynolds said that is good work because the Municipal League has fought and created so many of these problems and will be curious to see how they pulled this off.

Jacob McHughes said that everybody got to the table and figured it out. It's one of those things where it is costly to the County.

Commissioner Cleveland said that the remodel plans for the HR Department may have changed since the Purchasing Department is going to the County Clerk's Office.

Marilyn Williams said that her files are coming back from the Christmas Store and said that she would appreciate the help of the Trustees.

Commissioner Cleveland asked why the files had to come back.

Commissioner Haralson said that Gene McKown was unhappy.

Commissioner Cleveland said that he read a press release that they were thankful to the County Commissioners for the use of the Christmas Store and the use of that space and said that was news to him since he had not heard anything.

Tammy Belinson said that one lady told her that each room is represented by a Church and she referred her to Darry Stacy and that is the only feedback she has received. The lady was not upset; she only wanted to know what was going on.

Marilyn Williams said that they will move back because they will make accommodations and get it all moved back within the next two or three weeks.

Brian Wint said that the contract said they are not to do anything unless they get the space and at this point it is on hold. So they will have to regroup and get it squared away and things moving forward, but at this point it is going to be on hold until indefinitely until they can figure that situation out.

Darry Stacy asked when the County Clerk is going to move the Purchasing Department. Tammy said that they need to talk about that now.

At the present time Purchasing is under Budget Board and Tammy does not feel like that there is a lot she can do unless she has the permission of the Board, she has Brad Copelin coming to give her prices on two more desks. Her intent is to move them to the County Clerk's Office and have them working with accounts payable and could use their manpower in her office. As soon as the desks come in she can get them moved. She can't do anything until this Board gives her the authority, it cannot be done on this agenda, but the Budget Board can vote to move Purchasing Department early to be in unison with the July 1, 2021, change and then the County Clerk could start moving things around.

Chairman Stacy said that this Board voted to have Commissioner Cleveland to supervise them and asked for his thoughts on the situation.

Rod Cleveland said that he signed off on leave sheets for them and did not get in on their day to day operations since they were under the BOCC.

Tammy said that was by the BOCC. She added that they will need phones and start doing the background work until there is a formal decision by the Board. She suggested that they call a special meeting.

Harold Haralson said that HR reports to him and he doesn't think that state law prescribes that they should go under the County Clerk.

Tammy said that state law doesn't require the county to have an HR Department.

Harold Haralson said, "Correct."

Commissioner Cleveland said that HR was a function of the Budget Board and everyone agreed on that several years ago.

Chairman Stacy asked that the County Clerk pull the minutes on that so everyone can look at it. Tammy Belinson indicated that she will provide him with that information.

Tammy Belinson presented copies of a time line that they all will need to adhere to during the budget process this year. She said that it is more in line with what her duties are in presenting things to the Budget Board and thought it would be helpful to everyone else.

Chairman Stacy said, "This is excellent, thank you."

Tammy Belinson asked them to do a Resolution to use the previous year's budget to start with on July 1, so in May she will know how to start preparing everyone's accounts and funds for the next year to start doing the July 1, Blankets.

Douglas Warr discussed the March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2021, deadline to file for Homestead Exemption or other types of exemptions and business personal property, it's all due by next Monday.

**D. No comments were made by the Public at this time.**

**E. There being no further business to come before the Board, Harold Haralson moved, seconded by Chris Amason, to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 A.M.**

The vote was: Darry Stacy, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Sheriff Chris Amason, yes; Rod Cleveland, yes; Harold Haralson, yes; Douglas Warr, yes; Marilyn Williams, yes.

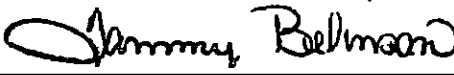
Motion carried.

**(County Clerk's Note: Agenda was posted on March 4, 2021 at 10:55 A.M.)**

**BUDGET BOARD  
CLEVELAND COUNTY, OKLAHOMA**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Darryl Stacy, Chairman

**ATTEST:**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Tammy Belinson, County Clerk and Secretary to the Board

Minutes Prepared by:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy County Clerk

