CALL TO ORDER

The Solano County Board of Supervisors, also sitting as the Board of Directors of the East Vallejo Fire Protection District, met on the 30th day of June, 2009 in special session in the Solano County Board of Supervisors Chambers in the Solano County Administrative Center, 675 Texas Street, Fairfield, California at 9:45 a.m. for the purpose of continuing discussion on the budget for fiscal year 2009/10. Present were Supervisors Kondylis, Reagan, Seifert, Spering, and Chair Vasquez. Chair Vasquez presided. Also present were County Administrator Michael D. Johnson and County Counsel Dennis Bunting.

Budget Study Session

Chair Vasquez provided an overview of the budget hearing process and noted that each Board member had previously selected the following budget units for discussion by functional area:

Board of Supervisors - 1001, 1002, 1003, 1004, 1005, and 1008; County Administrator - 1100; General Revenue - 1101; Employment Development and Training - 1103; Delta Water Activities - 1451; Assessor/Recorder - 1150; County Counsel - 1400; Human Resources - 1500; Registrar of Voters - 1550; Promotion - 1750; General Services - 1117; General Expenditures - 1903; General Fund-Other - Debt Service - 1906; Accumulated Capital Outlay - 1700; Public Art Projects - 1603; Fairgrounds Development Project - 1815; Health and Social Services - 2490; Grand Jury - 2400; District Attorney - 6500; Public Defender - 6530; Conflict Defender - 6540; Other Public Defense - 6730; Sheriff - 6550; Probation - 6650; Agricultural Commissioner - 2830; Animal Care Services - 2850; Recorder - 2909; Resource Management - 2910; Office of Family Violence - 5500; Recorder/Micrographic - 4000; Public Works - 3010; Regional Transportation Project - 3030; Tobacco Settlement Securitization - 2000; IHSS-Public Authority - 1520; First 5 Solano - 1530; Tobacco Settlement - 2390; Health and Social Services (Department Summary) - 7500; Health and Social Services Administration - 6501; Public Guardian - 6550; In-Home Supportive Service - 7690; Behavioral Health - 7780; Health Services-Smile in Style-Public Health - 7880; Social Services-Child Welfare - 7680; Assistance Programs - 7900; Veterans Services - 5800; Cooperative Extension - 6200; Parks & Recreation - 7000; General Fund - 9301; Public Facilities Fees - 9124; Survey Monument Press - 9123; District Attorney Special Revenue Fund - 9116; Department of Child Support Services - 9369; Civil Processing Fees - 9117; Sheriff Asset Seizure - 9118; Sheriff (Office of Emergency Services) - 9256; Sheriff Special

Budget Hearing

June 30, 2009
Revenue Fund - 9125; Juvenile Hall Ward Welfare Fund - 9151; County Jail Facility Temporary Construction - 9119; Courthouse Temporary Construction - 9120; Fish/Wildlife Propagation - 9312; Homeacres Loan Program - 9129; Recorder/Micrographic - 9115; Public Works - 9401; Public Works Improvement Trust - 9122; First 5 Solano - 9153; County Library - 9304; Library-Special Revenue 9228; Fleet Management - 3100; Risk Management - 1830; Department of Information Technology - 1870; Airport - 9000 and Solano County Fair Association 2350

**Board of Supervisors - Budget Units 1001 thru 1005 and 1008**

Chair Vasquez noted that the each of the District Office budgets reflected a Community Grant for $5,000 which was reduced from $15,000 allocated last year. Chair Vasquez requested that the Community Grant money from each office be utilized toward the Cooperative Extension 4-H Program.

Supervisor Kondylis noted her preference to utilize the Community Grant funds in each district and to find funding to make the Cooperative Extension 4-H Program whole. Supervisor Kondylis made a motion to negotiate with the Unions to eliminate Longevity Pay for a savings of $3 million to the County. Motion failed for lack of a second.

Supervisor Seifert expressed her support to restoring the Community Grant money to $15,000 for each Supervisor’s District’s budget to support programs and agencies within their own district and to find funding to restore the Cooperative Extension 4-H Program.

Supervisor Spering supported the elimination of the Community Grant funding and noted that restoring that funding to the $15,000 level would total $75,000 which would be enough to save one position from being layed-off. Supervisor Spering expressed support for the restoration of the Cooperation Extension 4-H Program without the utilization of the $5,000 Community Grant money from each Supervisor’s District’s budget.

Supervisor Reagan noted that he would support utilizing $5,000 from the Community Grant fund from his District’s budget toward the Cooperative Extension 4-H Program. Supervisor Reagan noted that Executive Management took a 5% salary reduction through the Management Incentive Program in addition to elimination of a Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) and; therefore, he would be decreasing his transportation allowance by $8,425 which would be a parallel reduction. Supervisor Reagan noted that percentage wise, Executive Management would be taking a larger reduction in salary than what was being proposed for other employees.
**County Administrator - Budget Unit 1100**

Supervisor Reagan noted that four positions were eliminated from the County Administrator’s budget (2 Senior Management Analyst, 1 Governmental Intern (Management Analyst-Entry Level), and 1 Office Assistant II) and requested that staff support for time critical Board priority initiatives be maintained. Supervisor Reagan noted that the State had accrued a $12.5 million debt to Solano County in unfunded mandates since 2000. Supervisor Reagan noted that he felt that it was imperative to hold a study session in late August to determine funding and service levels prior to the next round of cuts from the State.

In response to a concern expressed by Supervisor Kondylis relating to the elimination of an Office Assistant II position in the County Administrator’s Office, Mr. Johnson noted that representatives from the County Counsel’s Office, the County Administrator’s Office, and the Board of Supervisors would provide oversight at the front reception counter.

Supervisor Seifert expressed her support for retaining the Office Assistant II position at the reception desk located on the 6th floor of the County Government Center as it provided a legal function as well as reception duties.

Supervisor Kondylis objected to eliminating the Office Assistant II position but would support splitting the funding of the position between the County Administrator’s Office and the County Counsel’s Office.

**General Revenue - Budget Unit 1101**

Supervisor Reagan noted that the State was pursuing the elimination of Williamson Act Subvention funding to counties and felt that surrounding counties should be surveyed to determine their course of action. Supervisor Reagan suggested a Special Study Session be held to discuss this matter as it would be a $700,000 decrease in funding to the County and a large tax increase on the agricultural community.

**Employment Development and Training - Budget Unit 1103**

It was the consensus of the Board to delete line staff training classes and the Human Resource Matrix Study as they had not yet been developed.

**RECESS**
This meeting of the Solano County Board of Supervisors recessed at 10:50 a.m. and reconvened at 11:05 a.m. All members were present. Chair Vasquez presided.

**Delta Water Activities - Budget Unit 1451**

Supervisor Reagan noted that significant activity on Delta issues would be forthcoming during the next year including adoption of the State Water Plan, the Delta Commission’s Management Plan, Lower Yolo By-Pass planning process, and State Office of Emergency Services and that a commitment was required that there would be adequate staffing to maintain the County’s participation in these critical projects.

**Assessor/Recorder - Budget Unit 1150**

Supervisor Reagan expressed concern that there was property located in the County owned by non-government organizations who were removing land from agricultural production, significantly reducing the value of the property by not maintaining levees, and thereby, reducing the value of neighboring properties. Supervisor Reagan requested that these properties be reviewed and determined if an exemption was appropriate.

It was noted that legislative action would have to be taken to make an exception to an exemption.

**County Counsel - Budget Unit 1400**

County Counsel Dennis Bunting noted that he had several staff members who may qualify for the "golden handshake" and that those positions would not be allow to be filled for two years. Mr. Bunting requested that the proposed reduction of 1.25 position be maintained as an unfunded position and remain on the Position Allocation List to allow filling of that position at an appropriate time.

The Board supported their policy to eliminate any unfunded positions after one year and noted that the County would be responsible to pay for two years of retirement for those receiving the "golden handshake". Therefore, deviating from their policy would not result in savings.

**RECESS**

This meeting of the Solano County Board of Supervisors recessed at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m. All members were present. Chair Vasquez presided.
Human Resources - Budget Unit 1500

Supervisor Seifert and Supervisor Kondylis expressed their support for deleting the Management Incentive Program for a cost savings of over $600,000 as the perception was that this portion of management salaries was hidden to the taxpayers. Supervisor Seifert supported reviewing salaries to adequately compensate them for the work that they do.

County Administrator Michael D. Johnson noted that the Board recently reduced the Management Incentive Program by one-third to $450,000.

Supervisor Reagan noted that the Management Incentive Program for executive management replaced the five step range provided to civil service employees for their performance. Supervisor Reagan noted that executive managers were hired at a salary and then provided a range that they could be compensated based on performance.

Moved to eliminate the Management Incentive Program. Motion failed by the following vote:

AYES: Barbara R. Kondylis, and Linda Seifert.
NOES: John Vasquez, James Spering, and Mike Reagan.

(Supervisor Spering noted that the reduction to the Management Incentive Program by 33% effective the first pay period in July 2009 was adequate.)

Supervisor Reagan noted that there would be a five percent increase in CalPERS costs in July, 2011 that it would be necessary to track options for consideration.

Registrar of Voters - Budget Unit 1550

Supervisor Reagan noted that the discretionary appointment of a member of Congress by the President to his Administration created a need for a special election and felt that there should be a legislative initiative to request the federal government to pay for the cost of an election to replace this member. Supervisor Reagan further expressed his concern that absentee ballots be sent to oversees voters as early as possible due to the short timing of the election.

Lindsey McWilliams, Assistant Registrar of Voters, noted that they would be working with a very short window to print ballots and send out in the mail and that
the timeframe was inflexible. Mr. McWilliams noted that they were collaborating with the other counties in the 10th Congressional District to review options. Mr. McWilliams further noted that the State had the responsibility for paying for the election.

In response to a concern expressed by Supervisor Seifert, Mr. McWilliams noted that they were not anticipating reimbursement from the State in the amount of $750,000 for conducting the special election held in May, 2009. The Board directed the Legislative Committee to work with the California State Association of Counties for reimbursement from the State for the cost of the May, 2009 special election.

Supervisor Kondylis noted her objection to the Registrar of Voters being charged $250,000 for the 3-1-1 call center which was enough to hire three people to answer the phone directly for the Registrar of Voters.

**Promotions - Budget Unit 1750**

County Administrator Michael D. Johnson noted that $83,000 was allocated to the State fair exhibit.

In response to a question posed by Supervisor Kondylis, it was noted that inclusive costs for the contracts, materials, and staff labor totaled $362,000.

Supervisor Kondylis noted that it was her preference not to build a State fair exhibit this year.

Supervisor Seifert noted that she did not support the State fair exhibit at this time. Supervisor Seifert noted that these were tough economic times and that the money should be spent on services for the residents of Solano County.

Chair Vasquez noted that contracts were already in place and that approximately 20 companies throughout Solano County donated $10,000 each. In addition, sponsorships were received from many other businesses. Chair Vasquez noted that materials for the display were also donated. Chair Vasquez reported that advertisements for businesses were vital and that it was important to maintain strong businesses as they employ the residents of the County.

Supervisor Reagan noted that the expenditure of $83,000 to receive County exposure to 600,000 people was inexpensive.

Chair Vasquez noted that he would return to the Board with a report on the cost of the exhibit, sponsorships received, and the monetary awards received which total approximately $7,500.
It was the consensus of the Board to allocate $50,000 to the State fair exhibit with the intent to keep costs as low as possible. Therefore, $33,000 was eliminated from the proposed budget.

**General Expenditures - Budget Unit 1903**

Supervisor Reagan expressed concern regarding In-Home Supportive Services administration costs and noted that the costs were unknown until action was taken by the State and federal court.

Supervisor Reagan noted that he did not support extending the current contract for Lynch Canyon beyond the $23,000 allocated.

**General Fund Other - Budget Unit 1906**

In response to a question posed by Supervisor Reagan regarding a reduction of $216,000 in the general fund contribution to the Capital Outlay Project Debt Service, Auditor-Controller Simona Padilla Scholtens noted that the monies remaining in the Capital Projects Fund for the County Government Center were transferred to redeem the debt.

**RECESS**

This meeting of the Solano County Board of Supervisors recessed at 3:25 p.m. and reconvened at 3:40 p.m. All members were present. Chair Vasquez presided.

**Accumulated Capital Outlay (ACO) - Budget Unit 1700**

In response to a question posed by Supervisor Spering, staff noted that there were savings realized from the demolition of the Courthouse Annex Project. It was the consensus of the Board to transfer $566,100 to the General Fund.

In response to a concern expressed by Supervisors Kondylis regarding flooding of the County Justice Center and Jail Facility in Fairfield, Facilities Operations Manager Jason Campbell noted that flooding caused from rain also affected the sewer facilities. Mr. Campbell noted that the City of Fairfield was preparing a final study that would be brought to the Board to consider various options for repairs or additional work to alleviate flooding issues.
Supervisor Seifert requested that a list of proposed Capital Projects be provided to the Board to consider those projects that were appropriate for moving forward at this time and those projects that could be deferred to a later time.

Chair Vasquez noted that he felt it was government's role to provide construction in hard times to allow projects to move forward and employ people. Chair Vasquez noted that prices were half price now and will be more costly when the economy rebounds.

Supervisor Spering did not support delaying any projects at this time.

It was noted that there was a need for capital renewal dollars to meet the capital renewal needs of County assets as they exists today that far exceeded funding availability.

Staff noted that renewal of the County's infrastructure and buildings was a necessity and that they had identified projects, based on need. However, planning needed to occur for buildings that have reached their useful life and are no longer needed including the Dixon and Vallejo Veterans Buildings.

**Public Art Projects - Budget Unit 1630**

In response to an inquiry from Supervisor Reagan, staff noted that funds of approximately $500,000 were obligated through contracts for current construction projects.

**Fairgrounds Development Project - Budget Unit 1815**

Supervisor Seifert noted that during approval of the conceptual project vision for the redevelopment of the Solano County Fairgrounds, the agreement that a full proposal to set forth the budget, the timing, and full plan would be brought back to the Board for approval. Supervisor Seifert noted that she would not support the loan of $2.4 million at this point as it hadn't been presented back to the Board for a full discussion. The Board expressed its support for the proposed project noting its innovative, creative, and functional plan that would attract businesses and noted the importance of developing a clear financial strategy on expending the funds and how those funds are recaptured in going forward.

County Administrator Michael D. Johnson noted that when the Board approved the vision for the ultimate development and redevelopment of the fairgrounds, it was a vision. Mr. Johnson noted that the next step that is now underway is the financial feasibility of that vision. Mr. Johnson noted that the contract with Brooks Street, consultant hired to develop a vision for redevelopment of the Solano...
County fairgrounds, expired on this date and requested authorization to issue a 90 day bridge extension, at a reduced rate, with Brooks Street to follow through the next 90 day financial feasibility time period. Mr. Johnson noted that of the $2 million loan against the general reserve that was previously allocated, approximately $1.4 million had been billed leaving a balance of $625,000 which was sufficient to get through the financial feasibility phase. Mr. Johnson noted that there was a time table of 24 - 30 months to see this project through the entitlement phase and a budget that has been reduced from $6 million to approximately $3 million of which $625,000 was carried forward resulting in a balance of $2.4 million. Mr. Johnson noted that it was recommended that the $2.4 million be booked as a loan against the general reserve and that the financial feasibility plan would be brought back to the Board within 90 days.

Supervisor Kondylis noted that she supported the vision of the fairgrounds redevelopment but felt that the needs of the County employees were more compelling.

It was the consensus of the Board to authorize the County Administrator to sign a contract amendment with Brooks Street to provide a 90 day extension for the financial feasibility study.

**Grand Jury - Budget Unit 2400**

Supervisor Reagan noted that discussions were held with the Grand Jury and suggested that they explore the concept of posting responses of the Grand Jury Report on the internet with several copies provided to the libraries in an effort to save $12,000 in the cost of printing those responses in large quantities and distributing in the newspapers. It was the consensus of the Board to support this recommendation.

**District Attorney - Budget Unit 6500**

In response to a concern expressed by Supervisor Kondylis, District Attorney David Paulson noted that the Cold Case Unit was a mandated unit as the Government Code mandated that he investigate and prosecute all crime in Solano County. Mr. Paulson noted that a grant was eliminated last August that was overseen by the State Department of Justice which resulted in the loss of an Advocate position, an Investigator position, and a .5 Deputy District Attorney position in the Victim Witness Unit.

Supervisor Kondylis requested that Victim Witness services be reestablished although it was not a mandated service. Supervisor Kondylis requested that the County collaborate with the California State Association of Counties Criminal
Justice Committee to audit criminal justice activities, as a whole, and to review efficiencies.

Supervisor Seifert noted that despite constitutional mandates, there was an increase in the budget which needed to be scrutinized to determine efficiencies. Supervisor Seifert noted that she supported the Victim Witness program and felt more could be done to support this program.

In response to a concern expressed by Supervisor Reagan regarding the State’s proposal to eliminate the Department of Justice Criminalistic Laboratory for a savings of $20 million, Mr. Paulson noted that they had received assurances from the Governor’s Office that this Laboratory would remain open and provide equal services for all counties.

Supervisor Kondylis requested that Rainbow House located in Vallejo be added back to the list as soon as possible.

ADJOURN

This meeting of the Solano County Board of Supervisors adjourned this meeting at 5:00 p.m. in memory of Sgt. Larry Rogers of the Vallejo Police Department. The Board will meet in Special Session on July 1, 2009 at 8:30 a.m.

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JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair
Solano County Board of Supervisors

MICHAEL D. JOHNSON, Clerk of the
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By ______________________________________
Patricia J. Crittenden, Chief Deputy Clerk