

BUDGET MEETING OF THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD WEDNESDAY,
MARCH 25, 2009, AT 1:08 P.M.

Roll Call

Present: Supervisor Brown; Supervisor Arnold; Supervisor Adams
Absent: Supervisor Kinsey; Supervisor McGlashan

The Board convened a Special Meeting at 1:08 p.m. to conduct a Budget Planning Workshop to discuss FY 2009-10 Departmental Budgets and Performance Plans.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' OPENING STATEMENTS

There were no opening comments from Board members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A member of the public expressed concerns regarding the possible suspension of projects that require State funding. The speaker also expressed concerns regarding the County's unfunded pension liability and urged Board members to explore moving towards a defined contribution plan.

Two representatives of Ambassadors of Hope and Opportunity requested \$15,000 to assist in funding a "Youth Connect" event on June 17, 2009.

(Supervisor Kinsey present at 1:13 p.m.)

Two representatives of Marin Women's Abused Services ("MAWS") requested \$150,000 for FY 2009-10 to assist in continuing their 24-hour response service to victims of domestic violence.

The Executive Director of the Parent Services Project requested \$10,000 to support the "Raising A Reader" program, an early literacy program that serves low income families.

The Executive Director of Marin Organic spoke about the importance of supporting local organic agricultural producers and requested funding at the same level as last year.

The Manager of KWMR, West Marin Community Radio, described the community services they provide and requested \$10,000 to improve the station's outreach and capacity.

Youth Commissioner Vincent Chu urged the Board to support the Youth Commission and the Ambassadors of Hope and Opportunity "Youth Connect" program and spoke briefly regarding solutions to violence in Marin City.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OPENING PRESENTATION AND BUDGET UPDATE

County Administrator Matthew Hymel acknowledged the efforts of staff and provided a brief overview of the purpose of the budget workshops.

Mr. Hymel summarized the process proposed to balance the County budget. Mr. Hymel also spoke about performance planning for FY 2009-10, impacts of the current economic downturn, the County's FY 2009-10 projected operating budget gap, impacts of the State Budget on County programs, and efforts to engage the community and employees in the budget process.

Deputy County Administrator Clarissa Daniel provided a brief overview of budget reduction suggestions received from employees and community members.

Mr. Hymel advised that a department head subcommittee had been formed, consisting of Public Works Director Farhad Mansourian, Cultural Services Director Jim Farley, Information Services and Technology Director David Hill, Health and Human Services Director Dr. Larry Meredith and Parks and Open Space Director Sharon McNamee, to formulate options for countywide savings.

Dr. Meredith and Ms. McNamee spoke briefly regarding the subcommittee's recommendations and noted that department heads have agreed to forego a cost-of-living adjustment in FY 2009-10.

Mr. Hymel then provided an update on long-term restructuring plans and spoke about next steps in the budget process.

Mr. Hymel responded to questions from Board members regarding the proposed reduction in State funding for In-Home Supportive Services ("IHSS") and dental care, proposed revenue increases, pension and retiree health costs, mandated versus discretionary spending levels, and public outreach efforts.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

(Supervisor Brown absent at 2:08 pm.)

Health and Human Services Director Dr. Larry Meredith acknowledged his staff and gave a brief presentation regarding the Department's mission, goals and performance plans, the changing landscape for funding and services at State and County levels, FY2009-10 baseline adjustments, and opportunities and challenges in the coming year.

(Supervisor Brown present at 2:15 p.m.)

Board members commented on the use of contract services, the importance of affordable housing, the possibility of establishing a budget fund flexible enough to respond to safety net issues, the use of Community Development Block Grant ("CDBG") and Stimulus Program funds, participation in the Partnership Health Plan, and support for the homeless and those at-risk of being homeless.

The Board took a brief recess at 2:43 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 3:00 p.m. Supervisors Kinsey and McGlashan were absent.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Community Development Agency Director Brian Crawford acknowledged his staff and gave a brief presentation regarding the Department's mission and performance plan, core priorities, key accomplishments, goals and initiatives, budget reduction scenarios and key challenges in the coming year.

(Supervisor Kinsey present at 3:04 p.m.)

Board members commented on the Department's well-outlined goals and acknowledged staff for their work with the Waste Management Board during the Redwood Landfill permit process. Board members also spoke about the use of technology to streamline application processes, the possibility of establishing design standards for certain types of homes, the process for community plan updates, the importance of climate change efforts, implementation of the housing impact fee, the use of housing trust funds, agricultural building issues, and the Department's fee recovery study.

The Board adjourned at 3:30 p.m. to Monday, March 30, 2009, at 9:00 a.m.

SINE DIE

PRESIDENT

ATTEST:

CLERK