

June 1, 2024
Special Meeting

The Colfax County Board of Commissioners met on this date in a Budget Workshop in the Commission Chambers with the following members present:

Si Trujillo, Chairman – via zoom
Mary Lou Kern, Vice-Chairman – via zoom
Bret Wier, Member – via zoom

Also present: County Clerk Rayetta Trujillo and County Manager Monte Gore.

Chairman Trujillo called the workshop to order at 11:09 a.m. and thanked everyone for attending. The purpose of the workshop was to discuss the Budget for FY 2024-2025.

Others in attendance: Sara Torres, Tina Colangelo, Amadeo Soto, Tim Martinez, Kristi Graham, Leonard Baca and via zoom - Jun Roh and Tai Pettigrew.

1. Call to Order

Chairman Trujillo called the Special Meeting to order at 11:09 a.m. and stated all Commissioners are attending remotely.

2. Approve Agenda

Commissioner Kern made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Commissioner Wier seconded the motion. Chairman Trujillo asked for a roll call vote, the Clerk polled the Commissioners: Commissioner Kern – aye, Commissioner Wier – aye, and Chairman Trujillo – aye. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Discuss/Action – Approval of Preliminary Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-25

Chairman Trujillo handed the presentation over to Ms. Pettigrew. Ms. Pettigrew presented the Budget Request Recapitulation to the Commission. Ms. Pettigrew stated the numbers speak for themselves and stated there are no raises for the Sheriff's Department and there are a lot of unknowns. Ms. Pettigrew stated there were some big transfers and they did take \$900,000 out of the general fund additional 1/12 to fund the transfers. Ms. Pettigrew stated that the cash balances for the preliminary budget need to be positive. She stated she did trim all the capital out until further notice to get a handle on the budget and stated she would have to go line by line with each department in order to keep the general fund solvent. Ms. Pettigrew stated she put almost a million dollars out of the GRT reserve into the different funds to keep everything in the positive.

Commissioner Wier stated he had several questions but was not sure when the appropriate time was to ask them, so he would rather listen first and if they were not answered, he would ask them later. Chairman Trujillo asked Tai if that was her presentation and she stated it was. Tai stated she felt the numbers spoke for themselves and she stated she knew there were going to be questions about what she did. Tai stated in order to get the preliminary budget to this stage, there are no raises for the Sheriff's Department. Ms. Pettigrew stated there are a lot of unknowns right now and she needed to speak with the department heads to check their grants and to discuss the expenditures.

Chairman Trujillo asked if the 3.5% and the Sheriff's increases were not included in the budget in order not to dip into the reserves and not come from the reoccurring funds. Ms. Pettigrew stated that was correct. Ms. Pettigrew stated all the short-term invoices needed to be paid. Manager Gore stated purchases orders are not being issued unless it is an emergency. Questions were asked about the revenues and where some of the numbers came from. Ms. Pettigrew stated she used numbers as a balancing tactic.

Assessor Kristi Graham asked the employees are not going to get the 3.5% COLA at this time is that right. Chairman Trujillo stated this was correct. Assessor Graham was also concerned about her 1% fund and wanted to make sure funds were there and wanted to meet with Tai when she arrives. Assessor Graham stated she did not think it was not a good budget to turn in and she talked with the other elected officials and as the Assessor she can put a stop to the budget or hold and that is what she was doing. Commissioner Kern stated the Assessor is correct, she does have the ability to stop or hold the budget. Commissioner Kern stated that she felt it was better to not turn in a budget with this many holes on it, because she felt it