

1. The Coffey County Commission Chambers met in adjourned session at 7:00 p.m. Monday, August 13, 2001. Chairman Gene Merry called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. with members Fred Rowley, Jr., Johnnie Sleezer, Tim Sipe and Larry Crotts present. Also present were County Clerk Vernon Birk, Administrative Coordinator Mary Bloomer, Coffey County Appraiser Elysa Lovelady, Economic Development Director Jon Hotaling, Coffey County Fire District No. 1 Administrator Bill Walker, Coffey County Republican Editor Mark Petterson, WOCNOC Representative Mark Larson, and LeRoy Mayor Bill Freeman.
2. Sleezer moved to enter into a budget hearing for the purpose of hearing and answering any objections of taxpayers, relating to the proposed use of all funds and the amount of 2002 ad valorem tax, seconded by Crotts. Motion carried.
3. Mark Larson, WCNOC, expressed concern over a \$500,000 line item in the Coffey County General Fund listed as Community Improvements. Mr. Larson related this to the Cities Infrastructure line item, which has been in the budget for several years and asked if the Community Improvement line was going to be a continuing fund also.
4. Chairman Merry said a portion of the fund (\$130,000) is a one-time budget item. The \$130,000 is proposed for matching funds for a grant to install a water line from Burlington to LeRoy for their water supply. The City of LeRoy has been advised by KDHE they have to build a new water plant or get a new water supply. Merry said, "For now, in my opinion, the remainder of the fund is on a year-to-year basis."
5. Commissioner Sipe said he is concerned about enrollment dropping in our Coffey County school systems particularly for USD #243 and USD #245. Sipe is recommending a portion of the budgeted Community Improvement line to go to the school districts to help keep the schools open.
6. Mr. Larson thanked the Board for listening and said WCNOC is pleased with the things the County has done.
7. Bill Freeman, Mayor of LeRoy, thanked the Board for the infrastructure funds and appreciates the Board's interest in the cities of Coffey County. He also thanked the Board for appropriating the matching funds for the water line. Mr. Freeman said there is no way the City of LeRoy could build a new water plant without the help of the county.
8. Sipe moved to close the public hearing at 7:33 p.m., seconded by Rowley. Motion carried.
9. Sipe moved to approve the year 2002 Coffey County budget as published, seconded by Rowley. Motion carried.

- 10.** Elysa Lovelady, Coffey County Appraiser, visited with the Board concerning a possible merger between Western Resources and a utility company in New Mexico. Lovelady said if it goes through it could drastically lower the state assessed valuation of WCNOC according to a Property Valuation Department (PVD) Official. The Board asked Lovelady to contact a representative from PVD to possibly meet with them and explain the circumstances.
- 11.** Sleezer moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m., seconded by Crofts. Motion carried.

Minutes, August 13, 2001 P.M.

Signed:

Attest:

Chairman

County Clerk