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BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

COUNTY OF MERCER
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LISA M. VENA
DEPUTY CLERK

MERCER COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL FORMAL MEETING

APRIL 30, 2021
VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING

Chair Frisby called the Special Formal Meeting to order at 6:00 PM

The following members answered the Roll Call of the Clerk:

Commissioners: Cannon, Cimino, Koontz, Melker, Walter, and Frisby
Absent: Commissioner Colavita

The Clerk to the Board read the Invocation.

Chair Frisby led the Pledge of Allegiance and the Salute to the Flag.

SUNSHINE LAW

It was announced that in accordance with the provisions of the New Jersey Public Meetings Law, notice of this Meeting has been mailed to the Trenton Times, the Trentonian, and the Princeton Packet newspapers as well as having been posted in the Administration Building and the Courthouse at least 48 hours in advance of this meeting.

Chair Frisby announced that the purpose of this Special Formal Meeting was for the Board to take action on the following public hearing and proposed Resolution:

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2021 MERCER COUNTY
BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY;
AND,

AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 APPROVED BUDGET OF
THE COUNTY OF MERCER, NEW JERSEY

2021 MERCER COUNTY BUDGET

Chair Frisby announced the reconvening of the Public Hearing on the 2021 Mercer County Budget of the County of Mercer, New Jersey;

Chair Frisby asked if there were any questions or comments.

Ms. Debra Baseman, requested that her questions be read into the record by Chair Frisby. (See Schedule A, attached hereto made a part hereof)

Commissioner Cannon moved, **“To Recess the Public Hearing”**, seconded by Commissioner Cannon.

VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -1.

Ayes – Commissioners Cannon, Cimino, Koontz, Melker, Walter and Frisby

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

Commissioner Walter offered the following Resolution, seconded by Freeholder Koontz:

**NO. 2021-276 AMENDMENT TO THE 2021 APPROVED
BUDGET OF THE COUNTY OF MERCER,
NEW JERSEY**

ADOPTED:

Ayes - 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent -1.

Ayes – Commissioners Cannon, Cimino, Koontz, Melker, Walter and Frisby

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

Mr. David Miller, discussed the Introduction of the Amendments and explained that his request included two particularly large items requested by the Board of Elections (BOE). He said one of the items was the purchase of 500 electronic poll books and the purchase of a new machine. Mr. Miller explained that these additions were discussed at the last Commissioner meeting and were reflected in the Amendments.

Commissioner Walter was hopeful that the BOE understood the importance of this expenditure and that any leftover funds should be utilized to help train the employees on the new machine. Commissioner Walter was extremely interested to see how the new machine would assist in the BOE's daily operations.

Mr. Miller was hopeful that this new machine would be an asset to the BOE moving forward.

Commissioner Melker asked if this expenditure was in the capital budget.

Mr. Miller concurred.

Commissioner Koontz asked if this department was exceeding the CAP limit.

Mr. Miller explained that the CAP is recognized only on salary and wages not on office expenses.

Commissioner Walter asked which electronic poll books the BOE planned on purchasing.

Lillian Nazzaro, Esq., County Administrator, explained that there are four different companies the BOE is currently looking at to purchase the books. She informed the Board that they would have an opportunity to see the machines this month.

At this time, Chair Frisby invited the members of the public to comment on any item listed on the agenda.

Judy Hoechner, 1406 Shiloh Road, Yardley PA, addressed the Board. She spoke asked about the 21.7 million in funding the Trenton-Mercer Airport had allotted for and asked what projects were going to be completed with this funding.

Mr. Miller suggested that Ms. Hoechner fill out an OPRA request for that information.

Ms. Hoechner also was interested in the process of liquidating debt on the terminal. She said if this would occur within the next five years.

Mr. Miller replied that the Administration had plans on continuing with the addition of the terminal and that it was a future endeavor of the County.

Mr. Glen Reitmeier, 1124 South Houston Road, addressed the Board. He wanted to state for the record that the public should not have to file OPRA requests for this information and that it should be provided to them.

Commissioner Koontz explained that numerous constituents ask for information and that filling out an OPRA request is a transparent and useful tool to help them receive the information they are looking for.

A Motion to Adjourn the Special Formal Meeting was offered by Commissioner Koontz, seconded by Commissioner Cannon, which motion was adopted by the unanimous vote of the members of the Board.

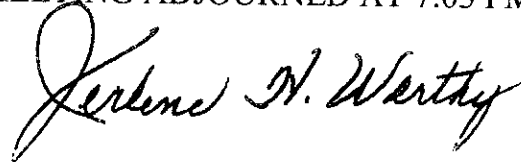
VOTE ON MOTION

Ayes- 6. Nays - 0. Abstain - 0. Absent - 1.

Ayes - Commissioners Cannon, Cimino, Koontz, Melker, Walter and Frisby

Absent – Commissioner Colavita

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:03 PM

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerlene H. Worthy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Jerlene H. Worthy, Clerk to the Board

Bianchi, Gillian

From: Worthy, Jerlene
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:49 PM
To: Bianchi, Gillian
Subject: FW: Budget questions

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

FYI

From: Debra Baseman [mailto:dbaseman@mac.com]
Sent: Thursday, April 29, 2021 2:00 AM
To: Miller, David; Frisby, Samuel; Walter, Lucylle; Cannon, Ann; Koontz, Andrew; Cimino, John; Worthy, Jerlene; Melker, Nina D.; Colavita, Pasquale; Brittany Flynn
Cc: Airport Feedback
Subject: Budget questions

Commissioners, Mr. Miller & Ms. Montgomery,

I am hopeful that you can answer the following budget questions in advance of the meeting Friday. I have included screenshots so as to avoid any confusion as to what I am asking.

With regard to Sheet 13d:

For both 2020 & 2021, Airport Salaries and wages are approximately \$2 million (\$1.9 & \$2.2mill respectively) whereas "other expenses" are in the \$4 million range .

Last year when I asked at the budget meeting what the other expenses were, the answer was "things come up". My microphone was muted by the Chair so I could not ask more details.

Please elucidate what the \$4million in other expenses is anticipated to be spent on and what it was actually spent on in 2020.

With regard to Sheet 13d and FAA Financial Report 127

County sheet 13d lists \$2 million in Salaries and Wages for 2020

FAA financial report 127, Lists Personnel Compensation and Benefits (line 6.1) as over \$8 million in 2020.

This discrepancy in numbers holds true for 2019 numbers and anticipated county 2021 budget.

The same FAA report lists the airport as having only 23 full time employees in both 2019 & 2020.

Can you please provide details of this \$6mill discrepancy?

With Regard to Sheet 29b

Please specify what projects, and the approximate cost of each project, that will be funded with the \$32 million earmarked for the airport.

With Regard to FAA Financial Report 127

Grant Receipts (\$3 to \$4 million) are counted as Income (line 8.3)

County contribution (Line 4.8) was \$6.9 Million in 2020 and \$3.6 Million in 2019

These cash infusions seem to cushion the operating expenses of the airport and make it appear more profitable than it actually is.

Collections from Passenger Facility Charges were <\$2 million during 2019, a peak travel year for TTN.

Yet according to county budget sheet 29b, you are planning on infusing nearly \$32 Million dollars into the airport in 2020: under \$9 million of this is FAA grants. \$1.1 million is from Taxpayer funds and the other \$22 million are from county bonds.

County administrator, Lillian Nazzaro, has previously confirmed that shortfalls in bond repayment would be absorbed by Mercer County Taxpayers.

With Regard to Sheet 22

Mercer will pay \$29 million this year to service our current County Debt.

Given the massive additional debt planned for 2021-2024 airport expansion, please estimate the amount that will be spent in bond debt in each of the next 3 years.

I am trying to understand why we would acquire additional debt at this particular time, when air travel is down, tax revenue and state appropriations are likely to be decreased and many Mercer residents are desperately struggling.

I hope that Mr. Miller and Ms. Montgomery can provide specific details to these questions for both the community and the Commissioners prior to the vote on Friday.

I urge the commissioners to take a hard, honest look at the airport expansion and the potential risks, both financially and environmentally, to the community.

Thank you.

Debra Baseman, MD

Van Kirk Rd.

CURRENT FUND

8. GENERAL APPROPRIATIONS

(A) Operations - (continued)

FCOA

for 2021

TRANSPORTATION/INFRASTRUCTURE:			
Department Director			
Salaries and Wages	26-300	1	270,939
Other Expenses	26-300	2	3,850
Highways			
Salaries and Wages	26-290	1	4,909,455
Other Expenses	26-290	2	2,113,708
Engineering			
Salaries and Wages	20-165	1	71,770
Other Expenses	20-165	2	17,945
Airport			
Salaries and Wages	26-300	1	2,169,082
Other Expenses	26-300	2	3,953,033
TRADE			
Salaries and Wages	26-290	1	761,312
Other Expenses	26-290	2	129,850

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	2020	2019	Change
1.0 Passenger Airline Aeronautical Revenue			
1.1 Passenger airline landing fees	\$207,846	\$378,111	81.92%
1.2 Terminal arrival fees, rents, and utilities	\$224,593	\$504,015	124.41%
1.3 Terminal area apron charges/tledowns	\$0	\$0	0%
1.4 Federal Inspection Fees	\$0	\$0	0%
1.5 Other passenger aeronautical fees	\$0	\$0	0%
1.6 Total	\$432,438	\$882,126	103.99%
2.0 Non-Passenger Aeronautical Revenue			
2.1 Landing fees from cargo	\$0	\$0	0%
2.2 Landing fees from GA and military	\$0	\$0	0%
2.3 FBO revenue; contract or sponsor-operated	\$871,615	\$871,615	0%
2.4 Cargo and hangar rentals	\$625,467	\$682,327	9.09%
2.5 Aviation fuel tax retained for airport use	\$0	\$0	0%
2.6 Fuel sales net profit/loss or fuel flowage fees	\$153,145	\$175,280	14.45%
2.7 Security reimbursement from Federal Government	\$0	\$0	0%
2.8 Other non-passenger aeronautical revenue	\$1,125,236	\$1,178,047	4.69%
2.9 Total	\$2,775,463	\$2,907,269	4.75%
3.0 Total Aeronautical Revenue	\$3,207,901	\$3,789,395	18.13%
4.0 Non-Aeronautical Revenue			
4.1 Land and non-terminal facility leases and revenues	\$1,410,935	\$1,477,628	4.73%
4.2 Terminal-food and beverage	\$38,538	\$103,699	169.08%
4.3 Terminal-retail stores and duty free	\$0	\$0	0%
4.4 Terminal-services and other	\$57,872	\$50,000	-13.60%
4.5 Rental cars-excludes customer facility charges	\$314,628	\$489,612	55.62%
4.6 Parking and ground transportation	\$1,226,711	\$3,438,567	180.31%
4.7 Hotel	\$0	\$0	0%
4.8 Other	\$6,982,743	\$3,590,355	-48.58%
(COUNTY PROVISION: \$6,982,743)			
4.9 Total	\$10,031,427	\$9,149,861	-8.79%
5.0 Total Operating Revenue	\$13,239,328	\$12,939,256	-2.27%
6.0 Operating Expenses			
6.1 Personnel compensation and benefits	\$8,123,154	\$7,387,738	-9.05%
6.2 Communications and utilities	\$362,819	\$378,228	4.25%
6.3 Supplies and materials	\$255,690	\$323,938	26.69%
6.4 Contractual services	\$2,291,551	\$2,526,763	10.26%
6.5 Insurance claims and settlements	\$147,215	\$127,071	-13.68%
6.6 Other	\$2,058,899	\$2,195,518	6.64%
(REPAIRS & MAINTENANCE: \$153,865)			
(POSTAGE: \$38)			
(TAXES AND PERMITS: \$990)			
(EQUIPMENT & PROPERTY RENTAL: \$904,519)			
(ADVERTISING: \$6,677)			
(PRINTING: \$3,000)			
(TRAINING AND TRAVEL: \$40,129)			
(PERMANENT PROPERTY: \$10,659)			
(SPECIAL EVENTS: \$7,440)			
(INDIRECT COSTS: \$1,631,602)			
6.7 Subtotal	\$13,239,328	\$12,939,256	-2.27%
6.8 Depreciation	\$0	\$0	0%

8.0 Non-Operating Revenue (Expenses) and Capital	2020	2019	Change
8.1 Interest Income - restricted and non-restricted.	\$14,334	\$16	
8.2 Interest expense (use minus sign)	\$0		
8.3 Grant receipts	\$4,112,033	\$2,723	
8.4 Passenger Facility Charges	\$709,492	\$1,993	
8.5 Capital Contributions (for withdraw use minus sign)	\$0		
8.6 Special Items (loss)	\$0		
8.7 Other	\$0		
8.8 Total Non Operating Revenue (Expenses)	\$4,835,859	\$4,732	
9.0 Net Assets			
9.1 Change in net assets	\$4,835,859	\$4,732	
9.2 Net assets (deficit) at beginning of year	\$28,288,608	\$23,555	
9.3 Net assets (deficit) at end of year	\$33,124,467	\$28,288	
10.0 Capital Expenditures and Construction in Progress			
10.1 Airfield	\$13,091	\$962	
10.2 Terminal	\$0	\$4,813	
10.3 Parking	\$8,403	\$268	
10.4 Roadways, rail, and transit	\$0		
10.5 Other	\$58,627	\$1,425	
(Airport Rescue Fire Fighting Station Design & Permitting)	\$58		
10.6 Total	\$80,121	\$7,469	
11.0 Indebtedness at End of Year			
11.1 Long Term Bonds (GA, GARB, PFC, etc.)	\$0		
11.2 Loans and interim financing	\$0		
11.3 Special facility bonds	\$0		
11.4 Total Debt at End of Year	\$0		
12.0 Externally Restricted Assets			
12.1 Externally Restricted Debt Reserves	\$0		
12.2 Other Externally Restricted Assets	\$0		
12.3 Total	\$0		
13.0 Unrestricted Cash and Investments	\$0		
14.0 Reporting Year Proceeds			
14.1 Bond proceeds	\$0		
14.2 Proceeds from sale of property	\$0		
15.0 Debt Service			
15.1 Debt service, excluding coverage	\$0		
15.2 Debt service, net of PFCs and Offsets	\$0		
16.0 Operating Statistics (* optional for airports having 25,000 enplanements in the preceding calendar year).			
*Section 16.1 Enplanements	129,611	461	
*Section 16.2 Landed weights in pounds	173,352,876	429,289	
*Section 16.3 Signatory landing fee rate per 1,000 lbs	\$0.75	\$	
*Section 16.4 Annual aircraft operations	81,895	\$108	
*Section 16.5 Passenger Airline CPE (line 1.6/16.1)	\$3.34	\$	

CAPITAL BUDGET

1 PROJECT TITLE	2 PROJECT NUMBER	3 ESTIMATED TOTAL COST	4 AMOUNTS RESERVED IN PRIOR YEARS
Communications and Emergency Management		865,000.00	
Weights and Measures		7,995.00	
Information Technology		1,940,550.00	
Planning		8,262,600.00	
Prosecutors Office		4,168,624.00	
Sheriff		2,177,293.00	
Airport		31,743,700.00	
Highways and Bridges		10,498,216.00	
Buildings and Grounds		1,574,399.00	
Motor Pool		3,391,500.00	
Park Commission		3,765,000.00	
Arena		2,250,000.00	
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