

**Minutes of the Board of Commissioners
Multnomah County
Multnomah Building, Board Room 100
501 SE Hawthorne Blvd., Portland, Oregon
Tuesday, May 31, 2011**

***PUBLIC BUDGET HEARING
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM***

Chair Jeff Cogen called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m. with Vice-Chair Deborah Kafoury and Commissioners Loretta Smith, Judy Shiprack and Diane McKeel present.

Chair Cogen welcomed everyone and made opening remarks. He explained that it was not time for Board deliberation, but rather, for the Board to hear from the public on the programs within the Fiscal Year 2012 Budget.

Chair Cogen said that in putting the budget together, Multnomah County was faced with yet another budget shortfall for the 11th year in a row. As a result, the County has not had sufficient resources to maintain services at the level provided the year before. The shortfall this year is \$4.4 million in a general fund budget of \$400 million. The County is facing deep cuts from the State and probably the Federal government as well. He said the budget was prepared to minimize impacts on critical services in the community and brace us for the cuts coming from our State and Federal partners. Because of that, the Board and staff focused extensively on keeping our costs down. One thing that was done was to freeze the pay of management and non-labor union employees, and encourage the unions to consider doing the same. The County also cut the number of managers. Those actions served to save two-thirds of the monies needed to meet our budget shortfall. The rest of the shortfall was met by implementing administrative efficiencies. On a whole, the budget does not cut services to the community.

He thanked everyone for coming and asked that each person limit their testimony to three minutes so everyone would have a chance to testify.

Testimony was taken and received for the file. 22 testified regarding the importance of Gang Prevention services. 20 testified pertaining to Multnomah County's Animal Services. 13 testified on miscellaneous issues such as GED Instruction at Inverness jail, services for the homeless, human trafficking, and the services of the Health Department.

There being no one else who wanted to testify, Chair Cogen thanked everyone for coming and adjourned the meeting at 7:30 pm.

Submitted by:
Lynda J. Grow, Board Clerk and
Marina Baker, Assistant Board Clerk
Board of County Commissioners
Multnomah County