

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL BUDGET COMMITTEE  
OF THE METROPOLITAN SERVICE DISTRICT

April 14, 1988

Committee Members Present: Tanya Collier (Chair),\* George Van Bergen (V. Chair),\* Tom Balmer, Gretchen Buehner, Ron Hohnstein, David Knowles,\* Phillip Korten and Dapo Sobomehin

Committee Members Absent: Gary Hansen,\* Steve Harloff and Jim Gardner\*

\* Metro Councilors

Chair Collier called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

2. Solid Waste Department Budget

Solid Waste Director Rich Owings presented a revised budget in response to the Committee's motion made on April 7, 1988, directing staff to submit an FY 1988-89 budget request which reflects the same expenditure and personnel levels as the adopted FY 1987-88 budget and contains the priority programs identified by the Committee (operation and closure of St. Johns Landfill, CTRC operation, ETRC construction, hazardous waste program, waste reduction program, completion of negotiations with Riedel and Waste Management and reserve funds for the ultimate closure of St. Johns Landfill).

The Committee noted the following:

\* Contingency Fund

None identified in revised proposal.

Councilor Knowles stated that the intent of the Committee's April 7, 1988 motion was that items traditionally included in budgets (e.g. contingency, unappropriated balance) be included in the revised budget. Chair Collier added that the Committee had expected to see a revised budget reflecting cuts in spending within programs, rather than total programs and funds eliminated.

\* Consultant Contracts

Total amount proposed seemed excessive.

Several Committee members questioned whether it would be more prudent (and less expensive) to utilize engineers already on staff or hire additional engineers rather than contract outside. Ms. Buehner stated that engineering staff could be cross trained to handle many different types of projects.

Chair Collier called a recess at 6:55 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 7:10 p.m.

The Chair asked Mr. Owings to identify the policy issues involved in developing the budget. The response was as follows:

- \* how to show monies in the budget earmarked for the legislatively-mandated North Portland Rehabilitation and Enhancement Program;
- \* timing and amount of rate increase to offset cost of St. Johns closure;
- \* tonnage limitations affecting CTRC imposed by Oregon City.

Councilor Van Bergen asked if thought had been given to a packaging and transportation program for waste diverted from CTRC. He suggested exploring utilizing the Southern Pacific Railroad line that runs parallel to the facility. Staff indicated that funds were in the proposed budget to examine the options.

Discussion followed regarding franchise administration. Ms. Buehner suggested that staff contact the City of Portland Bureau of Licenses for information on their experience.

Councilor Knowles expressed grave concern about the methods used to formulate the Solid Waste department budget. He noted that the budget was built from the bottom up. The department decided how much money was needed and built this amount into the rate structure. Chair Collier indicated that her instructions to all departments was to prepare a zero-based budget. She stated her experience had been that zero-based budgets usually were smaller than actual expenditures, therefore, she was surprised that the proposed Solid Waste budget was almost double the current fiscal year's. Mr. Owings indicated that the program was expanding; included a new, major capital program and would require more money and more people to administer the program properly.

Ms. Buehner pointed out that there were areas where contingency funding could be spread over more than one fiscal year, and in that way the total budget could be reduced. Mr. Owings was concerned that the Committee not make "cuts just for cuts' sake." The Chair stated that the Committee's concern was that the program run as efficiently as possible with the rates kept as low as possible.

Chair Collier requested that each Committee member submit to her a list of areas where they felt cuts could be made. She would work with staff to develop draft motions.

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1. Consideration of Minutes of April 7, 1988

Motion: Gretchen Buehner moved, seconded by Councilor Van Bergen to approve the minutes of April 7, 1988.

Vote: A vote on the motion resulted in all Committee members present voting aye. Councilors Hansen and Gardner and Steve Harloff were absent, and Ron Hohnstein was not present for the vote.

There was no further business, and the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gwen Ware-Barrett*

Gwen Ware-Barrett  
Committee Clerk

gpwb  
04/18/88