

(Agenda of meeting was posted in the Courthouse Administration Lobby at 2:08 p.m. on Tuesday, July 22, 1997.)

MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE
July 24, 1997

The Board of County Commissioners of Tulsa County met at 9:30 a.m., with the following members present: Robert N. Dick, Chairman and Lewis Harris. Member absent: John Selph. Others present: Bill Thompson, Dave Hill, Pete Silva, Clay Edwards, Wayne Carr, Bob Mackechney, Linda Johnston, Buck Rudd, Terry Tallent, James Caputo, Jon Shumard, Bob Hyer, Marshall Stewart, and Pam Hayes.

Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m., and the following business was transacted:

The Board continued its discussion regarding relocation of the Public Defenders office and construction of new courtroom space. Silva said Edwards had provided him with information regarding the Transok Building. Silva had looked at the Pythian Building at 5th and Boulder being offered by Tulsa Properties, Inc. This property has more space available than other properties that had been considered and the rental rate was quoted as a negotiable \$9.00 per square foot. Therefore, Silva will pursue the possibility of moving the Public Defenders office to the Pythian Building and will report back to the Board next week.

Following brief discussion, a motion was made by Dick, seconded by Harris, to approve the appointment of Danny Ewing to the Tulsa County Criminal Justice Sales Tax Overview Committee. This appointment will be announced to the Tulsa County Criminal Justice Authority at its July 25, 1997 meeting.

The Board discussed the possibility of requiring only items costing \$250 or more be on inventory, as required by State law. Harris agreed this would create less paperwork and save time for all those involved in the process but he wondered if the change would be worth the loss of tracking items under \$250. Rudd showed the Board the Building Operations departmental inventory of over 2,000 items. He said about half of them cost less than \$250 but must be brought before the Board by resolution when they were purchased or transferred. He advised that a separate internal shop inventory list could be used for tracking less expensive tools, etc., if the policy is changed. The Board agreed this would reduce considerable time/paperwork. Hill said the Court Fund changed their state-wide policy three years ago to now require that only items which cost \$250 or more be on inventory. Edwards added that when the State Auditor & Inspectors office spot checks County inventoried items they only check items which cost \$250 or more. Dick advised Selph had sent him a note indicating his concurrence with the suggested change in policy. Motion was made by Dick, seconded by Harris, to approve the recommendation presented in Edwards July 16, 1997 memorandum to change County policy to require only items costing \$250 or more be on inventory. Motion carried. Edwards will revise the policy and present it to the Board for distribution to all elected officials, division directors, and bookkeepers.

The Board discussed the appeal of Caputo for educational assistance to attend law school. Caputo said the law degree would be a direct benefit to Tulsa County and advised he planned to stay with the County after receiving his law degree, possibly seeking employment in the Public Defenders office. Thompson said Caputo was put on the jail transition team in part because of his knowledge of the law and how to research the law. He added that the Sheriff's office has been able to attract and retain two officers who also have law training and that their legal background has been helpful to the Sheriff's office. Harris said he was in favor of people seeking higher education and commended Caputo for his efforts. He said he didn't believe, however, that taxpayers should pay for a County employees law degree. Harris referred to the tuition reimbursement policy which states the degree being sought must relate to job responsibilities. He said County employment did not require this law degree and he was not supportive of taxpayers paying for County employees to receive advanced degrees such as law, medicine or engineering. Dick agreed that it was not the intent of the policy to pay for advanced degrees. He added that others had been turned down when they requested assistance for law degree programs and the Board must be consistent in its application of the policy. Motion was made by Harris, seconded by Dick, to deny the request of Caputo for reimbursement of educational expenses for attendance at law school. Motion carried. Chairman directed Tallent to revise Tulsa County's educational reimbursement policy to clarify the Board's position.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS


Robert N. Dick, Chairman

ATTEST:


Jean Hastings, County Clerk

(DETAILS OF THE ABOVE MAY BE SEEN IN THE OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS)