

**Jefferson County University Extension Education Committee  
Special Meeting - September 24, 2008**

**Call to Order** - Chairman Greg Torres called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m.

**Roll Call** – Committee members Ron Buchanan, Mike Burow, John Kannard. Excused: Robert Yachinich.

Also present: Kathleen Eisenmann, Dick Pederson and Carlton Zentner.

Torres assured the committee that County Board Chair Schmeling was available to break any tie votes.

**Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law**

Meeting posting was certified in accordance with Open Meeting Law requirements.

**Citizen Input and Comments** - Chair Torres called for public comment. Zentner addressed the committee, and he suggested the committee develop a detailed plan of evaluation for the agents before proceeding with any budget cuts. Zentner acknowledged the charge by the Finance Committee might prevent a plan being developed before recommended cuts are determined.

**Finance Committee Recommendation** - Torres overviewed the cuts recommended by the Finance Committee and referred to the Extension Education Committee for further action. The Finance Committee cut 40% of the total recommended operating levy of \$454,614. This results in a dollar figure for the cut of \$181,846 and a remaining operating levy balance of approximately \$272,000. The Finance Committee referred the action to the Extension Education Committee for recommendation on specific cuts to the budget.

Buchanan made a motion to retain Youth Development Agent position. That was seconded.

Burow made a motion to amend that motion to retain that position with Gail Roberts as the agent filling the position. Seconded by Kannard. Discussion was had on the motion. Amendment passed 4-0 and amended motion passed 4-0.

Burow moved to eliminate 4-H Youth Assistant position from budget. Seconded by Buchanan. Discussion was had on the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Burow moved to change ANRE from two agents to one agent within program area. Kannard seconded the motion. Discussion was had on the motion. Chair Torres recognized Supervisor Greg David who joined the discussion and spoke to the importance of retaining the dairy/livestock position and Ken Bolton in it. Motion carried 4-0.

Burow motioned to retain Joe Bollman in the ANRE position in his field of expertise and if possible he could pick up some duties of the dairy/livestock position. Buchanan seconded the motion. Discussion was had on the motion. Motion carried 4-0.

Burow motioned to reduce support staff from three positions to one. There was a second. After discussion, Burow withdrew his motion.

Motion to reduce support staff from 3 FTE to 1.5 FTE by Buchanan. Seconded by Kannard. Discussion was had. Supervisor Greg David spoke to the importance of an adequate level of support staff. Motion carried 4-0.

Motion to retain Steve Grabow and release Kathy Eisenmann and eliminate the FLE position by Burow. Seconded by Buchanan. Discussion was had on the motion. Supervisor Zentner asked for permission to speak. Permission granted by Chair Torres. Zentner recommended the elimination of the FLE position.

Dick Pederson asked for permission to speak to committee. Permission granted by Chair Torres. Pederson urged committee to consider future implications of completely eliminating a program area. In his experience, counties have regretted doing so.

Motion was withdrawn by Burow after some discussion. Buchanan agreed.

After more discussion, Burow motioned to retain Steve Grabow and release Kathy Eisenmann and eliminate the FLE position. Motion seconded. After more discussion, the second motion was withdrawn by Burow.

Motion to offer Kathleen Eisenmann and Steve Grabow half-time positions in each program area and if not possible, eliminate the program area by Burow. Discussion was had on wording of motion. Motion was withdrawn by Burow.

Motion to fund CRD and FLE positions at .50 FTE each by Kannard. Seconded by Buchanan. Discussion was had on motion. Supervisor Greg David spoke to the importance of community resource development and family living education along with the excellent job both Steve and Kathy do in their position.

Pederson asked again for permission to speak. Permission granted by Chair Torres. Pederson spoke to the importance of retaining full-time agents in each program area and noted the savings resulting from cutting each agent position by .50 FTE would not be enough to prevent further budget cuts. Further discussion was had by the committee. Motion withdrawn by Kannard. Buchanan agreed.

Motion to eliminate two FTE support staff and retain all four agents remaining by Buchanan. Seconded by Kannard. Motion carried on a 4-0 vote.

Motion by Buchanan to take the budget changes to the finance committee. Motion was seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

Torres reviewed committee's action for benefit of committee members. The committee recommended the following cuts:

\$117,782 – support staff  
21,250 – half-time youth assistant  
40,000 – Dairy/Livestock Agent  
\$178,982

Torres asked Eisenmann if she could recommend additional cuts from the operating levy to reach the goal set by the Finance Committee. Eisenmann assured committee she could find approximately \$3,000, most likely from mileage.

Torres informed committee he would personally communicate recommendations to Finance Committee this morning.

**Adjournment** - Motion by Buchanan, seconded by Burow to adjourn meeting. Motion passed 4-0. No discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Buchanan, Secretary