Present: Commissioners Barbara Cross, Jim Hertzler and Gary Eichelberger; Larry Thomas, Chief Clerk; Dana Best, Tammy Bender, Ron Snow, Stephanie Phillips and Keri Fahnestock, Finance Department; Heather Ilgenfritz, Communications; Denny Lebo, Clerk of Court; John Gross, Treasurer; Tammy Shearer, Recorder of Deeds; Joshua Vaughn, The Sentinel.

Chief Clerk Thomas welcomed everyone to the Finance meeting and provided an update on the status of the budget.

The topic for discussion:
Financial Analysis Committee Discussion – Finance

Dana Best reviewed the power point presentation (see attached).

Discussion included the 2015 and the 2016 General Fund balance, and the 911 subsidy. Commissioner Cross asked when the 911 funds will be received. Dana stated that $1.9 million is in the bank but cannot be released until the expenses are matched. They are able to report back to July 1st to recalculate the subsidy.

The year is projected to end with $ 24.3 million, which is 113 days of General Fund operating expense.

2016 budget –
The projected 2016 budget is a $23 million fund balance.

There is $4 million in the Annual Retirement Contribution (ARC), but what is the timeline on the Market. Controller's office is watching the Market to determine the estimate. Chief Clerk Thomas stated that the County makes sure that there are sufficient funds in the ARC. Commissioner Cross mentioned that another County asked if we are sending dollars to the Commonwealth even though the State has not passed a budget. Commissioner Hertzler questioned what is the impact on the 2016 preliminary measures. Dana stated that these impacts are related to the Human Services departments. They have already taken steps for their 2016 budget.

Commissioner Hertzler asked about the 911 decrease when the State just increased the fee. Dana stated that is the decrease in the General Fund subsidy.

A pie chart shows the differences of the minimal revenue changes over the past 10 years.

Commissioner Eichelberger asked if the Library funding millage rate is in the general fund. Dana stated it is there as a pass through, but when reporting to the State it is not included in the financial statements.

Commissioner Cross asked if the $5.00 registration fee is included in the budget. Dana stated yes, it is included.

Chief Clerk Thomas stated there is no need for a tax increase in 2016. In 2017 and beyond there will be more challenges so we will need to proceed in the same manor.

A question was asked if the additional Children & Youth positions mandated by the State are reflected in the 2016 budget.   Dana stated yes. There has been strategic thinking put into place to adequately manage the caseloads. Chief Clerk Thomas stated that there is a collective effort from County departments to provide the best services to residents.

State Budget Impasse
There is a process in place with the Human Services Departments.

Commissioner Eichelberger asked if there is any part that would include partial payments and would this buy more time. Dana stated yes. Commissioner Cross asked what is the critical need and how is that determined. There seems to be more critical issues that require more services, which result in additional expenses to the County. Commissioner Cross would like to see a plan in place for the county.

Chief Clerk Thomas stated this is not the first time the County was faced with this issue. With the leadership, experience, knowledge and cooperation, departments will come up with a plan.

The best business practice to apply for a Tax Anticipation Note should be held off until the first of the year if the State does not pass the budget. The County would then have a year to pay it off.

Commissioner Eichelberger asked if we know if 100% is going to be reimbursed by the State or do we have number. Dana stated that it is the new clients that are not receiving services needed and they are on a waiting list.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00

Jennifer Crum,
Administrative Specialist