

STATE APPEAL BOARD

In Re:	Jefferson County Budget Appeal FY 1999-2000)))))	Order April 27, 1999
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BEFORE STATE AUDITOR, RICHARD D. JOHNSON; STATE TREASURER, MICHAEL L. FITZGERALD; AND THE DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANAGEMENT, CYNTHIA P. EISENHAUER:

The above captioned matter was heard on April 19,1999 before a panel consisting of Ronald J. Amosson, Executive Secretary to the State Appeal Board and presiding officer; Stephen E. Larson, Executive Officer II, Office of the State Treasurer; and Donna F. Kruger, Senior Auditor II, Office of the State Auditor.

The hearing was held pursuant to the provisions of section 331.436 and Chapter 24 of the Code of Iowa. The spokesperson for the petitioners was Tom Kientz, Jefferson County Farm Bureau President. Frank Stever, Chairman of the Jefferson County Board of Supervisors, represented the county.

Upon consideration of the comments made at the public hearing which indicated the petitioners and the county had reached an agreement concerning the issues of the budget appeal, the FY2000 Jefferson County budget is sustained.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The FY2000 Jefferson County proposed budget summary was published on March 4, 1999. A public hearing on the proposed budget was held on March 15, 1999, and the budget was adopted on the same day.

A petition protesting the certified FY2000 Jefferson County budget was filed with the Jefferson County Auditor on March 22, 1999, and was received by the State Appeal Board on March 25, 1999. On the petition document, the petitioners stated they objected to the budget because of the proposed expenditures for a new jail and because of spending increases and excessive ending fund balances.

DISCUSSION

At the public hearing regarding the budget appeal, petitioner Tom Kientz stated that the petitioners and the County were able to come to an agreement regarding the budget appeal. He said that at this time they no longer had any objections to the FY2000 County budget.

The hearing officer asked if any members of the audience at the budget appeal hearing would like to address the Appeal Board. No one so indicated.

After the budget appeal hearing, the petitioners provided additional background information. The petitioners said the basis for the protest was that they did not feel the County was following the wishes of the voters in the unincorporated area of the County concerning the construction of a new jail. After conferring with the Farm Bureau Research Director, Tom Kientz suggested that a strategy should be developed with the hope of avoiding a budget appeal. Mr. Kientz approached the Jefferson County Auditor with the proposal. A meeting was conducted on Tuesday, April 13, 1999 and both sides agreed to a resolution. The meeting included five representatives from Jefferson County and six members from the Iowa Farm Bureau.

FINDINGS OF FACT

There are no apparent outstanding disagreements between the County and the petitioners.

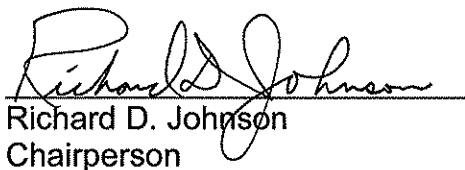
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

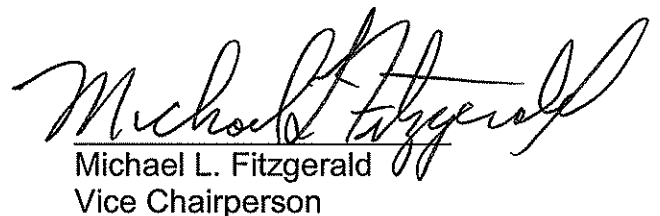
The State Appeal Board has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal, pursuant to Iowa Code sections 24.28 and 331.436.

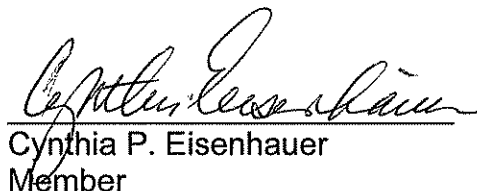
ORDER

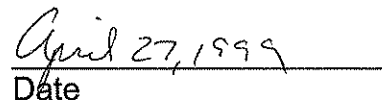
The Fiscal Year 2000 budget for Jefferson County is sustained.

STATE APPEAL BOARD


Richard D. Johnson
Chairperson


Michael L. Fitzgerald
Vice Chairperson


Cynthia P. Eisenhauer
Member


Date