

**WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JUNE 24, 2013 AT 9:00 AM
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held a Workshop on June 24, 2013 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1
Chairman, Jim Selph, Dist#2
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3
Commissioner, Elton Langford, Dist#4
Commissioner Bob Miller, Dist#5
County Administrator, Guy Maxcy
County Attorney, Don Conn
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson
Turner Center Director, Jody Sullivan
Social Services Director, Peggy Waters
Parks Director, Tara Anderson
Planning Manager, Tom Cookingham

Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez
Fire Chief, Glenn Prescott
Deputy Fire Chief, Larry Taylor
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger
Purchasing Director, Cindy Talamantez
Admin. Services Director, Linda Nipper
County Coordinator, Mandy Hines
Building Official, Lester Hornbake
Library Director, Lorel Reinstrom
HR Director, Don Kesterson
Environmental Svcs. Dir., Henry Grimes
Road & Bridge Director, Shawn Edwards

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Property Appraiser, Newt Keen
Tax Collector, Kathy Hill

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Maxcy stated today will be a preliminary review of the proposed budget. He requested another budget workshop on July 9th for a full review. He also stated Road & Bridge, Utilities, and Public Safety will be discussed at a later date. Mr. Maxcy stated there are important issues today such as an MSTU and MSBU restructuring.

Linda Nipper stated that she prepared the general fund budget with the anticipation of an MSTU/MSBU being approved to fund Public Safety. There would be an approximate transfer of 1 million dollars for both Fire and EMS. She has not received information from the City regarding the MSTU's or MSBU's. Ms. Nipper commented that the State mandated retirement fees have made a big impact on the budget. A ten percent increase is anticipated for health and life insurance. The salary additions are included as discussed.

Chairman Selph stated that the Board has made it clear if funds are moved into MSBU's and MSTU's; ad-valorem taxes would be reduced.

Commissioner Mansfield questioned the salary additions. Ms. Nipper commented that the Clerk of Court deducted the amount in question from the general fund due to the Legislature allowing her to be fee driven again. Economic Development budget showed a decrease due to a correction. A decrease in Social Services is due to a transfer of an employee.

Tax Collector, Kathy Hill stated there is nothing new in the budget. If the Board decides to withhold the increase in salaries, there will be an increase of approximately \$20,859.00. If the Board approves

the increase in salaries, there will be an increase of approximately \$31,000.00. She stated she needs a new employee but will not fill the position. Anything taken in over the fee amount is given back to the Board of County Commissioners, Southwest Florida Water Management District and Joshua Water Control. Excess fees are anticipated in the amount of \$80,000-\$90,000.00. Ms. Hill stated she has hired a collection agency to collect personal property taxes and they will be going door to door.

Commissioner Quave questioned the \$30,000.00 increase in Ms. Hill's budget. She stated that amount is only if the 3% raises are approved.

Dave Williams spoke on behalf of the Property Appraiser's office. He stated their budget decreased approximately \$8,000-\$9,000.00. Mr. Keen is in the DROP program which put him in a different category.

Mr. Maxcy spoke regarding the Administration budget. There is an increase in salaries. FICA has increased as well. There is an increase in health insurance and retiree insurance. There is a decrease in gas & oil.

Mandy Hines commented that the Economic Development budget is flat. The majority of funds are spent on contracted services.

Richard Metzger spoke for Facilities stating there is a decrease in his budget. It was revised for the jail elevator. There was a decrease in lighting and air conditioning. All contracts were renewed with no increases.

Tom Cookingham stated the budget for Development has decreased approximately \$16,000.00

Ms. Nipper presented the budget for the IT department. There is a decrease with no significant equipment upgrades. Cindy Talamantez stated that the software is purchased individually. We do not purchase the amount needed to receive the bulk pricing.

Jorge Hernandez, Code Enforcement stated that the department needs to be developed in order to provide the service expected. The number of staff is not sufficient.

Jorge Hernandez stated there is an increase in the Animal Control budget. Part-time Kennel Techs. are needed as well as a vehicle. Approval of the positions would eliminate the need for the officers to clean kennels. There is a decrease in adoption hours due to the decrease in staff. Mr. Hernandez expressed the need for new more efficient software. Mandy Hines spoke in support of Animal Control. Mr. Maxcy commented regarding a possible agreement with Charlotte County that would bring revenue for this department. There may be a need for an emergency hire for 6 months.

Peggy Waters, Social Services stated her department is mainly grant funded. There was a decrease in staff; there may be an application for a CDBG grant and if approved, funds will be available for additional staff.

Mr. Maxcy stated that the Extension budget would be presented on July 9th.

Lorel Reinstrom, Library stated her budget shows an increase in salaries and insurance. There is a possibility of receiving money from the State.

Mr. Maxcy stated that the Probation budget would be presented on July 9th.

Tara Anderson, Parks stated her budget is very close to last year. She is asking to redo the men's restroom at Brownville Park and also new equipment. Ms. Anderson spoke briefly on how well the Brewer Park baseball fields look due to the recent aeration, vertical cutting and fertilizing.

Jody Sullivan, Turner Center stated there is an increase due to air conditioning repairs. Ms. Sullivan commented that in two weeks the RV sites brought \$9,000.00 and \$3,800.00 in concessions.

Don Conn, Legal Services stated VAB attorney fees are taken out of his budget. There will be slight reduction in Case Specific Litigation. Miscellaneous Attorney Fees is for Barry Buenaventura to assist as well as revisions to the LDR's; Comp. Plan revisions are also included in this budget.

Linda Nipper, Administrative Services stated there is an increase in her budget with the majority going

to salaries and benefits. Ms. Nipper reviewed the areas of her budget that will increase. Don Kesterson, Human Resources requested a new position titled Benefits Specialist, in his department. He also requested revision of the Personnel Manual; Social Media Policy; increase in budget due to a copier was moved from Code Enforcement to the HR department. Mr. Kesterson showed an increase in his budget to allow for the purchase of recognition pens, new computer and desk, office supplies for new hire, training materials and conferences. Further discussion was had. Mandy Hines, Veteran's Services stated there is an increase in minor areas such as training. Commissioner Miller questioned if this position still required full-time hours. Linda Nipper presented the Non-Departmental budget which included professional services, property & casualty, NACO, Tax Collector fees, transfers, outside agencies and long term debt reserves. Further discussion followed. The Board requested to remove the Grants from the budget and add tabs for less difficulty while reviewing. Mr. Maxcy requested comments from the Board regarding MSBU's & MSTU's. Don Conn stated action cannot be taken during a Workshop. The majority of the Board feels that if MSBU's & MSTU's are approved there need to be adjustments in other areas. Commissioner Miller requested information from Newt Keen, Property Appraiser regarding the tax that is charged per acre on land classified as agriculture. Mr. Keen responded that on improved pasture, the rate is \$220.00 per acre and native pasture is approximately \$45-\$50.00 per acre. Further discussion was had.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Selph adjourned the workshop at 11:11 AM.

ATTEST:

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**



C. GUY MAXCY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



JAMES F. SELPH
CHAIRMAN