

**WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 9, 2013 AT 1:00 PM
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held a Workshop on July 9, 2013 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1	Utilities Director, Eddie Miller
Chairman, James Selph, Dist#2	Social Services Director, Peggy Waters
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3	Fire Chief, Glenn Prescott
Commissioner, Elton Langford, Dist#4	Purchasing Director, Cindy Talamantez
Commissioner, Bob Miller, Dist#5	HR Director, Don Kesterson
County Administrator, C. Guy Maxcy	Office Manager, Lauri Jones
County Attorney, Don Conn	Environmental Svcs. Director, Henry Grimes
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger	County Engineer, Mike Giardullo
EM Director, Doug Christ	County Extension Director, Ken Johnson
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson	Planning Manager, Thomas Cookingham
Administrative Services Director, Linda Nipper	Deputy Fire Chief, Larry Taylor
Road & Bridge Director, Shawn Edwards	County Engineer, Mike Giardullo
Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez	
Building Official, Lester Hornbake	

CALL TO ORDER 1:00 PM

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Kathryn Hill, Tax Collector, Sheriff Will Wise and Mitzie McGavic, Clerk of Court

1. PRESENTATION/REVIEW/DISCUSSION

Mr. Maxcy stated the Workshop today is to discuss the budget.

Emergency Management

Doug Christ stated his budget is flat with no changes over the past year. There are (2) Grants coming in that provide over 60% of the funding for his department that the Board matches. The change in salaries is due to the proposed 3% increase. Mr. Christ stated that included in his budget is the supplemental insurance for retiree Cathy Furr. Mr. Christ stated that the EMPA Grant pays the salary for (2) employees and the EMPG along with the General Revenue pays the remaining (1.5) salaries. New software was purchased with a Grant.

Commissioner Miller commented that he initially performed a general overview of the budget followed by a line item. Further discussion was had.

Mandy Hines gave an explanation as to why the ad-valorem offset reduces annually. She stated it is not a formula that reduces annually; this is the 2008 Legislation that was a fiscally restrained offset that is appropriated by the Legislature annually that makes us hold for the doubling of the Homestead Exemption for fiscally constrained counties. Commissioner Miller discussed more issues he revealed while reviewing the budget. Ms. Nipper stated she checks the Excel Spreadsheet totals by entering them into INCODE to verify the balance. This process is to eliminate the possibility of a wrong formula throughout the entire system. Commissioner Miller also questioned the Sheriff's budget.

Public Safety

Chief Prescott stated his budget is flat and it includes only the mandated increases. Mr. Maxcy stated the salary increase is due to the 3% COLA. The 3% was removed and will be reflected in the next budget workshop. He also reviewed decreases as well as increases. Chief Prescott stated that he has made no requests for capital equipment such as ambulances or fire trucks for the next fiscal year. He is fearful that there are not even enough funds to cover small repairs that may be needed.

Chairman Selph sees the budget in general as flat with no control over some of the mandated increases.

Commissioner Miller questioned if the proposed MSBU & MSTU are approved; will that equal where we are today or will it increase revenues? Chief Prescott replied that he is fearful if it will be enough to cover what the General Fund has given Public Safety to date. Commissioner Miller feels it may be necessary not to change anything. Chief Prescott feels within the next few years a change will be necessary. Discussion was had regarding Grants.

Road & Bridge

Shawn Edwards stated he has requested the purchase of used equipment and has only included in his budget what is necessary to run his department. Commissioner Mansfield commented that there are three departments that need to be taken care of which are the Sheriff's Office, Emergency Medical Services and Road & Bridge. He questioned Mr. Edwards if he was comfortable with the numbers he has proposed for his budget. Commissioner Mansfield is concerned that there are no funds for herbicide/pesticide and how that is going to affect drainage around the County. Mr. Edwards stated some of the costs are unpredictable and season based. Mr. Maxcy stated that from a management point of view; it is difficult to request any additional funds.

Commissioner Langford feels all departments should remain the same as last fiscal year budget with the addition of the mandated increases.

Commissioner Miller stated he prefers the zero based budget.

Commissioner Quave is amazed at the staff that is required to work in other departments on occasion to help cover for short staff. He is unsure of where additional cuts can be made.

Chairman Selph commented that zero based budgeting is not suitable for County Government due to fix costs and agrees with Commissioner Langford's views.

Commissioner Mansfield feels something has to change where Animal Control is concerned. Costs have increased since last year.

Mr. Maxcy stated that the State has mandated an increase in the County's retirement contribution. The early estimates for Health Insurance and Property & Casualty Insurance are at a 5% increase. Property values have dropped over 3%. Previous budgets were balanced on advanced repayment schedules, lay-offs, eliminating equipment expenses and severely limiting road paving projects. Bonds have been refinanced, loans consolidated, health plans reduced, operating costs reduced where possible and revisions to personnel policy in regards to overtime. Mr. Maxcy then reviewed the current millage rate, values, tax and CPI (consumer price index). He also spoke regarding level 1 & 2 cuts.

Commissioner Langford again stated there is no department that cannot work on the previous year's budget.

Sheriff Wise stated that his operation is totally different than any other department in the County. His department runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, holidays and weekends. He requested that the Board adequately fund and staff the jail. The alternative is that the Board can run the jail. It is growing and will continue to do so. Sheriff Wise feels he cannot work on the same budget as last year due to many unknowns.

Mr. Maxcy requested another budget hearing on July 23rd at 9am. It was consensus of the Board to approve this date and time. He suggested keeping it simple and providing alternatives to balancing the budget. Mr. Maxcy requested that Don Conn decide on the process regarding MSBU & MSTU. Mr. Conn stated that in order for the County to assess the MSBU & MSTU within the city, the City Council needs to approve, take official action, and pass a Resolution authorizing the imposition within the city limits. Staff has made a request but there has been no response from the City. The County can move forward subject to the City's approval. If the BOCC is in favor of an MSTU & MSBU being imposed, then the Board should take official action at a public meeting to adopt an MSTU & MSBU countywide subject to the City's approval. The next opportunity to take official action is in two weeks. Mr. Conn will contact the City Attorney before the next Board meeting.

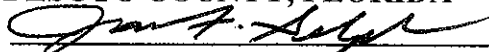
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Selph adjourned the Workshop at 2:36 PM.

ATTEST:



C. GUY MAXCY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA


JAMES F. SELPH
CHAIRMAN