

**WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 23, 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 July 23, 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
Environmental Svcs. Dir., Henry Grimes
Office Manager, Lauri Jones
Planning Manager, Tom Cookingham
Captain, Dan Collins

Road & Bridge Director, Shawn Edwards
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
County Extension Director, Ken Johnson
Utilities Director, Eddie Miller
EM Director, Doug Christ
County Engineer, Mike Giardullo

ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Supervisor of Elections, Mark Negley
Sheriff, Will Wise

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Maxcy commented on a job well done by the Board for the last twelve years regarding revenues. He also commended the Board for not raising the roll back rate or millage rate for twelve years. All of the State mandates have been incorporated into the proposed budget. It is the Staff's responsibility to guide the Board in reaching a certain level.

Linda Nipper stated that according to this year's millage rate and revenues; the County will only have a \$66,445.00 reserve or surplus in the budget and that is not acceptable. MSBU & MSTU increases have been put aside due to recent events. Ms. Nipper suggested an increase in millage of .8798 in order to make ends meet. If all suggested millage increases were approved, the total mills would be 8.4814 which would give ad-valorem taxes a net value of \$11,395,051.00.

Commissioner Langford questioned what the maximum increase of the millage that the State allows. Ms. Nipper stated that there is no restriction other than the maximum is 10 mills. She stated that the Reserves have always been at approximately \$2-3 million for disaster relief or unexpected changes. Chairman Selph questioned Ms. Nipper on how she arrived at the 8.4814 millage increase. She stated that she affixed a millage amount for each budget expense. At the Board's request, each department was reviewed individually.

Constitutional Officers

Ms. Nipper stated that these budgets have previously been reviewed. The only increases are the retirement mandates. The Clerk's office budget decreased due to receiving funds that were previously lost.

Code Enforcement

Mr. Maxcy stated that the Code Enforcement budget has increased \$47,675.00 due to a request from a Commissioner for consideration of an additional Officer to enforce the conditions put upon properties through special exceptions and other zoning matters. Mr. Maxcy reviewed the budget requests for the department. He commented there is the possibility of an Interlocal Agreement with Charlotte County, to take 50 cats and dogs a month in return for payment of \$10,000.00 monthly. The funds from Charlotte County will allow Animal Control to hire the much needed staff. If the agreement is not approved, some of the budget requests will be withdrawn. Mr. Maxcy requested the Board's consideration of a new officer. Commissioner Langford questioned the increase regarding operating supplies. Additional funds were added for abatement and demolition. That would eventually be seen in revenues coming back through liens or charges for services. Mr. Maxcy gave reasons for the requested increases. Further discussion was had regarding anticipated increase in sludge hauling. The Board requested review of the amount required to hire an additional Code Enforcement Officer.

Sheriff's Department

Ms. Nipper stated the personnel has decreased, operations will remain the same. Mr. Maxcy commented that the Sheriff will negotiate slightly on the amount of staff he is requesting. All other areas continue to increase. Sheriff Wise commented that he needs a second maintenance worker. Further discussion was had regarding areas of need. The Sheriff reminded the Board of revenue funds he has returned to the County in the past. He also mentioned he has heard a rumor concerning retiree insurance and hopes their benefit is not taken away. Ms. Nipper stated the money that is returned to the County from the Sheriff's Department is rolled into the fund balance and disbursed accordingly with the next budget. Commissioner Miller commented that he cannot find anyone that offers retiree benefits. At the time this was passed by the Board, perhaps the budget allowed such an event. The Board needs to look at every possible way to save money to avoid raising the millage rate. Commissioner Quave stated that the County cannot afford lifetime health insurance. Commissioner Langford commented regarding how the original policy on this issue took place. Further discussion was had.

Administration

Ms. Nipper stated that the bulk of this department's increase is in personnel services.

Economic Development

Ms. Nipper stated that this budget has decreased.

Facilities

Ms. Nipper stated this budget has decreased \$65,000.00 due to restructuring personnel.

Development

Ms. Nipper stated that this budget has decreased by \$4,000.00.

IT

Ms. Nipper stated this budget has decreased except in personnel. Incode and Excel are used to calculate the proposed budget presented to the Board.

Animal Control

Mr. Maxcy stated there are (2) part-time kennel tech. positions requested under personnel services. There is an increase requested in capital supplies due to building improvements needed. Mr. Maxcy stated that \$120,000.00 will pay for the (2) part-time kennel tech. positions and (3) new full-time

employees but this can be adjusted. Commissioner Quave suggested cutting the scope of responsibilities of the employees at Animal Control to relieve some of the pressure. Mr. Maxcy suggested continuing the conversation at the 3pm Board Meeting.

Social Services

Ms. Nipper stated the department as a whole is down \$139, 587.00 which most was in operating expenses.

Extension Office

Ms. Nipper stated there was a slight increase in travel & training.

Library

Ms. Nipper stated there was a decrease in the overall budget for this department. A position is being filled at a lower pay rate.

Probation

Ms. Nipper stated this budget had an increase in personnel due to retirement.

Parks

Ms. Nipper stated the Grants were removed. The general fund budget overall decreased as well as personnel services. There has been a decrease in staff. Operating/Supplies increased due to construction needed on a bathroom at Brownville Park.

Turner Center

Ms. Nipper stated that this budget has decreased with the exception of personnel. Commissioner Miller questioned the electric bill for the large building. Richard Metzger stated that it is a software issue. Johnson Controls will be installing a new system with better control.

Legal Services

Ms. Nipper reported a slight increase in personnel. Mr. Conn commented that the increase in operating/supplies is to cover the costs of LDR updates and revisions.

Administrative Services

Ms. Nipper stated that this budget has decreased by \$12,000.00

Human Resources

Ms. Nipper stated this department has increased due to increase operating expenses, miscellaneous and personnel.

Veteran Services

Ms. Nipper stated the increase in this budget is due to the position being advanced to full-time.

Miscellaneous/Non-Departmental

Ms. Nipper stated this covers countywide issues that are not specified to a particular department. This category has decreased \$372,385.00. Chairman Selph questioned the personnel fund and operating/supplies fund for this department. Ms. Nipper stated that personnel covers unemployment and/or retiree supplements. Operating/supplies covers property & casualty as well as dues and fees to other agencies.

Transfers

Ms. Nipper stated this showed an increase of \$691,531.00.

Outside Agencies

Ms. Nipper reported no change and will fund the same agencies.

Reserves

Ms. Nipper stated this fund was up and down.

SPECIAL REVENUES

LIHEAP

Ms. Nipper reported an overall decrease.

Road & Bridge

Ms. Nipper stated personnel services have increased due to retirement as well as operating/supplies. Commissioner Quave questioned debt. Ms. Nipper stated that debt is paying for a Gradeall and as the principal increases the interest decreases so it is a constant until paid in full which should be in approximately 1-2 years. Ms. Nipper stated that license and permit fees are shared with Engineering. Mr. Edwards commented that he really can't predict the amount of gas that will be used in his department. Further discussion was had.

Fuel Tax Fund

Ms. Nipper stated there is a small fund balance forward. These fuel tax funds go to Road & Bridge and Engineering to cover all transportation needs.

Engineering Revenue

Ms. Nipper stated that like Road & Bridge; this department has licenses and permits.

Intergovernmental- Ms. Nipper stated this is all Grants.

Miscellaneous Transfers- Ms. Nipper stated from General Fund and Fuel Tax Funds, non-operating. There is an overall decrease in every category including Grants.

Commissioner Quave questioned the costs for consulting engineering. Ms. Nipper stated Personnel Services covers (3) employees which is approximately \$200,000.00.

Public Safety

Ms. Nipper stated that overall this budget has decreased by \$497,682.00 including the Grants. This is an absolute bare budget. Commissioner Miller questioned the millage rate to offset expense. The millage offset will replace the funds that are transferred to Public Safety from the General Fund.

Emergency Management

Ms. Nipper stated this department is funded by Grants that are matched by the County through the General Fund.

Lighting Districts

Ms. Nipper stated these are all MSBUs that residents pay for those services.

E911

Ms. Nipper stated that charges for this service are in/out.

Housing

Ms. Nipper stated these are revenues and expenses including SHIP and CDBG. Chairman Selph questioned the amount for intergovernmental. These are funds that were not received last year but have been received this budget year.

Tourist Development

Ms. Nipper stated this is a tourist tax that is relatively new.

Mosquito Control

Ms. Nipper stated this is funded by the USDA and matched by the County.

Court Revenues

Ms. Nipper stated these funds come in through fines and fees and go out for specific purposes.

Debt Fund

Debt bills are paid from this fund. Roads, bonds refinance.

Turner Center Reconstruction Fund

Ms. Nipper stated this fund is almost complete.

Landfill Construction Revenue

Ms. Nipper stated this fund is doing well. A certain amount is required to stay in this fund so that DEP will know that the County is ready when the time comes.

Environmental Services

No increase in revenues at this time. An increase is anticipated in reserves. Environmental Solid Waste is also included.

Utilities Revenue

Ms. Nipper stated this is an enterprise fund that makes it own money coming in. This fund is in constant revision at the moment. Capital funds are being utilized. Commissioner Quave questioned miscellaneous fees. Ms. Nipper stated that miscellaneous revenues are interests, gains and losses, sale of assets, any debt proceeds and insurance reimbursements. Further discussion was had.

Building Department

Ms. Nipper stated it is doing well and holding steady.

Law Enforcement Trust

Ms. Nipper stated these are funds when the Sheriff seizes property, fines or forfeitures.

Fire Rescue Volunteers

Ms. Nipper stated this fund is new this year. This was a 5013C but is back under the County.

Commissioner Miller questioned revenues from the Turner Center. Ms. Nipper stated these come through General Fund Revenues.

Chairman Selph suggested discussing previous issues:

Code Enforcement- Commissioner Langford would like a breakdown of the variance and actual numbers. Mr. Maxcy requested direction from the Board regarding the millage rate. A decision is not required today. Mr. Maxcy stated that the issue of a new Code Enforcement Officer will carry over to the next budget workshop. Commissioner Miller commented that he is not in favor of a 1.5823 millage increase. Commissioner Quave commented that he also is not looking forward to a millage increase; however, he is tired of problems with no solutions. Commissioner Mansfield commented that he doesn't believe the Board wants a millage increase but still need to provide services to the constituents of the County. Commissioner Langford commented that the budget has decreased in the past due to hard times. Every department is important and he is not in favor of a tax increase. Commissioner Mansfield agreed with Commissioner Langford but commented that we cannot cut more personnel. Chairman Selph echoed their comments and that this is the most difficult year since he was elected as County Commissioner.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Selph adjourned the workshop at 11:14 AM.

ATTEST:

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



C. GUY MAXCY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



JAMES F. SELPH
CHAIRMAN