

**WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON AUGUST 27, 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 August 27, 2013 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1
Chairman, James Selph, Dist#2
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3
Commissioner, Elton Langford, Dist#4
Commissioner, Bob Miller, Dist#5
County Administrator, C. Guy Maxcy
County Attorney, Don Conn
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger
County Engineer, Mike Giardullo
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson
Interim Fire Chief, Larry Taylor

Planning Manager, Thomas Cookingham
Utilities Director, Eddie Miller
Social Services Director, Peggy Waters
Fire Chief, Glenn Prescott
HR Director, Don Kesterson
Office Manager, Lauri Jones
Environmental Svcs. Director, Henry Grimes
EM Director, Doug Christ
Building Official, Lester Hornbake
Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez

CALL TO ORDER 9:00 AM

ELECTED OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sheriff Will Wise and Mitzie McGavic, Clerk of Court

Mr. Maxcy stated we are approaching the final adoption of the 2013/2014 Budget. Mr. Maxcy stated that the newspaper made a mistake in advertising for today's Board Meeting and stated that the Board will vote on a matter at the 3:00pm meeting. The Board will vote on the matter at 6:30pm.

Mr. Maxcy along with Mandy Hines will present the proposed budget to the Board due to unforeseen circumstances.

Sheriff's Department

Sheriff Wise stated that there are no changes with his budget request other than a \$5,000.00 increase in the Nursing Contract which was added into the budget. The budget requested for: Communications \$836,223.00; Law Enforcement \$5,284,189.00; Corrections Division \$3,440,660.00; Court Services \$386,946.00; Sheriff Supplemental \$126,295.00 with the grand total of \$9,111,795.00.

Commissioner Miller questioned last year's budget compared to the current proposed budget. Further discussion was had.

Commissioner Langford questioned where the amount of 126,000.00 in Supplemental Grants & Aides. Sheriff Wise stated the amount is grants that are put back into the budget. Further discussion was had regarding the mandated FRS increase.

Mr. Maxcy stated the Sheriff is doing his best to provide the public safety issues and the services needed.

Presentation

Mr. Maxcy apologized for the untimely manner in which the Board received the budget information for today's workshop. Mr. Maxcy stated that the funds normally transferred to Public Safety have been used in the General Fund budget, as costs increased. There is less revenue each year while expenses remained fairly level. Mr. Maxcy reviewed revenues, expenses and balances. He also stated that expense increases are not staff driven. One option to help resolve this issue was to implement an MSBU/MSTU, the City of Arcadia did not agree.

Commissioner Miller questioned if in the fiscal year 2012/13, the amount of \$120,000.00 was transferred from the General Fund into Public Safety. Mandy Hines stated that the amount was actually \$1,200,000.00. Ms. Hines clarified that reserves are approximately \$2,000,000.00. She also stated the reserves are only \$154,000.000 if the 6.8987 millage remains. Further discussion was had. Commissioner Langford stated he is against increasing the millage rate.

Ms. Hines stated the millage increase will build a reserve that is not possible if we stay flat. If the current millage rate remains unchanged, the reserves will only have a balance of \$154,000.00.

Commissioner Miller questioned what the Board needs to cut in order to raise the reserves. He has requested HR to research the matter of post-employment retirement of \$281,000.00. He stated the Turner Center costs \$400,000.00 annually. He is not in favor of increasing taxes on people that are losing their homes.

Commissioner Langford is not in favor of a millage increase but unsure of any other option. He views the Turner Center as a tool to bring revenue to DeSoto County. He feels that cutting departments will result in additional costs in order to have someone else do the same job. Mr. Conn commented regarding Animal Control and stated there needs to be a way of handling dangerous dogs and protecting the public.

Chairman Selph commented regarding the closing of departments and the consequences of doing so. Mr. Maxcy explained the reason for Code Enforcement and Animal Control requesting additional employees.

Commissioner Quave questioned the need for Animal Control software. Jorge Hernandez stated that currently there is no software at all.

Commissioner Mansfield stated he is not in favor of cutting any department and we need to cut services first. He does not want to use credit cards to offset budget costs.

Commissioner Quave commented regarding the decrease in property taxes over the past years. He also does not want to cut departments. Taxes are going to decrease and increase but not permanently.

Mr. Maxcy feels that changes cannot be made if we continue to do things the way we always have.

Commissioner Quave suggested holding a Workshop to discuss new ideas for the Turner Center.

Mr. Maxcy stated he will take into consideration the Board's recommendations and ideas.

Commissioner Mansfield stated that all 67 counties in Florida are having the same struggles. Since 2008, the County has cut approximately 3,000,000.00 from the budget. He suggested the possibility of adjusting park hours in order to save money.

Commissioner Miller stated that he recently attended a Rural Caucus meeting in Clearwater and gained valuable information that could benefit DeSoto County.

Chairman Selph requested comments from the Board regarding the length of time to allow the public to speak regarding issues on tonight's agenda. It was consensus of the Board to allow 5-10 minutes.

Commissioner Quave requested that the Chairman does not allow the public to verbally attack staff.

Mr. Maxcy stated that everything will be included in the budget. He also requested the Board to make a decision on the amount they would like in reserves. It was consensus of the Board to have a reserve of \$2,000,000.00. Mr. Maxcy stated that the idea has been approached for a Capital Infrastructure or

Capital Equipment Purchasing Reserve and also an Economic Re-Development approach using the millage will be presented to the Board in the future.


ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman Selph adjourned the Workshop at 10:01 AM.

ATTEST:



C. GUY MAXCY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA


JAMES F. SELPH
CHAIRMAN