

**BUDGET MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2014 AT 6:30 PM  
IN THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MEETING ROOM  
ROOM 103, ADMINISTRATION BUILDING  
ARCADIA, FLORIDA**

The Board of County Commissioners held a Budget Meeting on September 8, 2014 with the following persons present:

Commissioner, Buddy Mansfield, Dist#1	Purchasing Director, Cindy Talamantez
Commissioner, James Selph, Dist#2	Fire Chief, Larry Taylor
Commissioner, Gabriel Quave, Dist#3	Planning Manager, Tom Cookingham
Chairman, Elton Langford, Dist#4	Utilities Director, Eddie Miller
Commissioner, Bob Miller, Dist#5	Compliance Director, Jorge Hernandez
County Administrator, Mandy Hines	Parks Director, Tara Anderson
County Attorney, Don Conn	Turner Center Director, Jody Sullivan
Transcribing Secretary, Jill Thompson	Env. Services Director, Henry Grimes
Administrative Services Director, Linda Nipper	Library Director, Linda Waters
Road & Bridge Director, Shawn Edwards	Emerg. Mgmt. Director, Doug Christ
Office Manager, Lauri Terry	Senior Staff Accountant, Brian Wagner
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger	Senior Accountant, Peter Danao
HR Director, Don Kesterson	

**ELECTED OFFICIALS**

Sheriff Will Wise

Marshall Matt Anderson

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRAYER** – Chairman Langford

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

Donna Collins gave a brief overview of the budget that has been discussed during the past workshops to include the following:

- Revenue Estimation Process
- Expenditure/Expense Estimation Process
- Total Budget Net of Transfers \$57,908,067
- Estimated Reserves \$2,044,945
- General Fund Revenues
- Continued decline in Revenues
- MSTU Tax Rates
- Prior year millage rate .4514
- Rollback millage rate .4671
- Current year tentative millage rate .9128
- Expenditure Summary
- Constitutional Officers
- Analysis of Capital BOCC Department

Uncontrollable cost increases

Commissioner Mansfield questioned the increase in insurance. Ms. Hines stated the coverage stays the same but the maximum out-of-pocket is increased. The co-pays will count toward the maximum out-of-pocket. Commissioner Miller commented we were able to reduce the real cost by tweaking the deductible slightly. Further discussion ensued.

- Major sources in Special Revenue Funds
- Significant Special Revenue Grants
- Analysis of Special Revenue Expenditures
- Special Revenue Requested Capital

Commissioner Miller questioned page 7, reserve amounts from the previous budget packet on August 28<sup>th</sup> and the packet being reviewed today. Ms. Hines stated grants were added back into today's packet. Ms. Nipper stated the grant changes need to show in our final budget.

- Overview of Enterprise Funds
- Analysis of Enterprise Fund Expenditures
- Overview of Agency Funds

### **DISCUSSION**

Commissioner Miller questioned Ms. Hines as to whether she can run the County without increasing taxes? Ms. Hines responded yes for this year.

Ms. Hines commented regarding revisiting debt payment and the date can be moved to January but she is waiting on what the cost or the implication would be; she will report to the Board when information is received.

Commissioner Miller commented he wants to see in writing/numbers, where the reserves have been spent.

Commissioner Mansfield commented there are two ways in which the Board has to collect revenue; increase millage rate and increase taxpayers. He would like to increase the taxpayers by requiring everyone to pay rather than just the people that are paying the Ad Valorem. Further discussion ensued.

Commissioner Quave commended staff and is looking forward to getting focused on where our revenue is coming from and classified. He is concerned with the City's Fire MSBU for commercial being different than residential which is causing the residential rates to be inflated.

Commissioner Mansfield thanked staff for trimming the budget.

Commissioner Selph thanked staff and hopes some things can be shifted to MSBUs. He commented we need to find revenue sources and there is not much more that can be cut in the departments.

Commissioner Miller does not want to put the burden on the taxpayers. He questioned the tentative millage rates. Ms. Nipper commented that it allows for unexpected flaws in the budget. It can always be lowered but cannot be increased. Further discussion ensued. Chairman Langford read into record the Resolution adopting the tentative levying of Ad Valorem taxes for DeSoto County EMS-MSTU for fiscal year 2014/15. A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to adopt said Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Quave. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Langford read into record the Resolution adopting the tentative budget in the amount of \$58,341,448.00 for DeSoto County for fiscal year 2014/15. A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to adopt said Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Selph. Motion carried unanimously. Chairman Langford read into record the Resolution adopting the tentative levying of Ad Valorem taxes for DeSoto County for fiscal year 2014/15. A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to adopt said

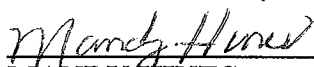
Resolution. Seconded by Commissioner Quave. Motion carried unanimously.


Mandy Hines questioned if there was any further direction from the Board regarding the final budget. She stated if the Board changes or adopts the MSTU-EMS at the tentative rate, it would result in increased revenue of approximately \$500,000,000 that would be realized as savings in the General Fund. Ms. Hines stated without this increase, our reserves will stay at \$2,000,000. This budget is balanced off the prior year's reserve as part of the fund balance. As long as our fund balance continues to decline, we will be back where we were 1 year ago with nothing at a reserve or tremendous cuts.

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Langford adjourned the meeting at 7:23 PM.

**ATTEST:**

  
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**MANDY HINES**  
**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION**  
**DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA**  
  
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**ELTON A. LANGFORD**  
**CHAIRMAN**