

**WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
HELD ON JULY 17, 2012 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 17, 2012 with the following persons present:

Vice-Chairman, Judy Schaefer, Dist#3,
Commissioner, Jim Selph, Dist#2
Commissioner, Elton A. Langford, Dist#4
Commissioner, Ronald P. Neads, Dist#5
County Administrator, C. Guy Maxcy
County Attorney, Donald Conn
Administrative Services Dir., Linda Nipper
Office Manager, Lauri Jones
Transcribing Secretary, Betty Phillips

County Coordinator, Mandy Hines
Transportation Director, Shawn Edwards
Fire Chief, Glenn Prescott
Purchasing Manager, Cindy Talamantez
Facilities Director, Richard Metzger
Emergency Management Manager, Doug Christ
Parks & Recreation Director, Tara Anderson
Social Services Manager, Peggy Waters
Contract Manager, Kim Casale

CALL TO ORDER

9:00 AM

PRAYER-Mr. Guy Maxcy

PLEDGE-INTRODUCTION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Mr. Maxcy stated that they have just begun working on the Budget and will continue to do so for the next several weeks. He indicated that there were serious problems in that they will have to dip into reserves in order to balance the Budget. Mr. Maxcy stated that the MSBU & MSTU's were out of sorts and needed to be addressed. He indicated that the Public Safety Department is now just meeting the standards that are set by law. Mr. Maxcy asked that the Board have faith in the staff and understand that there will be a lot of "no's" in staff requests. Commissioner Neads questioned the amount in Reserves last year and Ms. Nipper indicated that it was approximately 2.9 million. Mr. Maxcy stated that in reviewing this Budget the Reserves will be down to approximately \$350,000.00.

Ms. Nipper stated that on Page 1 there is a General Fund Revenue & Expense Summary. She included several scenarios including the current millage rate, the rollback rate, a ½ millage increase and a 1 millage increase. Ms. Nipper stated that she would proceed with discussing the Budget either page by page or however the Board would like for her to continue. Commissioner Neads stated that they have in the past always asked the Constitutional Officers to decrease their budgets and in this Budget there appears to be a 1.4 million increase in expenses. He indicated that it has to be fixed now and everyone is going to have to tighten their belts. Commissioner Neads stated that Ms. Nipper brought a Budget last year and then had to go back and hacked it up further and brought us a digestible Budget. Ms. Nipper agreed that there has already been some trimming; however the rest will have to be up to the Board to make some of those decisions. She indicated that she has offered some scenarios and pointed out that they are operating on the same Budget as in 2001. Commissioner Neads stated that this means we will probably have to cut some services understanding that Transportation, Public Safety and the Sheriff's Office are the main services that have to be provided. Mr. Maxcy stated that staff will continue to work on the Budget and that some services may have to be reduced.

Brief discussion followed regarding the grants being shown in the Budget as part of the 1.4 million expenses. Mr. Maxcy stated that they would be targeting some of those areas for reductions. Brief discussion followed regarding Public Safety and how hard the Board has worked to either stay at the current millage rate or reduced it. Commissioner Selph indicated that they need to take firm measures to balance a budget. Commissioner Neads referred to Mr. Maxcy's comment about the MSBU & MSTU budgets and indicated that raising taxes was not the way to balance the budget. Ms. Nipper stated that she brought this Budget to let the Board know how bad of shape they are in and let them consider the different scenarios. Ms. Nipper indicated that depending on which scenario the Board would let her consider will determine whether there will have to be any layoffs. Commissioner Neads still felt that government was still "too fat". Brief discussion followed regarding "wish lists". Commissioner Neads indicated that in the 12 years he has been on the Board, he has not seen us as in bad of shape as this. Commissioner Neads questioned the Sheriff's Budget increases. Sheriff Wise indicated that he was not prepared to get into his Budget today however; his does include COLA raises, employee replacement and increased fuel costs. He indicated that there are expenses that he does not control and that he would be ready to discuss at the next Workshop Meeting. Vice-Chairman Schaefer stated that she does not want to raise taxes and that they were going to have to cut something. She hoped that everyone would work together to lower the expenses. Ms. Nipper stated that Transportation is getting the job done so there will not be any leftover or transferred funds from prior years. Brief discussion followed regarding freezing any new purchases or hiring of new employees. Commissioner Langford stated that a lot of small counties are at the 10 mil rate and he was okay with looking at the rollback rate but he also did not want to raise taxes. He also indicated that everyone needs to justify any increases in expenses. Commissioner Selph questioned Ms. Nipper regarding what the "to-date" figures meant. Ms. Nipper explained those figures were until approximately mid-June figures. He also questioned whether some figures from this year be rolled over to next year. Ms. Nipper stated that they could freeze spending as they talked about earlier. Commissioner Selph also referred to Page 5-Sales Tax-Fiscally Challenged Counties and what she was expecting to receive prior to year ending. Ms. Nipper indicated that the State is usually several months behind in payments. The Board consensus was to have Ms. Nipper provide the figures regarding the rollback rates and preferably prior to the next Workshop. Mr. Maxcy stated that he has been amazed at how the County has been able to operate at the current millage rate and that they were going to have to look at long term solutions to fix some of these areas.

Sheriff Wise stated that he was sure they had read about the City of Arcadia looking at doing away with the Arcadia Police Department. He is scheduled to meet with the City this Friday and would prefer for the City to work with the Board on this issue. Sheriff Wise asked that Mr. Maxcy be allowed to attend the meeting with him. Brief discussion followed regarding the City taxing methods. Mr. Maxcy was directed to attend the meeting. Sheriff Wise stated that for the record he does not advocate the County taking over the City Police Department.

Mr. Ernest Hewett stated that it is Mr. Fink's belief, under Florida Statute, that the City is under no obligation to provide police protection within the City. He indicated that Mr. Fink was looking to cut the budget of the police force and turn those responsibilities over to the Sheriff at no cost to the City. Brief discussion followed regarding the City wanting to also void the Fire/EMS Agreement. Chief Prescott briefly discussed what the City agreed to for the Fire/EMS Agreement.

Vice-Chairman Schaefer stated that for the record Commissioner Mansfield was absent today because

of a prior commitment and the next Workshop is scheduled following the Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 24, 2012.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Vice-Chairman Schaefer adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

ATTEST:

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



C. GUY MAXCY
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR



JURIL O. MANSFIELD
CHAIRMAN