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

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 28th 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 MSBU’s. 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 levy 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 levy of Ad Valorem taxes for DeSoto County for fiscal year 2014/15. A motion was made by Commissioner Mansfield to adopt said Resolution.
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:

MANDY HINES
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSION
DESOOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA

ELTON A. LANGFORD
CHAIRMAN