

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AUGUST 2, 2004.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a budget workshop on Monday, August 2, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located at 210 South Main Street, Trenton, Florida, with the following members present to-wit:

Commissioner Randy Durden, Chair
Commissioner Wilbur Bush
Commissioner Mitchell Gentry, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Sue Suggs

(Absent: Commissioner Langford)

Others in attendance were: Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Court, Karen Heaton, Deputy Clerk, Ron McQueen, EMA/County Administrator, Sam Ferguson, Director of Finance, Linda Walker, Delight Curtis, Evelyn Meece, Jeff Jordan, John Ayers.

Call to Order:

Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Gilliam reviewed the changes made to the proposed budget since the last budget workshop on July 26, 2004. He pointed out that there remains a deficit in the amount of \$105,372. He recommended that the Board attempt to reach a balanced budget with \$500,000 in Reserve to begin FY 04/05.

EMS Department (#2620):

Mr. Gilliam told the Board that the EMS Department has done extremely well with collections this fiscal year. He referred to the budget recap and pointed out that the EMS Departments estimated revenues exceed the estimated expenditures by an amount of \$227,817.

Ms. Walker referred to the proposed budget recap and suggested that #56490, Ambulance Remount be increased from \$90,000 to \$180,000 in order to purchase two (2) new ambulances.

Ms. Walker referred to the line item for education, #53160, and advised she has two (2) additional EMTs interested in Paramedic School this year. She recommended an increase of the line item from \$3,000 to \$9,000. Commissioner Gentry stated that he has discussed this issue with Ms. Walker and he recommends approval. Discussion was held concerning the policy for reimbursement of education expenses. It was agreed that assisting the employees with obtaining their Paramedic training is an incentive for the EMTs and would provide better service for the County.

Mr. McQueen mentioned that the EMS Department has provided extrication equipment to many of the fire departments in the past and that there is a need for new multi-tool systems and stabilizers. He recommended that this equipment be purchased in the next fiscal year from #56400, Machinery & Equipment.

Ms. Walker suggested that #54310, Hazardous Waste Disposal, be increased from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Ms. Walker also requested the Board to consider an hourly increase for EMTs and Paramedics of \$0.48 per hour. She explained that with the \$1,000 increase, the shift employees's hourly rate is calculated at \$0.32 per hour while the 40-hour employee's increase is \$0.48. Discussion was held concerning the fact that the shift employees work 32 hours overtime per pay period and should be compensated at the same hourly rate as a 40-hour employee who works overtime. The increase would total approximately \$1,597 per employee instead of \$1,000. She stated that there are 12 shift employees which would be a total increase of \$7,200 to #51200.

Chairman Durden listed the proposed changes requested this meeting:

#51200	from \$443,653 to \$450,853
#53160	from \$3,000 to \$9,000
#54310	from \$2,000 to \$5,000
#54923	from \$3,000 to \$5,000
#56490	from \$90,000 to \$180,000

Motion by Commissioner Suggs, seconded by Commissioner Gentry, to approve the changes listed. Mr. Gilliam reminded the Board that the annual rate resolutions for EMS and Solid Waste will be scheduled for the September 9, 2004 meeting. He stated that this is a mechanism by which the Board may lower the special assessment rates if it determines there is excess funds generated by those departments. He pointed out that the reason for this year's surplus is the diligent effort of the EMS staff in collections. The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

Commissioner Suggs left the meeting at 4:55 p.m.

Ms. Walker and Mr. McQueen discussed the need for new ambulances in the future. Commissioner Gentry suggested that Ms. Walker to continue to pursue the grants for the ambulances.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Gentry moved to adjourn at 5:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried.

APPROVED:

ATTEST:

Randy Durden, Chairman

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk