

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AUGUST 23, 2004.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a budget workshop on Monday, August 23, 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 Tommy Langford

(Absent: Commissioner Suggs)

Others in attendance were: Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Court, Karen Heaton, Deputy Clerk, Sam Ferguson, Director of Finance, Jacki Johnson, Deputy Clerk, Ron McQueen, EMA/County Administrator, Ron Mills, Justin Watson, Diane Rondolet, Sheriff David Turner, Bryant Frye, Jeff Jordan, Harvey Montgomery, John Ayers, Alan Mikell, Tony Cruze.

Chairman Durden called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Mr. Gilliam presented a proclamation request from the University of Florida Inaugural Steering Committee.

PROCLAMATION 04-07
A PROCLAMATION CELEBRATING THE DAYS OF SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2004 AS
“THE GRAND INAUGURAL OF THE 11TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF
FLORIDA.”

On September 10th, Dr. J. Bernard Machen will be inaugurated as the University's 11th president. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the proclamation. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Durden requested the October 4th meeting be rescheduled to October 11. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to reschedule the first meeting in October to October 11. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ferguson referred to a budget recap sheet which included the revisions made in the previous budget workshops. He pointed out that the General Fund balanced with a \$35,158 surplus. Mr. Ferguson also provided two (2) proposals submitted by Commissioner Gentry and Chairman Durden for consideration. He advised that Sheriff Turner has submitted a revised budget request in the amount of \$2,445,594.44 which represents an increase of 7% (\$179,223.60) over last year's budget.

Mr. Gilliam reviewed the revisions which were made since the last budget workshop.

GF EXPENDITURES		REVENUE	
Meridian	\$(34,622)	Carryforward	\$ 92,000
Trenton Downtown Redevelopment	\$ 29,059	Uncollectible Allow.	\$ (2,925)
Veterans Dept. Health Ins.	\$ (2,855)	Incr. Court Related Technology	\$ 10,000
Veteran Dept. Travel	\$ 500	Incr. CF Crime Prevention Fund	\$ 200
Veteran Dept. Life & Salary	\$ 120	Crime Prevention Revenue	\$ 500
GF MetLife	\$ 215	Fanning Springs Code Enforcement	\$ 2,500
Animal Control Salary Inc.	\$ 1,165		
Decrease Travel Out to State Attorney/Public Defender	\$(15,420)		
Increase Crime Prevention Fund	\$ 700		
TOTAL	\$(21,138)		\$ 102,275

Sheriff's Office:

Sheriff Turner told the Board, that after the last workshop, he and his staff had reviewed the original request and cut all of the new positions and all but two (2) vehicles. It was also necessary to add the positions for the School Crossing Guards to the proposal which had previously been taken out. The revised budget request represents an increase in the amount of \$179,223.60. Sheriff Turner stated that the increase basically covers the salary increases and related expenses, the health insurance increase and the increases in operating costs.

Budget Proposals:

Chairman Durden reviewed the two (2) proposals (*Proposal A & Proposal B*). He pointed out that the proposals contain the same total reduction amount, \$385,319 and have equal reduction amounts for the following budgets:

Fund #	Fund Title	Deduction
#1110	General Government	\$ (9,400)
#1920	Courthouse Operations	\$ (2,500)
#1930	Other Buildings	\$ (2,963)
#2410	Protective Inspections	\$ (6,000)
#2720	Animal Control	\$ (550)
#3730	County Extension	\$ (1,600)
#7110	Library	\$ (1,200)
#7210	Hart Springs	\$ (10,000)

	TOTAL REDUCTIONS	\$ (34,213)
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Chairman Durden explained that he had met with the Finance Department and reviewed the expenditures for each department to date and used those amounts to estimate the amount needed for FY 04/05.

Motion by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to approve the budget changes for General Government, Courthouse Operations, Other Buildings, Protective Inspections, Animal Control, County Extension, Library, and Hart Springs, totaling \$34,213. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Durden referred to the proposals and pointed out the amounts are different for the following budgets:

BUDGET	Proposal "A"	Proposal "B"
Road Dept., Fuel	\$ (6,000)	\$ (10,000)
Road Dept., Materials	\$ (9,000)	\$ (13,000)
Road Dept., transfer (Vac. Position)	\$ (30,386)	\$ (30,386)
Total Transportation	\$ (45,386)	\$ (53,386)
Clerk to BOCC	\$ (15,000)	\$ 0
Sheriff	\$ (282,000)	\$ (289,000)
Transfers Out	\$ 780	\$ 780
Chamber	\$ (9,500)	\$ (9,500)
TOTAL	\$ (351,106)	\$ (351,106)

(Proposal "A" submitted by Commissioner Gentry and Proposal "B" submitted by Chairman Durden)

Chairman Durden referred to the deduction of **\$9,500** for the Chamber budget and stated that after this reduction, the budget will be \$7,500. He stated that the County also provides an additional \$16,000 in office space and utilities. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to accept the change for the Chamber budget. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gilliam advised the increase in the amount of **\$780** for the "transfer out" is to cover the proposed cost for MetLife. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to accept the change in the amount of \$780 for the transfer out. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Gentry referred to the decrease in the amount of **\$30,386** which represents a vacant position in the Road Department. He suggested that this position be cut for now in order to help balance the budget. The position was previously held by John Philman who transferred to another department. **Motion** by commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to take out the vacant position and decrease the Transportation Budget by \$30,386. The motion carried with Commissioner Langford voting "no."

Chairman Durden referred to the differences in the proposals for the Clerk's Budget. Mr. Gilliam recalled that in a previous workshop, he had agreed to reduce this budget by \$10,000. He stated that if possible, he will need the \$5,000 to meet the budget for personal services. Mr. Gilliam explained that in the past the Board approved three budgets for his office and he was able to divide some of personal services between those departments. However, since Article V came into effect, he is not able to make up those difference through the other budgets. Commissioner Gentry told the Board that he had suggested the \$15,000 reduction based on the cuts made to the Road Department and the Sheriff's Office, as these departments were also in need of increases in personal services. He said that they are just getting by the curve on what it takes fo operate those departments and it may even be worse next year. Mr. Gilliam agreed that it will not be any easier next year but by reducing the request by the \$5,000 this year it will compound the problem. Chairman Durden explained he had recommended the \$10,000 cut in Fuel and the \$13,000 in Road Materials based upon the expenses for the past two years. He stated that even with a reduction by these amounts, there should be sufficient funds for those line items. **Motion** by Commissioner Langford, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to reduce the Clerk's Budget by **\$10,000**. The motion carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to reduce the Road Department line item for fuel by \$10,000 and for materials by \$13,000. The motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Durden pointed out with this action, \$10,000 will need to be reallocated. Commissioner Gentry recommended that the proposed deduction for the Sheriff's budget be amended to include the \$10,000. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Bush, to reduce the Sheriff's budget request by \$279,000 from the original budget request. This will increase that budget by \$135,000 over FY 03/04. Sheriff Turner stated that with the revised proposal he submitted, there is a 7% increase. This included the crossing guard positions that had been added back into the budget since the initial request. He asked the Board to take into consideration the fact that the demands on the Sheriff's Office is steadily increasing and that the deputies are in high risk positions. He told the Board that he does understand that there needs to be a certain amount in Reserve but he has a problem with balancing the safety and the security of the community to get that amount. He contended that every year he is told that there is not enough funds for his budget request but the Board has added positions and purchased vehicles for the Board departments from Reserve throughout the year. Sheriff Turner stated that he is accountable to the citizens concerning funds he does ask for. Chairman Durden told Sheriff Turner that he fully agrees with the importance of the services the Sheriff's Office provides but that he did not recall funding new positions or vehicles from Reserve. He explained that the new positions and vehicles in the Road Department were paid for through reserve funds within that Department that had been slated for other vacant positions and for equipment that had not been purchased. Commissioner Gentry stated that reoccurring expenses are not paid for out of Reserve. Commissioner Langford asked Sheriff Turner for the amount needed for the salary increases and the health insurance increases. Sheriff Turner stated that these total \$96,955.50. Sheriff Turner stated that the Board also needs to consider the liability it faces for such things as the jail and the lack of immediate response because there are not enough deputies. The motion on the floor carried unanimously.

The Board scheduled a budget workshop for August 30 @ 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Justin Watson advised that Highland Tractor began tearing down the old bulldozer to determine the extent of the repairs that will be needed. He said that he had looked at a John Deere bulldozer that includes a warranty to May 2006 or 5,000 hours. Mr. Watson stated he would obtain the prices and bring back to the Board.

Mr. McQueen recalled at the last meeting there were questions concerning the well at South East. He advised that he and Commissioner Gentry met with Andrew Carswell concerning moving the well. Mr. Carswell requested bids from eight (8) well drillers and only received two (2) back. **Motion** by Commissioner Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Langford, to accept the lowest bid for the well drilling. The motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Gentry moved to adjourn at 5:26 p.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bush and carried.

APPROVED:

Randy Durden, Chairman

ATTEST:

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk