

MINUTES OF AN OTHER AGENCIES BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD JULY 25, 2005.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a budget workshop on Monday, July 25, 2005 at 10:00 a.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 Mitchell Gentry, Chair
Commissioner Randy Durden, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Sharon Langford
Commissioner Kenrick Thomas
Commissioner Tommy Langford

Others in attendance were: Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk of Circuit Court, Janice Wasson, Deputy Clerk, Jacki Johnson, Finance, Ron McQueen, John Ayers, Ron Mills, James Winters, Julie Thomas, Dan Taylor, Hannah Taylor, Shannon Fine, Betty Ramsey, Iris Roberts, and Carol McQueen.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Gentry called the workshop to order at 10:00 a.m.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: (1/6) Jim Winters was present to requesting \$42,731 from the Board for 2005-2006. Mr. Winters reviewed several new programs offered by Meridian (*12 bed group home located in Lake City and a Methadone dosing program in Gainesville*), and made corrections to the letter presented to the Board (*total number of clients served in Gilchrist County, CSU services, outpatient council, and medical services*).

Commissioner Durden requested a copy of the budget for Meridian, and recommended postponing any decision by the Board until the budget is received. The Board discussed the corrections being made to the information presented to the Board, and stated that supporting documentation would assist the Board in their decision.

Suwannee Valley League: (1/330-2/145) Todd Bryant and Scott Guthrie were present to request \$24,500 from the Board for 2005-2006. Mr. Bryant presented the Board with an October, 2004 through June, 2005 budget. He stated that SVL did raise more money during All Stars than what was spent. Mr. Bryant and Mr. Guthrie stated that the note for the lights (FRDAP Grant) will be paid in approximately one year, and that the SVL has no other debts. Mr. Bryant reviewed with the Board the number of children within each area of the program offered, and also advised the Board of revenue earned from the men's and co-ed leagues utilizing the fields.

The Board discussed the prior year funding, and utilizing the State prisoners. The Board questioned previous agreements between the County and City of Trenton; however, Mr. Bryant stated that SVL had not received consistent assistance from the prisoners.

Mr. Bryant advised the Board of the bleacher project that SVL is currently working on. The Board recommended that SVL meet with Ron McQueen to learn more about the FRDAP Grant application process, procedure, and possible projects. The Board discussed several findings by the auditors regarding prior year funding.

The Board requested that the County coordinate the schedule with the prisoners to ensure the best mowing schedule for the fields, and also discussed several options for fields located within the County, and the possible benefits for the County and the league (*Sun 'N' Fun subdivision, and also the field in the Spring Ridge Subdivision*).

Chairperson Gentry requested a Committee of Ron McQueen, Commissioner Tommy Langford, Todd Bryant, Lydia Taylor Harold, and Terry Parrish to review issues surrounding recreation.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council: (2/146) Charlie Justice was present, and presented a request for funds for 2005-2006. He stated that the General Membership Assessment, and stated that the rate had been in place for more than 20 years, however the population increase

raises the Board's expense.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to fund North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, General Membership Assessment, \$4,521 . Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Justice discussed a contribution of \$1,000 for the original Board of Tourism Taskforce. He stated that this contribution had been made each year by Ginnie Springs, and that they had agreed to make the contribution for 2005-2006.

Mr. Justice requested \$2,697 for the Annual Hazardous Waste Monitoring Program, required by the State of Florida.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to fund North Florida Regional Planning Council, Annual Hazardous Waste Monitoring Program, \$2,697. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

The Board requested that a thank you note be sent to Barbara Wray Suggs, Ginnie Springs.

Shared Services Network: (2/339) Buddy Vickers and Jim Surrency were present and requested \$5,000 for the 2005-2006. Mr. Surrency advised the Board of the organization, and their role in the collaboration between School District, County Commission, Community College, State Attorney Office, Cities, and other Constitutional Officers, along with limiting the duplication of services offered in the County. He advised the Board that a video and website have been created, a mentoring system is in place, and that a second video had been created and distributed throughout the County. He explained that the second video, *the Heart of Gilchrist County*, is a marketing video that serves as a source of publicity for the County.

Mr. Gilliam commented on the video that Lake City Community College helped prepare is being continually used by businesses and realtors in the County.

Motion by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to fund Shared Services with \$5,000 for the 2005-2006 budget year. The Board discussed the availability of the video. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Chamber of Commerce: (2/640) Julie Thomas was present and introduced Morene Gentry, Executive Director, to the Board. Mr. Gilliam and Commissioner Durden advised the Board of exparte contact, and disclosed the contents of that contact. The Chamber of Commerce is requesting \$17,500 for the 2005-2006.

Historical Society: (2/791) Dan Taylor was present and requested \$1,200 for the Historical Society. He requested the Board will commit to the funding. Mr. Gilliam advised of the action taken by the Board in regards to the request of re-naming SR26 to Veteran's Memorial Highway in honor of the fallen Sgt Ricky Lord, USMC. Mr. Taylor acknowledged the lengthy process in the highway re-naming, and stated that the Historical Society would make the recognition to all fallen servicemen and servicewomen.

Motion by Commissioner Sharon Langford, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to fund the Historical Society, \$1,200. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Soil & Water Conservation District: (2/1199) Ms. Darlene Smith was present to request \$11,139 for the 2005-2006 budget year. She stated that the new position presented by Hugh Thomas and Darrell Smith would be considered separate from her budget request.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to approve the Soil & Water Conservation District, \$11,139. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

L.A.R.C.: (2/1311) No representative was present for the presentation to the Board, however the Board discussed their funding.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve \$1,000 for L.A.R.C. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

WellFlorida Council: (2/1483) The Board discussed funding in previous years, and decided to defer until later in the meeting.

Bell Library: (2/1585) No representative was present for the presentation to the Board, however the Board discussed their funding.

Motion by Commissioner Sharon Langford, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve \$5,000 for the Bell Library. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Character First Council: (2/1614) Chairperson Gentry raised the issue of funding for the Character Council, and the Board recommended that a written request be presented to the Board at a regular meeting. He stated that the Board funded \$1,500 later in the year (*last year*) for the publication of a hardback book, and stated that he would like to see the Board fund the organization.

Clyde Townsend: (2/1748) Mr. Gilliam questioned the letter distributed to the Board by Mr. McQueen from Mr. Townsend, and the Board discussed the issue of increasing the cost.

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to increase the cost of rock to \$10 per load (per truck) to Clyde Townsend beginning October 1, 2005. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Salary Incentive Bonuses: (2/2190-3/350) The Board discussed several options regarding incentive bonuses. Mr. Gilliam recommended that if the Board decided to allow for incentive bonuses, that the Board Departments get together and arrive at a policy/guideline for evaluations. The Board discussed the \$1,000 per employee, and the fact that the Governor recommended a 3.5% increase. Commissioner Tommy Langford stated that it had been his idea to provide some kind of incentive to promote employees to stay with the County, for a longer career and in increase productivity. Mr. Gilliam discussed the incentive as an annual increase instead of a cost-of-living increase in regards to budgeting funds by the Board. The Board discussed beginning the incentives next year.

Mr. Justin Watson, Road Department, spoke in regards to the effort of different employees within the County. Mr. Gilliam recommended the Human Resource side provide recommendations to the Board. Discussion was also made regarding guidelines for the Department Heads to follow in evaluating each employee, and also incentives in regards to Constitutional Officers.

L.A.R.C.: (3/351) Shannon Fine came before the Board requesting funding for the 2005-2006 budget year. The Board advised Ms. Fine that the request had been funded for the 2005-2006 budget year.

Road Department: (3/425) Mr. Justin Watson requested \$5,798 for the purchase of culverts.

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to approve \$5,798 to the Road Department from General Fund Reserve. Mr. Watson stated that he wanted to have the installation of the culverts prior to hurricane season. After further discussion, the motion was withdrawn by Commissioner Thomas until the August 1, 2005 Regular Meeting.

Balancing Transportation: (3/635) Mr. Gilliam recommended that the Board balance the transportation budget for the 2005-2006 budgeting year, by transferring in monies from General Reserve to Transportation.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to transfer \$60,813 from General Reserve to Transportation to balance Transportation, with an additional \$12,000 for the increased expense of rock, and \$10,000 for Reserve, totaling \$82,813. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Motion by Commissioner Sharon Langford, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to remove the

\$5,000 request for merit raises from the Road Department's budget. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Solid Waste: (3/760) Mr. Gilliam recommended that a decision be made regarding Solid Waste.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to increase the proposed Solid Waste Special Assessment rate 50%, including the City of Trenton. The Board discussed bagged, household garbage, commercial garbage, and limiting littering within the County. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Gilliam stated that he would bring rate quotes back at the August 1, 2005 Regular Meeting.

Pure Water Wilderness: (3/1330) Ms. Carol McQueen was present to make a formal request for \$5,000 funding from the Board for 2005-2006. She stated that \$5,000 is requested from all the Counties, with a match from Enterprise Florida.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve funding of \$5,000 for Pure Water Wilderness. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

The Board discussed the position for the Chamber, and Ms. McQueen updated the Board on the continual search. Ms. McQueen explained her understanding of the taxation for tourism in regards to renters.

Bell Library: (3/1945) Ms. Iris Roberts was present to make a request of \$5,000 from the Board for 2005-2006. The Board advised Ms. Roberts that they had approved the request earlier in the meeting. Mr. Gilliam questioned if the Bell Library could use surplus computers, and requested approval from the Board to the Bell Library.

Motion by Commissioner Tommy Langford, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to donate any additional computers to the Bell Library. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Suwannee River Resource Conservation: (3/2114) No representative was present to make their request from the Board. The Board discussed the letter received from Russell Pope, and the \$1,100 fund request. The Board stated there was not enough information presented to make a decision, and requested that Mr. Pope be given the opportunity to appear at a regular meeting.

WellFlorida Council: (3/2368) No representative was present for the presentation to the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Durden, seconded by Commissioner Thomas, to fund WellFlorida Council \$1,146 for the 2005-2006 budget year. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: (3/2455) Jacki Johnson advised the Board that she had received an 80 plus page budget document, and will provide a copy for the Board at the August 1, 2005 meeting.

Suwannee Valley Leagues: (3/2558-4/325) The Board discussed funding a portion of the expense for recreation, and also discussed the procedure followed in other counties.

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Tommy Langford, to approve \$12,000 for Suwannee Valley Leagues funding for 2005-2006 budget year. The Board discussed Bell Boys & Girls, and the Board was advised that Bell Boys & Girls were offered the same opportunity to make a request of the Board. Motion carried unanimously with a 5-0 vote.

Mr. Gilliam advised (4/326) the Board that even though several of the Board members have stated that the 2005-2006 budget was one of the easier budgets to handle, and he cautioned the Board that there is a long road ahead of the Board to adopt a budget, and that the Board has several big ticket items pending.

Chamber of Commerce: (4/509) The Board discussed the revenue supporting an employee for the Chamber, and discussed a different approach that the Chamber does business, in a more positive direction. Commissioner Durden advised the Board of the change in the use of membership fees, and

stated that a portion will be used towards promoting the Chamber.

Motion by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to increase Chamber of Commerce budget \$10,000 to total \$17,500 for the 2005-2006 budget year.

Motion amended by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Durden, to approve \$12,500 funding for the Chamber of Commerce. Chairperson Gentry stated that he objects to increasing the funds from \$7,500 (same as 2004-2005), and that he feels the money would be better spent with the Suwannee Valley Leagues. He also stated that the Chamber is an organization that should operate on that budget until we can see some kind of result in this new direction. Commissioner Tommy Langford stated that he objects to increasing the funding on the basis that cutting the Director's salary equals a substantial savings. Motion carried with a 3-2 vote, with Commissioner Thomas voting yes; Commissioner Tommy Langford voting no; Commissioner Durden voting yes; Commissioner Sharon Langford voting yes; and Chairperson Gentry voting no.

August 1, 2005 Workshop: (4/1100) Mr. Gilliam asked the Board what information would be needed from Finance, and stated that the workshop would begin at 9:00 a.m.

Adjournment: (4/1261) There being no further business, ***Commissioner Tommy Langford made a motion to adjourn, motion carried unanimously,*** and the Workshop was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

APPROVED:

Mitchell Gentry, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk