

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD JULY 31, 2006.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a Budget Workshop on Monday, July 31, 2006 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 Tommy Langford, Chairperson
Commissioner Durden, Vice-Chairperson
Commissioner Kenrick Thomas
Commissioner Sharon Langford
Commissioner Mitchell Gentry

Others in attendance were: Joe Gilliam, Clerk of Court, Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, Janice Wasson, Deputy Clerk, Ron McQueen, County Administrator, James Wilkerson, JM Everett, Daniel Slaughter, Harvey Montgomery, Molly Brannen, Terry Parrish, Iris Roberts, Tony Cruse, John Ayers, Diane Rondolet, Ron Mills, Justin Watson, Sheryl Brown, Patrick Cardsko, Gail Cardasko, Roger Hemmon, Thomas Scott, Karen Klubertanz, Donna Creamer, Carol Buck, Shirley Anderson, Maggie Labarta, Julie C. Thomas, Mollie Branning, Todd Bryant, Steve Buckles, Rosa Bowers, Barbara Gamble, Eddie Reynolds, Geneva Cornwell, Krishna Frye, Holly Bussard and Susan Lloyd.

Call to Order: Chairman Tommy Langford called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Agenda Changes: Chairman Tommy Langford advised that the Health Department Budget is removed from the agenda and will be rescheduled for a later budget workshop.

Bell Library: Ms. Iris Roberts was present representing the Bell Library. Chairman Tommy Langford read a letter from the "Friends of the Library" outlining the current programs, the expansion of the Children's Department and the updates for the computers. The requested budget amount for FY 06/07 is \$5,000.00.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: Ms. Margarita Labarta, President, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, presented a budget request in the amount of \$40,750.00. She explained that the County's required State match is \$105,000.00 but the organization expects to raise \$64,250.00. Ms. Labarta reviewed the services offered by Meridian and answered questions directed by the Board.

Pure Water Wilderness: Ms. Donna Creamer, Executive Director, Pure Water Wilderness, presented a budget request for FY 06/07 in the amount of \$5,000.00. She explained that the Dixie, Gilchrist, Levy Tourist Development Board (TDB) was recently awarded its fourth consecutive Rural Regional Development Grant. The grant required a cash match and each of the three counties in the Pure Water Wilderness contributed \$5,000.00.

Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: Ms. Carroll Buck, member of the Board of Directors, Meridian Behavioral Healthcare, asked the Board to consider approval of the FY 06/07 budget request for Meridian. She explained that it may be necessary to consolidate the centers this year if the organization does not receive the requested funding from the participating counties.

Gilchrist County Historical Society: Mr. J.M. Everett, representing Gilchrist County Historical Society, asked the Board to consider approval for FY 06/07 budget request in the amount of \$1,200.00. Mr. Everett also brought to the attention of the board that there will be a program/parade in honor of Veterans Days.

Road Department: Mr. Justin Watson, Superintendent of the Road Department, advised the Board of a Change Order for lime rock and asphalt for the new location of the Road Department. The Department of Transportation sent back a permit increasing the asphalt from two inches to three inches and the lime rock from ten inches to twelve inches. Mr. Watson asked the Board for an additional \$11,302.00 for increased cost for lime rock and asphalt.

Motion made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Sharon Langford, to approve the Change Order, \$11,302, for the increased cost in lime rock and asphalt for the new Road Department site. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting recessed at 4:30 p.m.

The meeting reconvened at 4:48 p.m.

Letter of Resignation: Mr. Ron McQueen, County Administrator, advised the Board of a Letter of Resignation from Randy Wiggins, the current Building Official. He stated the letter was forwarded to the labor attorney. Mr. Grogan has drafted a response; Mr. McQueen wanted to be sure that the Board didn't have any issues with him accepting the resignation and providing a response. The Board is in agreement that Mr. McQueen follows the course of the labor attorney's recommendations to satisfy the letter of resignation of Randy Wiggins, Building Official.

Emergency Management Replacement Vehicle: Ms. Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, presented the results of the sealed bids for the truck requested by the Emergency Management Department. The bids were opened on July 28, 2006 by herself and Mr. Rob Willis.

Motion by Commissioner Randy Durden, seconded by Commissioner Mitchell Gentry, to approve the bid received from Gainesville Ford, \$24,843.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Bell Girl's Softball Team: Mr. Ron McQueen, County Administrator, advised the Board of the outcome of the national play offs. The girls placed seventh in the tournament.

Character Council: Ms. Diane Cornwell, representing the Character Council, presented the Board with a Special Appreciation Award for their support throughout the year. Ms. Cornwell read letter to the Board addressing their budget request in the amount of \$1,000.00 and reviewed with the Board.

Chairman Tommy Langford wanted to make it clear that these are BUDGET PROPOSALS. He explains the proposals are taken into consideration and reviewed for funding at a budget workshop scheduled for a later date.

Chamber Of Commerce: Mr. Damon Leggett, representing the Chamber of Commerce, passed out Gilchrist Guides and Maps. Mr. Leggett presented a budget request in the amount of \$15,000.00 which represents an increase in the amount of \$2,500.00 over last years budget.

Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast: Ms. Susie Lloyd, representing Early Learning Coalition of the Nature Coast addressed the Board with their funding request of \$5,000.00 and reviewed with the Board the nature of their request. The Coalition strives to provide early education and care professionals the necessary resources to offer a quality environment for children. The programs offered in Gilchrist County include Professional Development; Teacher Incentive Program; Literacy Outreach; Waterford Early Reading pilot Program & Child Assets. Their goal is to provide more books for reading, fun & interactive tools for learning and opportunities for early learning teachers to further their knowledge in early childhood education.

LARC, Levy Association for Retarded Citizens: Ms. Barbara Gamble, representing the LARC, addressed the Board with their budget request of \$1300.00 and reviewed letter sent by Mrs. Betty Walker

Shared Services Network: No representation

Suwannee River Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc: No representation

Suwannee Valley Leagues: Mr. Todd Bryant and Mr. Steve Buckles addressed the Board with their budget request and reviewed with the Board the possibility of building a new field. Discussion continued with putting a fence around the field to help with the safety of the players and spectators. Because of the location to the highway, fencing will have to be placed for safety purposes along with other repairs to existing structures. Also, lighting issues were discussed. Expansion of the current field was made due to the fact that there is so much already invested in this field.

Waccasassa VFD, Senior Citizens Food Pantry: Mr. Rick Weeder, representing Waccasassa VFD, Senior Citizens Food Pantry, presented and reviewed with the Board with their budget request of \$12000.00 and reviewed with the Board. When asked by the Board about the accountability of the funds received, Mr. Weeder stated that checks can be made to “The Bread of the Mighty Food Banks”, and the funds would credit the Senior Citizens Food Pantry’s account.

WellFlorida Council: Ms. Karen Klubertanz, representing WellFlorida Council, addressed the Board with the budget request of \$1,195.00 for FY2006-07 and reviewed with the Board the mission of the council. Ms. Klubertanz offered assistance with seeking grant writing for other agencies within the County.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council: Mr. Joe Gilliam, Clerk of Court, addressed the Board on behalf of the council.

Shared Services Network: Mr. Joe Gilliam, Clerk of Court, also addressed the Board on behalf of the network with the proposed budget of \$5,000.00.

Suwannee River Resource Conservation & Development Council, Inc: Mr. Joe Gilliam, Clerk of Court, spoke briefly on the budget request of \$1,100.00 for the council, and bought up Hugh Thomas, Gilchrist County Soil & Water Conservation District. Ms. Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, addressed the Board on behalf of Mr. Hugh Thomas regarding issues on grant approval and establishing a new position.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council, Florida Association of Counties, and Small County Coalition: Mr. Joe Gilliam, Clerk of Court, touched briefly on the yearly requests for these agencies and stated that usually no representative addresses the Board to make a presentation.

Budget Recap: Ms. Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, presented and reviewed an updated budget recap update.

Police Benevolent Association Mailing: Commissioner Randy Durden addressed the Board and requested the Board to compile a Committee to address the issues contained within the recent PBA mailing.

Motion made by Commissioner Mitchell Gentry, seconded by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas, to appoint a Committee of Joe Gilliam, Jacki Johnson, Ronnie McQueen and Commissioner Randy Durden to address issues surrounding PBA mailing.

Mr. Danny Reynolds, Police Benevolent Association, addressed the Board requesting any financial support and assistance to the deputies of the County.

The **Motion** on the floor carried unanimously.

Future Budget Workshops: The Board discussed the possibilities of establishing a Public Works Department with a position for a County engineer. Mr. McQueen stated he would bring back information.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at **6:34 p.m.**

APPROVED:

Tommy Langford, Chairperson

ATTEST:

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk