

MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AUGUST 24, 2006.

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a Budget Workshop Meeting on Thursday, August 24, 2006 at 1:15 p.m. in the Board of County Commissioners Meeting Room located at 210 South Main Street, Trenton, Florida, with the following member's present to-wit:

Commissioner Tommy Langford, Chairman
Commissioner Randy Durden, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Kenrick Thomas
Commissioner Sharon Langford
Commissioner Mitchell Gentry

Others in attendance were: Joe Gilliam, Clerk of Court, Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, Patty McCagh, Deputy Clerk, Ron McQueen, County Administrator, John McPherson, County Attorney, John Ayers, Stacey Winfield, Ron Mills, Charissa Strickland, Justin Watson, Billy Cannon, Patsy Turner, Mollie Branning, Mallory Hamill, Michael Hamill, Sgt. Robert Stewart, Dep. Edwin Jenkins, Dep. C.W. Dasher, Rebecca Cannon, Michael Maurino, Eddie Reynolds, Nate Ingram, Patricia Daniel, Thomas N. Tucker, Paul R. Bryant, D. Rodriguez, Megan Greene, Jeannine Pfannschmidt, T. Langford, Terry Parrish, Lt. Brown, Sheryl Brown, and Janice Wasson.

Call to Order: Chairman Tommy Langford called Budget Workshop meeting to order 1:18 p.m.

Mr. Gilliam passed out a Budget Recap updating the Board since the last Budget Workshop with changes that were made, by Funds, showing a tentative balance budget and a reserve of \$649,175.00 in General Revenue.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff David Turner addressed the Board on budget issues for his department, and discussed the budget as presented to the Board. He stated raises that were requested for all employees were approved and thanked the Board. Neither Sheriff Turner nor anyone in his department was able to be present at the previous budget workshop. He had presented his budget in good faith addressing our needs, not wishes, not wants, but our needs. A major request was for deputies to staff the new courthouse expansion. He also emphasized that it was his understanding that with the courthouse expansion that more employees would be required to meet the demands that the expansion would require. He requested three (3) new deputy positions to staff the expansion and to staff the new security equipment that will be installed. It was his understanding that the Board agreed to fund one position, no vehicle and that he could use the old vehicles for this position.

Next issue at hand was the Corrections Budget. He asked for one (1) new Clerical Position for the Jail, at present time there is no Clerical help. The Sherriff continued explaining the reasons behind the proposed budget for all areas of his department.

The Sheriff asked for justification to the decisions made by the Board. He needs to know where the Board stands concerning his budget and needs the Boards proposal of the Sheriff's budget in writing so that if his proposals have not been met he can take the proper course of action according to statues. His only question is where do we stand with his budget?

Eddie Reynolds with the Florida Police Benevolent Association addressed the board with concerns to the Sheriff's budget. Mr. Reynolds continued with explanations of the purpose of the issues addressed in the Sheriff's budget. He asks the Board to go back and look at the whole budget.

Commissioner Mitchell Gentry commented on the fact the Sheriff mentioned a Clerical Position for the Correction Department. Commissioner Gentry questioned that there were two positions in the Correction Department funded last year that were never filled, is this true? That's correct, replied Sheriff Turner. The Sheriff continued that he still needs help and the needs in the Correction Department are still there. We need a full time staff. Commissioner Gentry states that the pay raises that are being talked about will go along ways in helping this issue. Commissioner Gentry suggests filling those two positions with the pay raises and maybe this will help with the staffing problems.

Commissioner Tommy Langford addressed the issue of the County's Budget. The budget as a whole has to be disbursed by the Board, to the best of their knowledge, funded to every department and everybody. Commissioner Langford reflected on the needs of the Sheriff and how he felt the budget requests of his department were taken into consideration. There is always room for negotiation.

Mr. Gilliam clarified the issue of the proposed County's budget. The majority of the funds are proprietary. The funds are allocated to the different departments. The Board has to way the full budget potential and what departments needs and allocate those resources accordingly. Mr. Gilliam stated to the Sheriff that he has no doubt the he has needs.

Mr. Gilliam asked the Sheriff, in reading the statue, to clarify, "You've submitted a proposed budget and you do not want to modify that", the Sheriff said "No". The Sheriff stated pursuant to Florida Statue 30.49, he has submitted proposal, it is certified, if there is particular areas the board wants to fund, understanding salaries was a priority, would like that reduced in writing and certified back so he can take the next step described by statue as to what he needs to do.

The Sheriff continued to address the Board on the issues of his budget on why he needs the Boards approval on his proposed budget and the reasoning behind it.

Commissioner Tommy Langford asked the Sheriff he is asking the Board to give him their proposal in writing and the Sheriff said "yes", according to what the statues says what the board is required to do and he will make a decision and get back with the Board.

The Sheriff asked the Board to look at the factors in his proposed budget and consider all them for the reasoning behind his proposal. Sheriff Turner asked the Board to look at the budget one more time and see if there are maybe some priorities that can be adjusted and thanked the Board for what they did with salaries.

John McPherson, County Attorney, asked the Sheriff to clarify what he actually wants as a written report, and stated that it is not necessarily needed by guidelines of the Florida Statutes, at this time, but just for his information so he knows what the board actually decided on.

John McPherson clarifies that the Sheriffs request at this time a courtesy letter. Mr. Gilliam stated that a revised budget couldn't be done, but a letter could be drafted with budget adjustments and present to Sheriff.

It was discussed that the Sheriff is not directed on how to disburse the funds that are budgeted to him, but is suggested in the proposal from he Board.

Mr. Gilliam explains the procedures of the final budget hearing to clarify any misunderstandings.

John McPherson explains that it has been a voluntary process of back and forth up to the final budget hearing. The Board of County Commissioners will have done what is required by the statues, then after the final budget hearing a budget is approved for the Sheriff and at that time if he does not agree he may file an appeal.

The Board continued to discuss budget issues for all departments. They compared all departments to the needs of the budgets that were proposed and how the decisions of the Board were reflected.

Mr. Gilliam asked the Board to take into consideration the position of a new Human Resource Clerk, something to look into for the next year or so, that would deal with insurance issues that impact the Board each year.

Chairman Tommy Langford pointed out the demands of services from all departments.

Commissioner Kenrick Thomas stated that the decisions of the Board are those made in the best interest of the County and the Board is only doing there job. There are no personal feelings influencing these decisions. Politics are politics and personal friendships should not be judge by the decisions of the Board, and if they are something is wrong. Again, the Board is only doing their job, taking into consideration what is best for the County.

Commissioner Randy Durden asked if the Board for the Monday meeting at 4:00 p.m. if they would bring something back on the Sheriff's budget and have had time to review the issues presented and asked the Sheriff if he would be able to make it on Monday at 4:00 p.m.

Chairman Tommy Langford addressed the issues of more hours for Major Stroupe. Originally the budget has a 32 hour work week budgeted. Mr. McQueen had asked Mr. Stroupe to bring to the meeting on Monday information on his work load requiring the increase in the hours requested.

Mr. Gilliam asked the Board if changing the Monday meeting at 4:00 p.m. could be changed to 3:00 p.m. to allow time to get budget issues all wrapped up.

At the last budget workshop Mr. Gilliam was asked to bring back to the Board the notice for the paper. The Board approved with no changes.

With no other budget issues, the Budget Workshop recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened for RFQ's for the jail at 3:10 p.m.

John McPherson, County Attorney, presented RFQ's. He explained the criteria's of the architects that will be doing a presentation for the jail project. There were four firms that did presentations on the Jail Project:

- Architecture Studio, Inc., Ocala
- Strollo Architects, Orlando
- DLR Group, Orlando
- CRA Architects, Tallahassee

After all four presentations were heard, the Board did their evaluations of the presentations and Mr. McPherson did the calculations.

There was a tie for second. Following procedure, the calculations were made to determine who would be second.

Mr. Gilliam, Ronnie McQueen and John McPherson tallied the totals and the outcome is as follows:

- CRA Architects, Tallahassee
- DLR Group, Orlando
- Architecture Studios, Ocala
- Strollo Architects, Orlando

There was one mathematical error that explains the corrections on the sheets, for the record. At this time negotiations will start with CRA Architects and if we can come up with a contract we will go to the next architect.

Negotiations committee will consist of County Attorney, County Administrator, Sheriff and Clerk. They will bring back recommendations to the Board for a final decision.

With no further discussion there was a MOTION made by Commissioner Randy second made by Commissioner Kenrick Thomas that we go ahead and allow negotiations to be made with CRA Architects. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gilliam brought to the attention of the Board that the architectural fees for designs was way above what was allocated for it. Mr. McPherson says the architects should present a ball park figure for design fees and we may need to revisit the budget.

Mr. McPherson stated if we decided to bond this, there are ways to go about and have the bonds reimbursed the county, for these architectural fees. That raises the question, whether or not we want to start looking at bond council, to make sure we go about negotiating with the architect to insure that all of those things are reimbursable by the bond.

Mr. Gilliam presented the issues of plaques and proclamations to be presented to Rod Smith and Dwight Stansel, at the October 2, 2006 meeting. The Board agreed with the design and the wording.

There being no further business, Chairman Tommy Langford adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

APPROVED:

Tommy Langford, Chairman

ATTEST:

Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk