MINUTES OF A BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE GILCHRIST COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD JULY 23, 2007

The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioners, in and for Gilchrist County Florida, convened in a **Budget Workshop** on Monday, July 23, 2007 at 3:00 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 Randy Durden, Chairman Commissioner Tommy Langford, Vice Chairman Commissioner Kenrick Thomas Commissioner Sharon A. Langford Commissioner D. Ray Harrison, Jr.

Others in Attendance

John McPherson, County Attorney, Jacki Johnson, Finance Director, Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk, Patty McCagh, Board Secretary, Ron McQueen, County Administrator, John Ayers, Gilchrist County Journal, Chief Charlie Perez, Public Safety, Captain Tony Cruse, GCSO, Tammy Davis, Sharon Bard and Maureen Gentry, Chamber of Commerce, Major Stroupe, Veterans Services, J.M. Everett, Gilchrist County Historical Society, Donna Creamer, Pure Water Wilderness, Todd Bryant, Suwannee Valley Leagues, and Joyce Ferrante.

Call to Order

Chairman Durden called this Budget Workshop to order at 3:00 pm. Chairman Durden stated that because of the Tax Reform we are experiencing this year (and next year) that the Board had requested that all Board Departments and Constitutional Officers keep their budget requests at the same figure as last year. He also stated that the Board would be asking that all budget requests from Other Agencies consider proposing the same figure as 2007 budget.

Chamber of Commerce

Ms. Tammy Davis, President for the Chamber of Commerce, presented their 2008 proposed budget, in the amount of \$20,000.00. Ms. Johnson, Finance Director stated that last year's budget request was \$17,500.00 and the Board had approved \$15,000.00. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$15,000 for 2008.

The Board continued reviewing budget requests for Other Agencies who didn't have a representative come before the Board.

LARC

The Levy Association for Retarded Citizens requested a proposed budget in the amount of \$1,000.00, which included a 23% decrease from last years figure. Last years budget was \$1,300.00. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$1,000.00 for 2008.

SREC Sr. Advisory Board

The SREC Sr. Advisory Board requested a proposed budget in the amount of \$500.00. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$500.00 for 2008.

Character Council

The Character Council requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$1,500.00, which included a 50% increase from last year figure. Last years budget was \$1,000.00. The Board agreed to roll back the request to the same figure as last year, \$1,000.00 for 2008.

Bell Library

The Bell Library requested a proposed budget, in the amount of <u>\$5,000.00</u>, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$5,000.00 for 2008.

Shared Services Network

The Shared Services Network requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$5,000.00, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$5,000.00 for 2008.

Suwannee River Resource Development

The Suwannee River Resource Development requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$1,100.00, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$1,100.00 for 2008.

Early Learning Coalition

The Early Leaning Coalition requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$5,000.00, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget amount of \$5,000.00 for 2008.

Development Authority

The Development Authority requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$1,100.00, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget in the amount of \$1,100.00 for 2008.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (NCFRPC)

The North Central Florida Regional Planning Council requested a proposed budget, in the amount of <u>\$4,769.00</u>, which included a 3% increase. This request is dues paid by the County which NCFRPC calculates by population. The Board agreed on a budget in the amount of <u>\$4,769.00</u> for 2008.

Health Department

The Health Department requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$86,889.00, with no increases for 2008. Board agreed on a budget in the amount of \$86,889.00 for 2008.

Senior Citizens Food Pantry

The Senior Citizens Food Pantry requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$6,000.00, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget in the amount of \$6,000.00 for 2008.

D/G/L; Pure Water Wilderness

Pure Water Wilderness requested a proposed budget, in he amount of \$5,000.00, with no increases for 2008. The Board agreed on a budget in the amount of \$5,000.00 for 2008.

North Central Florida Regional Planning Council Tourism Tax

A proposed budget for NCFRPC was requested in the amount of \$1,000.00 for The *Original* Florida Tourism Task Force. In the past, Ginnie Springs has funded this request. The Board agreed NOT to fund this request until Commissioner Tommy Langford has addressed the issue with Ginnie Springs, to see if they are still interested in funding.

Historical Society

Mr. J.M. Everett, President of the Gilchrist County Historical Society, presented a request for a proposed budget, in the amount of \$1,200.00 with no increases for 2008. Mr. Everett also requested permission to allow the Civil War Organization to erect a monument on the east side of the WWII monument. The Board agreed on a budget in the amount of \$1,200.00 for 2008 and informed Mr. Everett that this monument issue has already been brought to the attention of the Board and is scheduled to be heard at the next Board meeting.

At this time, Ms. Jacki Johnson addressed the Board to seek clarification on the following budgets:

- <u>Salaries</u>: Ms. Johnson stated that the proposed budget for salaries included the 2% step plan, increase in health insurance retirement, longevity payments and workers compensation increases; Board agreed.
- Operating Expenses: Ms. Johnson stated that the Board had agreed for the 2008 budget to be the same figure as budgeted for 2007. But, there are contracts, i.e. cleaning contract and Doyle Frierson at Hart Springs. She stated that these are a few and that is not enough money to cover. Chairman Durden stated that the Board understood that. Mr. Gilliam asked if we, the finance department, are to use our own discretion to increase those items. Ms. Johnson also asked if this included utilities, communications and freight. Chairman Durden stated that is correct.
- <u>Capital Outlay</u>: Ms. Johnson stated that for the budget workshop on Monday, July 30^{th} , she was taking back each departments proposed budget for Capital Outlay, back to zero (across the board) and the Board will address each item individually for All Board Departments, Road Department and Constitutional Officers.

The Board agreed that if the line item does not identify specific Capital Outlay purchases, it will be presented as "undesignated" on the proposed budget for Board review and discussion during the budget process. The Board agreed that the departments need to designate the use of funds, for better control of the use of funds, at least on the Board side. If and when the time comes when the departments present a request for Board approval, the Board will have an idea what the funds were considered for during the budget process.

Mr. Gilliam asked the Board if they wanted the department heads/representatives to be present on Monday, July 30th's budget workshop, for budget review on Capital Outlay. Chairman Durden stated yes, that they needed to be present.

• <u>Proprietary Funds</u> (Fire, Ems, and Solid Waste): Ms. Johnson confirmed that the Proprietary Funds proposed budget was to be left as is. Board agreed to leave as is, including changes (if any) that were previously discussed/made.

Meridian Behavioral

Ms. Maggie Labarta, on behalf of Meridian, presented the proposed budget request for Meridian Behavioral, in the amount of \$42,000.00, including a 5% increase for 2008. Last years budget was \$40,000.00. She came before the Board to let them know what kind of services was provided for Gilchrist County and to ask that we continue to fund them. Chairman Durden explained that due to the Tax Reform, the Board requests that they take that into consideration and hold last years budget with no increases. Ms. Labarta accepted that request and is satisfied with the budget amount of \$40,000.00 for 2008.

Pure Water Wilderness

Ms. Donna Creamer, Executive Director for Pure Water Wilderness, presented the proposed budget request in the amount of \$5,000.00, with no increases for 2008. Board agreed on a budget amount of \$5,000.00 for 2008. She also extended an invitation to the Tourism Summit, to be held on August 14, 2007 at Pine Grove Baptist Church, Trenton, Florida.

WellFlorida Council

The WellFlorida Council requested a proposed budget, in the amount of \$1,200.00, which includes a 1% increase from last years figure. Last years budget was \$1,195.00. The Board agreed to roll back the request to the same figure as last year, \$1,195.00 for 2008.

Proposed Budget Issues

<u>Detention and Corrections</u>: Ms. Jacki Johnson addressed the Detention and Corrections department. She stated that a transfer might be needed to increase the line item created for the housing of inmates at Dixie County. The repairs for plumbing, electrical and sewer treatment at the jail were very expensive this past year and she was trying to pull these out Other Building so there could be a clearer picture of what we had to work with. At this time, the line item created for Dixie County Inmate Housing was budgeted in the amount of \$40,000.00. The Board agreed to increase the line item to \$125,000.00.

Suwannee Valley Leagues, Inc.

Mr. Todd Bryant, Treasurer for Suwannee Valley Leagues, Inc., presented the proposed budget request in the amount of \$57,250.00, which includes a 91% increase for 2008. Last years budget was \$30,000.00. Chairman Durden explained that due to the Tax Reform, the Board requests all organizations take that into consideration and hold last years budget with no increases. Mr. Bryant explained the use for the additional funds that is being requested. He stated that they would like to have lighting on the field and several other things like a bunker rake (\$9,000) and the expense of replacing equipment and so forth.

The Board informed Mr. Bryant of the Florida Communities Trust Program that could provide the County with an award of grant funds to help with special projects, at no cost to the County.

The Board recommends that a committee be formed to come up with a figure and create an M.S.T.U. to be considered by the residents of Gilchrist County to help provide funding for County Recreation. This would be placed on the January ballot for the citizens to vote on. Mr. Bryant stated that at this time, the League is totally operated by volunteers and if it wasn't for them we wouldn't have what we have. Much more is need to comply with the growth/interest of the program, for the youth of Gilchrist County.

The M.S.T.U. that would be put on the ballot does not mean the project would not be successful if the vote failed. The Board has the authority to create an M.S.T.U.

The Board suggests that a proposal be drafted and be presented for additional funding for Gilchrist County Recreation so we can move forward with the application process for a grant through Florida Communities Trust.

Budget Workshop Schedule

The Board agreed to hold the next budget workshop on Monday, July 30, 2007 at 3:00 pm.

Ms. Johnson stated that at this workshop, a new Budget Recap will be presented taking into account decisions discussed earlier and a recap of additional changes by departments. There will also be a power point for Capital Outlay by department for totals that were requested.

Mr. Gilliam stated that when today's changes have been made the carry forward amount will change. Reducing the overall budget will also reduce the amount of cash carry forward necessary for 2008 operating expenses.

With no further business/discussion the Budget Workshop was adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

	Approved:
Attest:	Randy Durden, Chairman
Joseph W. Gilliam, Clerk	