

MINUTES
FIRST BUDGET MEETING OF THE
COLQUITT COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023
TUESDAY, MAY 17, 2022
4:00 o'clock p.m.

CALL TO ORDER: The first budget meeting for Fiscal Year 2022 – 2023 was called to order at 4:00 o'clock p.m. by Chairman Denver F. Braswell. The meeting was duly called and advertised.

PRESENT: Those present were Commissioners Barbara Jelks, Chris Hunnicutt, Marc DeMott, Mike Boyd, Paul Nagy, and Johnny Hardin, Chairman Denver F. Braswell, County Administrator Chas Cannon, County Attorney Lester Castellow, and County Clerk Melissa Lawson.

ALSO PRESENT: Road Superintendent Stan Kirksey, Solid Waste Manager Stacy Griffin, Maintenance Superintendent Mac Lawson, and Kevin Hall, Reporter with the Moultrie Observer.

FISCAL YEAR 2022 – 2023 BUDGET OVERVIEW: Mr. Cannon presented an overview of the budget progress thus far, beginning with the commencement of the budget process in February 2022.

Mr. Cannon reviewed a list of dates in which specific departments were scheduled to present their budget requests and reviewed a variety of budget materials provided to the Board.

Mr. Cannon presented budgetary highlights to the board, consisting of total projected revenues in the amount of \$24,865,000.00 and recommended budget figures totaling \$25,048,621.00. Mr. Cannon stated that \$183,621.00 was being derived from reserves to balance the budget.

Mr. Cannon stated that key items in the proposed budget consisted of a pay raise for employees, a temporary annual stipend for law enforcement/correctional officers/E-911 dispatchers, an increase in employee health care allocation costs, and an increase in the residential curbside pickup fee from \$20.00 to \$25.00.

Mr. Cannon noted that continued growth was projected in the county digest and that current millage rates were at historic lows. Mr. Cannon further noted that additional expenses within the proposed General Fund budget could be carried at current millage rates given the projected increase in the digest.

(Kevin Hall entered the meeting at 4:09 p.m.)

Considering the growth in the digest, Mr. Cannon stated that even if millage rates were kept the same, a property tax increase would need to be advertised. As a result, Mr. Cannon noted that it was the recommendation of staff to leave millage rates the same.

Mr. Cannon reviewed a list of key themes included in the proposed budget as well as a list of important budget documents.

Mr. Cannon reviewed the following primary issues for the General Fund:

- Employee Pay - \$1.00 per hour for full time employees and .50 for part time employees with overall intent to raise starting pay by \$1.00 in all departments, temporary overall stipend of \$1,500 for certain positions and state mandated COLA of \$5,000 for constitutional officers and elected officials;
- Employee Health Care Cost – Cost allocation not changed since FY 11 – 12. Current allocation \$10,300 per employee with proposed allocation equaling \$11,800 per employee;

Discussion ensued regarding the abovementioned topics.

ROADS & BRIDGES DEPARTMENT: Mr. Cannon presented the recommended budget request for the Roads & Bridges Department, in the amount of \$3,622,182.00, and noted no new position requests. Mr. Cannon stated that SPLOST would absorb the majority of the requested equipment costs for this department and further noted that T-SPLOST would absorb approximately \$1,050,000.00 of operational costs.

At this time, Mr. Cannon called upon Stan Kirksey, Road Superintendent, to review requested capital purchases with the board, consisting of original purchase price, replacement price and/or anticipated auction price.

Discussion ensued regarding several pieces of capital equipment being requested in the proposed budget by the Roads & Bridges Department.

SOLID WASTE: Mr. Cannon stated that the solid waste fund operated exclusively off revenues received from the provision of services and noted no new position requests in the FY 22 – 23 Solid Waste budget.

Stacy Griffin, Solid Waste Manager, reviewed a list of priorities for the upcoming budget year as well as two major capital purchase requests.

Mr. Griffin proposed purchasing two used roll-off trucks as well as 8-10 roll-off containers to be utilized as a new revenue source. Mr. Griffin stated that owning their own containers would eliminate rental costs.

Discussion ensued regarding the purchase of roll-off containers and trucks.

Mr. Cannon stated that included in the proposed budget was the increase in residential solid waste fees from \$20 to \$25. Mr. Cannon reviewed substantial increases in both the purchase price of garbage trucks and the cost of transfer. Mr. Cannon noted that these two items alone comprised 77% of the expenses in the Residential division of the Solid Waste Department.

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Discussion briefly ensued regarding the potential expansion of residential solid waste pickup into surrounding counties as well as the intention of capturing lower transfer costs.

Chairman Braswell mentioned the possibility of offering a discount to the residents that pay their bill in full for the entire year.

As the result of increased pricing at the Landfill, Mr. Cannon noted that this division was now operating in the black.

Discussion ensued regarding the overall goal to get both curbside pickup and the landfill divisions of the Solid Waste Department operating in the black.

MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT: Mr. Cannon called upon Mac Lawson, Maintenance Superintendent, to review departmental budgets for both the Shop division and the Facility Maintenance division of the Maintenance Department:

- *Shop* – Overall recommended budget of \$437,755.00 with no new position requests. Mr. Lawson reviewed a list of capital purchase requests.
- *Facility Maintenance* – Overall recommended budget of \$1,086,616.00 with no new position requests. Mr. Lawson reviewed a list of capital purchase requests and building upgrades.

Mr. Lawson presented a funding request to upgrade HVAC VAV controllers at both the Courthouse Annex and the DFACS building.

Discussion briefly ensued regarding the request.

INFORMATION SYSTEMS: Mr. Cannon presented the recommended budget request for the Information System Department, in the amount of \$314,249.00, and noted no new position requests but did state that the proposed budget included initiatives in the form of increased bandwidth and a hosted Exchange server.

Darren Roberson, Information Systems Director, discussed a campus wide network update and reconfiguration as well as a list of potential solutions to increase bandwidth, security, reliability, and manageability.

The overall timeline to implement these changes was briefly discussed.

(Lester Castellow, County Attorney, entered the meeting at 4:58 p.m.)

MID – MONTH REVIEW: At this time, Mr. Cannon presented agenda items for the Board's preview:

- Presentation of Proclamation – STAR Student – Mr. Cannon noted that Commissioner Nagy would present a proclamation on behalf of the Board to Case Gregory, the 2022 CCHS STAR Student.

- Approval of Payment of Invoice – Mobile 311 Work Orders – Mr. Cannon presented the invoice, in the amount of \$8,934.34, submitted by Mobile 311 regarding maintenance and support fees for the work order system utilized by the Roads & Bridges Department. Mr. Cannon noted that funding would be derived from the FY 21 – 22 General Fund budget.
- Approval of Contract – Georgia Department of Corrections – Mr. Cannon presented a renewal of the capacity agreement between the county and the Department of Corrections to house 190 state inmates at the County Prison. Mr. Cannon noted no changes to the contract from the previous year.
- Declaration of Surplus – Landfill – Mr. Cannon presented a list of cardboard balers identified by staff as surplus to the county’s needs. Upon Board approval, Mr. Cannon noted that the balers would be sent to auction with resulting proceeds being deposited into the Solid Waste fund.
- Approval of Request to Commence Road Closure Procedures – Presley Suber Road – Mr. Cannon presented a request submitted by Elaine Durham to close the portion of Presley Suber Road located in Colquitt County. Upon Board approval, Mr. Cannon noted that staff would commence the road closure process.

UPCOMING ITEMS: Mr. Cannon presented a list of items expected for the June Board meeting:

- Preview for an Alcohol License
- Preview for a Variance (Public Hearing at June Mid – Month)
- Update from Taylor Benefit Resources

KEY DATES: Mr. Cannon presented a list of key, upcoming dates.

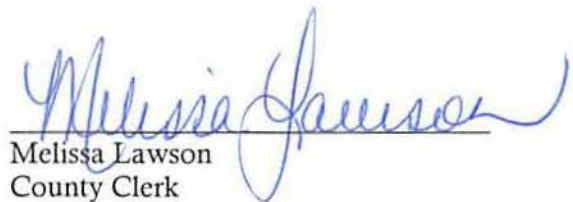
Discussion extensively ensued regarding the purchase of roll-off containers and trucks with the consensus being to eliminate these purchases from the proposed budget.

There being no further business to come before the board, the meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Denver F. Braswell
Chairman



Melissa Lawson
County Clerk

Approved:

