

**CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MINUTES
May 9, 2019**

PRESENT AND ACTING:

COMMISSIONERS

GENE BAILEY, CHAIRMAN

EARL HUNT

JERAL HALL

KATHY STEWART, CLERK FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING MANAGER

SARAH WILLIAMS, CLERK ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Chairman Bailey called the budget workshop (held in the Regular Meeting Room) to order at 8:00 a.m.; CT. Chairman Bailey stated the purpose of the meeting is to give the Clerk's Office direction in preparing the 2019-2020 Budget. The Chairman discussed the impact of Hurricane Michael on the budget.

KATHY STEWART, CLERK FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING MANAGER

Ms. Stewart provided a handout to the Commissioners of the 2018-2019 adopted budget for use in this budget discussion.

Ms. Stewart stated that the 2018-2019 Adopted/Amended Budget includes a reduction in reserves (expenditures in excess of budgeted revenue): General Fund reduction of \$323,000 and County Transportation Trust Fund I (CTTF I) reduction of \$450,000. Ms. Stewart further explained the budgeted CTTF I reserve to carry over to 2019-2020 is \$332,000; in addition, if the budget for CTTF I were the same for 2019-2020 (without a CDBG Match) a transfer of \$42,832 from the General Fund would be required.

Ms. Stewart reviewed possible reductions in the 2019 ad valorem tax revenue resulting from a reduction in the property valuation due to damages caused by Hurricane Michael: a 10% reduction is \$405,837 less in ad valorem tax collections and a 15% reduction is \$608,755 less in ad valorem tax collections. With no changes in the General Fund Budget from 2018-2019, a reduction in reserves of \$771,455 would result from a 10% loss in ad valorem taxes and a reduction in reserves of \$971,373 would result from a 15% loss in ad valorem taxes.

Ms. Stewart also stated there are other mandatory increases to the budget such as retirement contributions, Medicaid, property/liability/auto/inland marine insurance premiums and offered that the \$70,000 available in the Grants Management & Executive budget may be enough to fund these mandatory increases. Ms. Stewart reminded them the current budget reduction of \$70,000 (job elimination) and was used to purchase vehicles and trailers for the inmate squads.

Ms. Stewart advised the Board that a 10% increase in County provided Health Insurance would increase Board expenditures and transfers to the Constitutional Officers by approximately \$65,000 and stated an

increase in other intergovernmental revenues or fees may be enough to fund or partially fund increases in health insurance.

Ms. Stewart stated the Constitutional Officers and County Department need direction for preparing their 2019-2020 Budget requests.

Chairman Bailey discussed the items presented by Ms. Stewart and said to date County Constitutional Fuel taxes are comparable to the prior year. The Chairman asked Ms. Stewart to give him a timeline of the budget cycle. She reminded everyone the budget requests are due to the Clerk's Office by June 1, the Clerk's Office would prepare a balanced budget for presentation to the Board by mid-July. The budget workshops and hearings would follow according to the Truth in Millage (TRIM) calendar. The Chairman asked the Property Appraiser, Carla Trickey Peacock, when the preliminary tax roll would be available and she stated July 1. Next, the Chairman discussed the legislative appropriation (awaiting the Governors approval) of approximately \$600,000 and stated we are not certain of the spending guidelines at this time.

Commissioner Hunt asked how often the County solicits health insurance quotes from various insurance carriers. Ms. Williams stated annually.

Commissioner Bailey stated he wants no raises or health insurance increases included in the budget requests saying he does not want employees to think they are receiving this and it would be easier to add these items later if funds are available.

The Commissioners polled the Constitutional Officers regarding the 2019-2020 budget and all stated they would follow the Board's direction. The Supervisor of Elections stated there would be two elections in the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

Each of the Department Supervisors spoke. Mr. Edenfield stated he could afford 3% raises and a \$50 increase in the employee monthly health insurance premium without increasing his budget. Mr. Jenks stated he does not anticipate expending budget funds for large equipment however, he would like to permanently employ one of the disaster relief employees assigned to the Maintenance Department. Mr. Johnson asked if the Board intended to fill the administration assistant position after the two disaster employees (assigned to Emergency Management) term is complete. Mr. Parrish stated permit fees should increase since the Board reinstated them at 100% therefore he would like to keep his disaster relief employee after her term is complete. The Chairman stated the Board might consider a part-time position depending on the increased fees generated. Chairman Bailey said the Airport might not generate enough fuel sales and hangar rent to fund the IDA Board operations. Ms. Cherry stated the incoming Extension Director might require additional funding for personnel costs depending on education and experience qualifications. Ms. Maupin mentioned she is the only 40 hour per week employee at the Library and she may cut hours but would not close Libraries or eliminate jobs. Ms. Maupin also mentioned her concerns should a shelter be required at Mossy Pond Library in the future.

Ms. Stewart asked the Board if they would like to send letters to the outside agencies included in the budget or would they like to set the budget for these agencies without input. All of the Board members

stated they would like a letter sent advising them the 2019-2020 budget request should be equal to or less than the 2018-2019 budget.

Commissioner Hunt asked the Chairman to set the next Budget workshop after a Regular Board Meeting so all Commissioners can participate. All Commissioners agreed that no raises or increased health insurance premiums would be included in the budget requests but asked the Clerk's Office to calculate the cost of a 1%, 2%, and 3% raise.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:39 AM CT.


GENE BAILEY, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST:


CARLA A. HAND, CLERK