

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
AUGUST 14, 1990--SPECIAL MEETING

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:

DONNELL WHITFIELD  
JAMES M. DILLARD  
ELLIS MELVIN  
WILLIE T. GRANT  
MONROE COX

PRESENT AND ACTING:

GAIL O'BRYAN, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

The Board reconvened in special session this date for the purpose of a budget workshop on FY 90-91 Budget.

Commissioner Whitfield asked each Commissioner to give his recommendations regarding cutting of the budget.

Commissioner Dillard stated there is no way to fund the budget without cutting out fire protection, Co. Extension, Library, Health Dept. and other services because there are no additional revenues. He said he feels that the only way to keep these services is to put on a fair tax, such as a 3% utility tax on electricity.

Commissioner Melvin stated he had no additional recommendations. He said he felt and had already recommended that communications could be cut, health ins. could be cut and that there is a limit of the amount to fund for fire control. He said if the budget was cut down to a reasonable figure he would vote to impose a utility tax on electricity to fund approximately \$150,000.00 for FY 90-91.

Commissioner Cox stated, the last 2 meetings we have gone from start to finish on each line item of the budget. He said each Commissioner was polled as to cuts. He relayed that he did not know of anything the Board could cut and still keep services. He reported most of the people he had talked to are keen on keeping the services such as fire protection, ambulance service, library, health dept. and etc. He said he felt a utility tax would be a users tax.

Commissioner Grant stated he hates the word taxing the people, however, he hates to see fire protection and other things cut out, so he will do whatever it takes to fund it.

Commissioner Whitfield stated the following services could be cut out to balance the budget: Fire control, Chamber of Commerce, Veterans Service Officer, Health Dept. Senior Citizens funding for transportation, Libraries and lock the gates on each park. However, he said he did not want to do it.

Commissioner Melvin stated the County is in a financial bind and he feels that \$42,000 for Blountstown fire dept. is too much and also feels that health insurance for employees could be cut out, and also telephone bills could be cut down on and as long as the \$42,000 for City of Blountstown fire protection and these other things are in the budget, he is not going to vote for a utility tax. He relayed that the County furnishes to the city a jail, sheriff, clerk of court, tax collector, property appraiser, ambulance and other services. He said he felt the amount for City of Blountstown fire protection could be cut considerably. After a long and lengthy discussion, Commissioner Whitfield polled the Board regarding giving the Clerk of Court the authority to contact an attorney with legal expertise to draw up a proposed Ordinance imposing a tax on utilities in order not to cut the following services: fire control, library, senior citizens, recreation, veterans service officer, health dept., and chamber of commerce.

Cox--Yes  
Grant--Yes  
Dillard--Yes  
Whitfield--Yes

Commissioner Melvin voted no stating he was not in favor of the service tax because the budget had not been cut to a reasonable figure and he was not talking about cutting out the services mentioned.

Commissioner Whitfield reported the Bailey Pit was out of clay and that Jan Bailey had offered to sell the County more acreage at the same rate per acre as last agreement. The Board agreed by concensus for Commissioner Whitfield to proceed with agreement to purchase additional acreage.

The being no further business, the Board did adjourn.