

CALHOUN COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES
TRIM BUDGET HEARING
September 5, 2013
5:01 p.m. CT

PRESENT AND ACTING:

THOMAS G. FLOWERS, CHAIRMAN
DARRELL MCDOUGALD
LEE SHELTON
LEE LEE BROWN
WILLIE T. GRANT

MANUEL HIRES, BALIFF
CARLA A. HAND, CLERK
CARLA PEACOCK, DEPUTY CLERK
KATHY STEWART, ACCOUNTING MANAGER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Flowers at 5:01 p.m., CT.

Prayer and pledge allegiance to the flag were led by Commissioner McDougald.

Chairman Flowers invited everyone to attend the BOCC meeting on September 6, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. CT at Altha School.

A motion was made to schedule the Final TRIM Budget Hearing for September 23, 2013 at 5:01 p.m. CT in the Board Room by Commissioner Brown, seconded by Commissioner Shelton and carried 5-0.

Clerk Hand stated this is the first of two required public hearings by the Calhoun County BOCC for the 2013 property taxes as assessed on January 1st. The millage currently in the proposed budget is 10 mills and the rollback rate is 10.3073 mills. Clerk Hand stated the proposed millage rate is less than the rollback rate by 2.98%. Clerk Hand said there is a decrease in ad valorem taxes from the prior year.

Clerk Hand stated the Board voted to make certain changes to the proposed budget at the budget meeting on August 20th. The Clerk mentioned the changes as follows:

- Volunteer Fire Departments were adjusted to \$7500 each
- Search & Rescue adjusted to \$3500
- Riparian CountyStakeholder's Coalition reduced to \$2500
- Deleted HVAC by \$500,000
- Adjusted Health insurance to \$500 per month
- All county employees, including employees of Constitutional officers will receive a 3% raise
- Separated Emergency Management expenditures into 3 categories: Local Match, Federal Grant, and State Grant.

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Clerk Hand stated due to dual employment of an elected official, account 01511-51122 needs to be reduced by \$6,781. The Clerk also stated a reduction of \$2,542 is needed in Org 01513 for salaries, FICA, Medicare, retirement, and health insurance and an increase of the same amount is needed in Org 01572, Parks and Recreation; the net effect to the budget is \$0.

Clerk Hand stated a combined total of \$68,000 will be returned to the Board by certain Constitutional Officers from their 2012-2013 budget allocation. Clerk Hand said this would increase the cash carry forward for 2013-2014 to allow for an increase in reserves, not to increase expenditures by that amount.

Clerk Hand stated Chairman Flowers asked her to look at non-grant departments and determine if there are any anticipated unspent funds from the 2012-2013 departmental budgets. Clerk Hand said she calculated a conservative amount of \$100,000 from different departments including the BOCC, Finance, Administration, Detention and Corrections and FEMA Administration.

A motion was made to reduce retirement expenditures for the Board of County Commissioners by \$6,781, to reduce Org 01513 by \$2,542, to increase Org 01572 by \$2,542, and to increase cash carry forward and reserves by \$168,000 (unspent 2012-2013 budget allocations of BOCC departments and Constitutional Officers) by Commissioner McDougald, seconded by Commissioner Grant and passed unanimously 5-0.

Chairman Flowers said more reductions are needed and discussed the following budget reduction ideas:

- Health Insurance – The County offers two different health insurance options – Blue Cross/Blue Shield (BCBS) and Capital Health Plan (CHP). Chairman Flowers stated if the County chooses to go with CHP this will line up with our budget cycle and lower all employee contributions to \$0. The County would pay \$457 per employee instead of \$500 per employee.
- County Lobbyist – Chairman Flowers said he spoke to the county lobbyist, Patrick Bell and he has agreed to lower his annual fee from \$36,000 to \$12,000 for a savings of \$24,000.
- Surveying - \$15,000 is included in the 2013-2014 proposed budget for surveying. Chairman Flowers stated this amount is much more than has been needed in the past and he would like to take the entire \$15,000 out of the budget and take any costs that arise for surveying from Maintenance funds as needed.
- 911 – Chairman Flowers stated he spoke with Ronnie Stone and his budget can be reduced by \$1,000.
- Building Department – has line item of \$4,000 that historically has used only \$2,000. Chairman would like to reduce the budget to \$2,000.
- Probation & Parole – line item for equipment last year was \$0 – this year (2013-2014 proposal) went up to \$5,280. Chairman Flowers would like to reduce this by \$1,280 to \$4,000.
- Emergency Management – Chairman Flowers would like to reduce EM local match budget by \$2,000.
- County Planner – Chairman Flowers would like to negotiate some more with County Planner and reduce his annual fee from \$30,000 to \$15,000.
- County Pesticide Spray Program – Chairman Flowers spoke to Joe Wood and Mr. Wood said he could reduce his budget from \$43,000 to \$13,000.
- Apalachee Regional Planning Council (ARPC) – If the County is not required to pay the \$5,000 historically given to ARPC in the past, the Chairman would like to remove this from the budget.

Chairman Flowers stated if the Board agrees to the budget reductions he suggested, it will save an additional estimated \$117, 900.

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Commissioner McDougald expressed his concerns with Capital Health Plan being an HMO and not being able to choose specialists in areas outside of Tallahassee.

The Board decided to wait until the Regular Meeting on September 6, 2013 to make a determination regarding the health insurance.

After much discussion a motion was made by Commissioner Grant to implement all the budget reductions discussed today except for the health insurance and ARPC (Chairman would like Attorney to determine whether payment to ARPC is discretionary). The motion was seconded by Commissioner Shelton and passed unanimously 5-0.

Chairman Flowers called for a five minute recess at 5:44 p.m.

Chairman Flowers called the meeting back to order at 5:51 p.m.

Chairman Flowers made a motion to reduce the millage rate to 9.9 mills. The motion died for a lack of a second.

There was a general discussion and the Clerk advised the Board that the 2013-2014 proposed budgeted expenditures are still greater than revenues and appropriations.

Chairman Flowers asked for public comment.

Kelli King commented reducing the millage rate could affect the HCRA Program. Ms. King explained the County currently pays 80% of the Medicaid reimbursement rate and if the millage rate is reduced the County may have to pay 100% of the Medicaid reimbursement rate.

There were no other public comments.

Commissioner McDougald stated he was told in the past reducing the millage below 10 mills would adversely affect the County's ability to receive grants and grant waivers. The Clerk stated from her experience this is not the case. Commissioner McDougald asked Kim Tanner, Finance Officer for the Sheriff, to speak on this issue. She did not know of a grant that would be impacted from the millage rate reduction and explained that Calhoun County as a REDI qualified County is eligible for grant match waivers on any state-funded grant project. The Clerk's Finance Officer, Kathy Stewart, mentioned to Commissioner McDougald at one time a SCRAP grant requirement was for the County to be at 10 mills but this requirement was dropped a few years ago. Public Works Director/Grants Coordinator, Joe Wood, also stated he was also under the impression the millage needed to be at 10 to qualify for grants.

It was mentioned by the Clerk that Amendment 1 offset revenue would be reduced slightly by a drop in the millage rate. The suggested millage rate of 9.90 would cause a reduction in Amendment 1 offset funding by approximately \$3,700.

Clerk Hand explained the Board must adopt by resolution the tentative millage and presented to the Board Resolution 2013-24:

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**RESOLUTION 2013-24
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE LEVYING OF
AD VALOREM TAXES FOR CALHOUN COUNTY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014; PROVIDING FOR
AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, on September 5, 2013, adopted Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Tentative Millage Rate following a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the gross taxable value for operating purposes not exempt from taxation within Calhoun County has been certified by the County Property Appraiser to the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County as \$390,896,516.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, that:

1. The FY 2013-2014 operating millage rate of 10 mills is less than the rolled-back rate of 10.3073 mills by 2.98%.
2. This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED at a public hearing this 5th day of September, 2013.

A motion was made by Commissioner Grant to adopt Resolution 2013-24, seconded by Commissioner McDougald and passed 3-1. Chairman Flowers was opposed. Commissioner Brown left the meeting before this vote.

Clerk Hand explained the Board must adopt by resolution the tentative budget and presented to the Board Resolution 2013-25.

**RESOLUTION 2013-25
OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF CALHOUN COUNTY, FLORIDA,
ADOPTING THE TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2013 - 2014; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE
DATE.**

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WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, on September 5, 2013, held a public hearing as required by Florida Statute 200.065; and

WHEREAS, the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, set forth the appropriations and revenue estimate for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2013-2014 in the amount of \$ 14,258,792.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Calhoun County, Florida, that:

1. The Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Tentative Budget be adopted.
2. This resolution will take effect immediately upon its adoption.

DULY PASSED AND ADOPTED at a public hearing this 5th day of September, 2013.

Commissioner Shelton made a motion to adopt Resolution 2013-25, seconded by Commissioner McDougald and passed 3-1. Chairman Flowers was opposed.

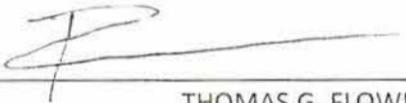
Chairman Flowers invited everyone to attend the regular Board meeting on September 6, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. CT at Altha School.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, a motion was made by Commissioner Brown to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner McDougald. The motion passed 4-0 to adjourn this meeting at 6:20 p.m.

ATTEST:


CARLA PEACOCK, DEPUTY CLERK


THOMAS G. FLOWERS, CHAIRMAN

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