

MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER, BUDGET WORKSHOP

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** July 11, 2002, 9:30 a.m. in the Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Warren H. Newell
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts
Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Commissioner Addie L. Greene - absent
Commissioner Mary McCarty
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus
Commissioner Tony Masilotti
County Administrator Robert Weisman
County Attorney Denise Dytrych
Recording Clerk Judith Crosbie
Condensing Clerk Dawn Whyte

STATUS OF PROPOSED FY 2003 BUDGET

I.A.

REVIEW OF TENTATIVE BUDGET DOCUMENT. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that:

- * The workshop scheduled for July 17, 2002, would be canceled because this meeting would suffice.
- * Questions that were asked by commissioners at the previous budget workshop of May 30, 2002, would be addressed in this meeting.
- * The proposed tax rate for FY 2003, to be announced at the July 23, 2002, public hearing, would be the most important staff direction from the board for this meeting.

I.B.

CHANGES MADE SINCE MAY 30, 2002, BUDGET WORKSHOP. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that the increase in reserves, found on page 1 of backup, for \$14,277,425 was the net available for allocation.

Mr. Weisman reviewed the summary of the Fire-Rescue budget and said the increase in reserves of \$2,135,389 would be used to assist Fire-Rescue to pay for the new building on a timely basis.

I.C.

VALUE OF A 0.05 REDUCTION IN MILLAGE RATES. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman explained how a net tax reduction of \$4,025,258 had been achieved when a 0.05 millage rate was applied in the calculation.

STATUS OF PROPOSED FY 2003 BUDGET - CONTINUED

I.C. - CONTINUED

Commissioners Aaronson, Masilotti, and Newell asked questions related to the increase in services within the county and the cost of running the county.

Mr. Weisman said that the county was providing more services with one-third of the increase stemming from Fire-Rescue.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Provide an updated per capita employee book.
- * Provide the 1990 employee per capita to the board so that a comparison study of the previous 10 years can be done.

II. DISCUSSION ITEMS

(CLERK'S NOTE: The following item was head out of order.)

II.D.

DRUG COURT FUNDING. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

Judge Edward H. Fine introduced Carey Haughwout, public defender; Martin Epstein from the state attorney's office, and Shannon Ramsey, director of budget and finance. Judge Fine said he was available to answer questions from the commissioners.

The board approved the request of \$41,000 to fund the drug court program.

Commissioner Newell said the drug court program had a positive net effect for the county because it provided an avenue to reduce crime and reduce the number of inmates.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The following item was heard out of order.)

IV. ANIMAL CARE

IV.A.

PROPOSED PROGRAMS FOR ANIMAL CARE AND CONTROL. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

Staff presented the cost estimate for two programs aimed at caring for animals within the county:

- * The first was a weekend adoption program at a cost of approximately \$8,900 per month.
- * The second was reimbursement of the cost to shelter dogs and cats at other animal facilities with an approximate cost of \$375,000 to \$400,000 per year.

ANIMAL CARE - CONTINUED

IV.A. - CONTINUED

Jeannette Christos, director of the Tri-County Humane Society, said the organization needed assistance from the county for stray animals picked up within the City of Boca Raton.

The following recommendations were made:

- * Increase the adoption of animals and decrease euthanasia.
- * Reimburse organizations for the cost of advertising animals for adoption.
- * Place \$400,000 in a special reserve and set up a menu of services that would help toward the goal of having more pets adopted and less euthanasia of animals.

RECESS

At 12:10 p.m., the chair declared a recess.

RECONVENE

At 2:05 p.m., the board reconvened with Commissioners Aaronson, McCarty, Marcus, Masilotti, Newell, and Roberts present.

(CLERK'S NOTE: The following item was heard out of order.)

II.G.

LIBRARY/PARKS BONDS. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board of a library system expansion master plan prepared by staff. It provided for a seven-year plan implementation for new libraries and expansion of existing libraries. This will be put on the ballot in November 2002. The funding mechanism for consideration included:

- * A 20-year bond issue at approximately \$9 per year per person/household, to result in a \$55,000,000 bond.
- * A short multi-year special level with a tax bill of \$35 per year for four years on a \$125,000 home to achieve a \$55,000,000 bond.

There was consensus on the bond issue but no consensus on the assessment process.

It was agreed that a future date would be set to further discuss possibly changing any agreements that were in place with the cities and the county.

III. TIME CERTAIN - 2:00 P.M.

III.A.

FINANCIALLY ASSISTED AGENCIES. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

The board discussed allocating a one-time lump sum funding to financially assisted agencies. The following recommendations were put forward:

TIME CERTAIN - 2:00 P.M. - CONTINUED

III.A. - CONTINUED

- * A \$1,000,000 one-time allocation at 3 percent to the current base for next fiscal year's allocation. The 3 percent would be \$7.6 million plus an additional \$1 million.
- * Staff to be given autonomy to distribute funds.
- * The new contract should outline to the agencies which would receive one-time funding that they may not receive any funding for the next fiscal year.
- * Investigate whether it is viable to merge service organizations to eliminate duplication of services and save in administrative costs.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Mary M. Barnes spoke in support of the Alzheimer's community to receive funding through the financially assisted agency program, and she also thanked the board for their support to Alzheimer's residents.

Donna Smith, spokesperson for Area Agency on Aging of Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc., made a request for additional funding beyond the \$34,000 recommended by staff.

Susan K. Buze, executive director of the Center for Information and Crisis Services; Cheryl Carpenter, representing Big Brother Big Sister; Yvette L. Coursey, executive director of the Sickle Cell Foundation; Stephanie McKoy, representing The Juvenile Transition Center; Leon Muskin, representing Big Brother Big Sister; Stephen M. Prielozny, director of the Glades Area Police Athletic League; and Maria Todd, representing Big Brother Big Sister, spoke in support of the one-time funding.

Bob Bertisch, director of the Legal Aide Society; Scott Edgerton, spokesperson for the Center for Group Counseling in Boca Raton; and K. Lee Tirpak, did not support the one-time funding.

II.A.

RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS/BOARD DIRECTION. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman reviewed staff research on issues raised by commissioners at the meeting of May 30, 2002. There were 18 issues along with related attachments; the board concurred with staff's recommendations.

The board recommended approval of the \$561,000 budget request for Mae Volen Senior Center, Inc. funding.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - CONTINUED

II.A. - CONTINUED

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Provide information distinguishing the fact that Judicial-State Attorney/Public Defender Fund of \$320,000 was not an Article 5 issue.
- * Provide a breakdown of the number of employees per square foot in the Property Appraiser's Office in comparison to projected renovations, pertaining to Attachment E of the backup.

II.B.

ARTICLE V AND UNFUNDED MANDATES. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman began discussion on Article V and unfunded mandates. He informed the board that staff had provided:

- * A list of historical records of unfunded mandates.
- * An estimate of how much the county would save if Article V were implemented correctly.

The board reviewed and discussed that unfunded mandates totaled \$75 million, and approximately \$16 million involved Article V costs.

II.C.

SCHOOL HEALTH PROGRAM. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that the Health Care District had made a request for \$400,000 to partially fund the school health program.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Tania Palmer, director of Planning for the Health Care District, said the Health Care District currently had a funding plan and there was also plans to approach hospitals, the school board, local foundations, and local corporations for funding. The program, she said, would require annual funding.

The board saw the program as worthwhile; there was no consensus on recommending it for funding, however.

II.D. See page 2.

II.E.

AIRPORTS' NEW POSITION. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman brought to the attention of the board a request for Fiscal Specialist for the Department of Airports.

There was no discussion from the board.

DISCUSSION ITEMS - CONTINUED

II.F.

TOURIST DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL PROPOSED CHANGES. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that the Tourist Development Council had made only technical changes to the budget for fiscal year 2003 and there did not need to be any discussion.

II.G. See page 3.

III. See pages 3 and 4.

IV. See pages 2 and 3.

V. BOARD COMMENTS AND DIRECTION

V.A.

PROPOSED MILLAGE REDUCTION. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 7-11-2002

The board reviewed the programs or organizations that were confirmed to receive funding; they included the following:

*	Drug Court Program	\$41,000
*	Park Security	\$55,000
*	Animal Care	\$400,000
*	Financially Assisted Agencies	\$1,000,000
*	Sheriff's Office motor vehicle fund	\$339,000
*	HIV program	\$7,000
*	Mae Volen Senior Center, Inc.	\$129,000

MOTION to reduce millage rate by 0.05. Motion by Commissioner Roberts and seconded by Commissioner McCarty.

Commissioners Marcus and Aaronson did not support lowering the millage rate. They both expressed concerns that the rate may be increased in the future.

County Administrator Weisman said he supported reducing the millage rate because the county was in an excellent position to do so.

Commissioner Marcus requested a five year budget projection that would include a list and a time frame for all major expenses. This budget projection, she said, she wanted to be available to the board before the public hearings.

UPON CALL FOR A VOTE, the motion carried 3-2. Commissioners Aaronson and Marcus opposed. Commissioners Greene and Masiotti absent.

VI. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

VI.A.

PARK SECURITY. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 7-11-2002

The board discussed the matter of increasing the number of park police in light of the fact that the county's parks had grown.

The following recommendations were brought out in discussion:

- * That the hiring of park police be done on a contractual basis.
- * That the sheriff commit to hiring five new deputies with the money budgeted.
- * That staff look at other ways to supplement public safety through the private sector and non-deputized personnel.
- * That \$55,000 was needed to fund park security.
- * That staff consider increasing the number officers from 5 to 10.

Commissioner Newell opposed the recommendation to increase the number of officers to 10. He said there were no facts to support the recommendation, and a comprehensive plan was needed.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Bring back before the board a contract to add new park officers (the contract should include current park officers).
- * Staff to return before the board at a later date to discuss the proposed \$55,000 budget for park security.

VI.B.

SOUTH COUNTY RESPONSE CENTER. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 7 11-2002

Commissioner Roberts voiced her concern about the threat of terrorism and said that a south county response center would be suitable for the county.

Sheriff's staff informed the board that they were looking at extending the mission of Interagency Threat Assessment Group (ITAG); an application for federal funding would be submitted.

Commissioner Roberts recommended incorporating the mission of ITAG into what was being proposed by the Sheriff and Law Enforcement Planning Council to benefit the county's terrorist plans.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS - CONTINUED

VI.B. - CONTINUED

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Prepare a summary of the purchase requirements and inventory of the Law Enforcement Planning Council, the sheriff's office, and ITAG; and find out what they were doing regarding the threat of terrorism and what their needs entailed.
- * Investigate how Broward and Miami-Dade counties received equipment to aid in the threat against terrorism.
- * Come back before the board with a format of the above information.

VI.C.

SCHOOL READINESS COALITION. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 711-2002

Edward L. Rich, community services director, informed the board that School Readiness Coalition, Inc., required an increase in funding by \$116,000 for a total of \$416,000 for the FY 2003.

William Moss, chair of the School Readiness Coalition, said the Florida statutes required 6 percent local match for the program. He went further to state that funding also came from the United Way, Work Force Development, Children's Services Council, and other funding sources.

There was no board consensus to increase the funding.

Staff informed the board that Governor Jeb Bush, in support of the School Readiness Coalition program, gave direction to the tricounty region to press for the program to be given priority for financial assistance in Tallahassee.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Prepare a resolution supporting the funding of the school readiness coalition at the state level.

VI.D.

HEALTH LIFESTYLES PROGRAM. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

A spokesperson from the Health Lifestyles program, located within the City of Pahokee, made a request to the board for funding in the amount of \$152,814.

Community Services Director, Edward L. Rich, informed the board that Health Lifestyles, a child-care and recreational services program, was not recommended for funding because funds were limited.

UNSCHEDULED ITEMS - CONTINUED

VI.D. - CONTINUED

In light of new programs, such as Health Lifestyle, Commissioner Roberts recommended the following:

- * Increase funding to accommodate new programs.
- * Staff to submit a new budget for financially assisted agencies that would include new programs to be funded.

VI.E.

CHILDREN'S PLACE AT HOME SAFE, INC. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION
7-11-2002

Commissioner Marcus inquired whether a one-time capital contribution of \$500,000 could be granted to the Children's Place at Home Safe to assist with construction of a new facility.

Commissioner Roberts recommended the issue of a general obligation bond to raise the required funds.

Commissioner Aaronson requested more information before he would support assisting the organization's venture.

Staff was directed to bring back more information before the board at a later date.

Commissioner Newell placed the issue on a list titled "Other" for further discussion.

VI.F.

PARKS AND RECREATION. DISCUSSED 7-11-2002

Commissioner Newell made a recommendation that the county should endeavor to assist in funding the operation of the beach and of casino properties in the City of Lake Worth.

A discussion ensued relating to bonds under the recreation and cultural areas.

Commissioner Masilotti said he wanted to see a parks and cultural bond combined; he opined that a more diverse bond issue would have a greater opportunity of being passed.

There was a consensus to present cultural and recreational as one bond issue in November 2002.

William E. Ray, president and chief executive officer of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, told the board that he undertook a survey of non-cultural and cultural programs within the county to assess their plans and needs. He said an executive summary of the survey was delivered to Deputy County Administrator Verdenia C. Baker.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:56 p.m.

ATTESTED:

APPROVED:

Clerk

Chair