

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
June 2, 2009
6:00 p.m.**

The Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2010 Budget and Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chair Bubba Williams presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Linda Fussell
Sammy Hall
Faye Smith
Bubba Williams

Also Present: David Waddell
Joan Minton
Ralph McMullen
Cindy Cunningham
Linda Zarkowsky
Dawn Hudson
Scott Deason

Call to Order - Public Hearing

Chair Bubba Williams called to order the budget hearing for the July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010 fiscal year proposed budget.

Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2010 Proposed Budget

County Manager Joan Minton, Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky, Assistant Finance Director Dawn Hudson and Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen presented details of the proposed budget for fiscal year 2010 for the period beginning July 1, 2009 and ending June 30, 2010.

County Manager Minton discussed various stimulus program grant applications for the County. She presented updates on the following applications that are being developed or have been filed with the assistance of the Middle Georgia RDC:

- *State Court Supervision, Treatment, Education & Prevention Program - \$284,600
- *Central Dispatch / 911 Staffing and Technology Upgrades - \$485,000
- *COPS Grant for Additional Law Enforcement Personnel over 3 years for 10 officers - \$1.3 million
- *SAFER Grant Program for Full-time Firefighters at North Baldwin Station
- *City / County / Private Partnership for CDBG for Downtown
- *HVAC System & Lighting Improvements for County Facilities
- *EDA Application for Water Tank, Road Improvements for Box Grocery
- *RDC / Development Authority – Re-Invent / Development of Community
- *GEFA Application for Water Storage Improvements - \$4 million
- *Middle Georgia Consortium – Stimulus Funds for Qualified Workers
- *Green Project for Tub Grinder
- *DOT Applications for Resurfacing Major Roads
- *DOT Funding for Two Vans and Computer Equipment for Transit Program

County Manager Minton stated the agencies have far more funding requests than available funding; therefore, the County will not know what funds are available until actual notification of funding is received.

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky discussed the budget process and budget calendar stating the budget will be presented for adoption at the June 16, 2009 meeting which begins at 6:00 p.m. She stated a copy of the budget is available for public review at the Commissioners office and the Mary Vinson Library.

Assistant Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented sources of revenue and expenditures for the proposed FY 2010 budget. She stated property taxes are 44% of the County's revenue with 50% of the revenue being used for public safety and the courts.

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky presented a summary of county funds, including the general fund, special revenue funds, debt service fund and water enterprise fund. She stated the presentation will focus on the County general fund. Ms. Zarkowsky pointed out there is a difference from the summary included in the budget document that was distributed previously. She stated the difference is that the solid waste function has been separated from the general fund and is shown as the solid waste special revenue district fund because of accounting requirements for recognizing the user fees authorized by the Board at their last meeting. She reported the new fund shows estimated revenue of \$1.7 million to fund the solid waste collection and disposal function, and all other amounts are the same. Ms. Zarkowsky stated that after this change the general fund budget is based on estimated revenues of \$19,078,400. She presented a comparison of the general fund budget for Fiscal Years 2009 and 2010 showing a decreasing in the proposed budget of \$3,294,400.

Assistant Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported there are revenue losses in courts, sales and other taxes, building permits and charges / fees. She discussed major budget impacts on operating costs including fifteen (15) new detention officers for the full fiscal year, additional food costs for the jail due to the increased number of inmates, increased costs in electricity, funding for the library as outlined in the Service Delivery Agreement, and maintenance at the track / soccer complex, Coopers Park and Harrisburg Park.

Ms. Hudson discussed new funding requests which totaled approximately \$680,000. She stated the only items that are included in the proposed budget are for Keep Baldwin County Beautiful and Adult Literacy which were included by eliminating the existing budget for community promotions, volunteer firefighter reimbursements, and jail operations.

Finance Director Zarkowsky stated the cost of the solid waste function is shown at approximately \$1.7 million. She reported revenue generated by solid waste management fees of \$13.50 per user is included in a restricted fund in the proposed budget. It will be necessary to make cuts in the general fund operating budget in order to stay within the projected revenue. She outlined the following budget reductions totaling \$1,100,000 required in the upcoming budget:

- *Elimination of most temporary salaries
- *No employee raises and increases in employee contributions for health insurance
- *Vacant positions, other than public safety, will remain frozen and not funded
- *Operating supplies were reduced
- *Only mandated training and travel
- *Supplemental funding for DFCS reduced based on prior year rollovers
- *Community promotions funding eliminated in order to fund Keep Baldwin Beautiful and Adult Literacy
- *New plan for inmate medications through County's insurance provider

Ms. Zarkowsky stressed that without the solid waste fees, the budget could not have been balanced without a tax increase of 1.5 mills.

Ms. Zarkowsky presented the five year history of net millage rates. She stated the proposed budget is based on the same rate of 8.64. She stated there are no anticipated reassessments due to the legislative freeze.

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen detailed the aspects of a proposed and the May 19th approved plan for solid waste collection and disposal. He discussed the Community Development Block Grant in the amount of \$378,883 to replace deteriorated

two inch galvanized water lines with six inch lines including fire hydrants in the Davis, Bonner, and Cranford Drives, Peacock Road and Loretta Lane areas. Mr. McMullen discussed the closure costs of the landfill which are not included in this budget, but will be addressed when the economic situation improves. He presented information on the new airport terminal building which was constructed with OneGeorgia, DOT and local funds.

County Manager discussed the economic benefit of the County's tier redesignation from Tier 2 to Tier 1 stating businesses would now be eligible to receive a \$4,000 job tax credit per each employee with the required number of jobs created now being five rather than \$3,000 per employee for a minimum of ten jobs to be created. She commended the Board on the accomplishments of many of the items that were a result of January 21, 2009 Board planning session.

Finance Director Zarkowsky concluded the staffs' presentation of the FY 2010 proposed budget. She asked that anyone wishing to make comments regarding the budget should stand, state their name for the record and limit their comments to the budget only since this is a required public hearing on the proposed budget.

Chair Bubba Williams opened the floor for public comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2001 proposed budget, and the following individuals made comments: Mr. James Hammock.

Finance Director Zarkowsky concluded by stating that approximately \$3 million was cut from the general fund operating budget, \$1.7 million to be replaced by solid waste fees for collection and disposal, with the remainder coming from significant cutbacks in other operating costs. She stated the level of operating revenue remaining will not be enough to replace aging equipment and maintain the County's facilities and infrastructure indefinitely. Without adequate maintenance, these assets will begin to deteriorate. However, by making cuts the County should be able to operate until the economic outlook improves.

Commissioners discussed aspects of the proposed budget as presented for Fiscal Year 2010. Commissioner Sammy Hall made a motion to publish, in the local newspapers, the information that was presented tonight regarding details of solid waste collection and disposal. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Commissioners recommended that the proposed budget and solid waste information be placed on the County's website.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Call to Order

Chair Bubba called the June 2, 2009, Regular Meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2009, Regular Meeting as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Presentation on Twin Lakes Library System

Mr. Barry Reese, system Director, presented information on the Twin Lakes Library System. He presented information regarding governance of the library, Board of Trustees, the three facilities located in the County, funding, staffing, and programs offered through the library system.

Water Tower Road

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen stated that at the last meeting a hearing was held on the proposed closure of a portion of Water Tower Road. He stated that at

that time the Board recommended contacting the Department of Transportation to solicit their assistance and recommendations regarding this road. He stated State DOT Board Member Bobby Parham was contacted as well as DOT engineers and staff members regarding the erosion and drainage issues. He stated the DOT conclusion was there is no feasible way to correct the drainage and erosion problems of the road without actual closure. He stated a property owner's claim of not being able to sell lots along the road if it were closed was investigated, and it was determined the owner could still substantially meet the Land Use Code for development on Water Tower Road if the road is closed.

Commissioner Faye Smith made a motion, that based on a request from a property owner on this road and on information from the DOT, that the portion of Water Tower Road be closed as presented at the public hearing and as outlined in the certification presented for Water Tower Road. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

A copy of Certification is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages _____ and _____.

Appointment to the Fall Line Regional Development Authority

Chair Bubba Williams read a letter from FLRDA Chairman Frank Wall requesting that Mr. Dale Epps, Sr. be reappointed to serve as a Baldwin County appointee on the Fall Line Regional Development Authority representing small business owners.

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to reappoint Mr. Dale Epps, Sr. to serve on the Fall Line Regional Development Authority. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable List Dated June 2, 2009

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated June 2, 2009. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Faye Smith made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 7:15 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Bubba Williams
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk