

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
June 3, 2008
6:00 p.m.**

The Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2009 Budget and Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, June 3, 2008 at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia, with Chairman Bobby Blizzard presiding.

Members Present: Bobby Blizzard
Geneva Davis
Dale Epps, Sr.
Bubba Williams

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

Call to Order - Public Hearing

Chairman Bobby Blizzard called to order the budget hearing for the July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 fiscal year proposed budget.

Budget Hearing for Fiscal Year 2009 Proposed Budget

County Manager Joan Minton, Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky and Assistant Finance Director Dawn Hudson presented the proposed budget for fiscal year 2009 for the period beginning July 1, 2008 and ending June 30, 2009.

County Manager Minton discussed opening slides of the presentation showing the Sinclair Water Plant which is under construction and slated to be in operation in July 2008 to provide much needed water to the County. She discussed the budget process / calendar and stated the budget will be presented for adoption at the June 17, 2008 meeting which begins at 6:30 p.m.

Finance Director Linda Zarkowsky discussed the proposed budget summary by fund, estimated revenues and expenditures. She also discussed major budget impacts including the jail project deficit, new funding for the library, additional maintenance at the track / soccer complex and increases in fuel, utilities and asphalt.

Assistant Finance Director Dawn Hudson reported on the impact of increase in fuel prices, the increased cost of utilities and supplies and other cost increases including equipment and operational increases for law enforcement and jail operations. She discussed decline in court fines and forfeitures along with funding requests from other agencies such as the Milledgeville/Baldwin County Development Authority, Oconee Greenway Authority, Fall Line Development Authority and Oconee Center.

Ms. Zarkowsky presented the five year history of millage rates and stated the 2008 rollback for reassessment will be based on the final tax digest.

County Manager presented information on the Sinclair Water Plant, the Airport terminal building grant, CDBG funds for drainage improvements in the Harrisburg area, the traffic light at Meriweather Road and 441 North, and road department projects. She gave an update on projects funded by SPLOST such as the new law enforcement center, water line extensions, the soccer / track complex, and the Harrisburg Community Center.

Finance Director Zarkowsky reviewed the County's personnel system which was adopted by the County in 1979 and approved by the Justice Department. She stated all classified positions, other than elected officials and Sheriff Department employees, are covered by the Civil Service System. She stated the County has been contracting with

the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia since 1988 to develop a classification system, and the plan was updated in 2005. Job descriptions and pay grades were developed for all County positions based on the system developed by the Civil Service Commission for federal employees. The grades assigned to positions reflect the level of responsibility and job requirements for each position and provide criteria for selecting qualified applicants. Beginning with the last update, the Sheriff is utilizing the classification system and pay plan, although his employees are not Covered by the civil service system.

Finance Director Zarkowsky reported that Commissioners have a copy of a letter from GEBCorp which is the agency that administers the County ACCG Defined Benefit Plan. The letter states that all counties participating in the plan must sign new plan documents this year to be in compliance with new federal laws adopted by Congress, and none of this will affect the cost of the plan. There are also some procedural and plan clarifications recommended by GEBCorp which will be included in the new document. A Resolution must be approved and signed to be filed with the IRS by the ACCG Attorney. Ms. Zarkowsky stated this will be included with the budget resolution and plan documents when adopted.

She stated that due to the uncertainty of funding in the coming year, the management staff would like to make the following recommendations: Freeze vacant positions that are part of the civil service system until the economic picture improves; limit purchasing during the first quarter of FY 2009 to only what is absolutely necessary. She stated there may be additional recommendations after the first quarter budget review.

Chairman Blizzard opened the floor for public comments regarding the Fiscal Year 2009 proposed budget, and the following individuals made comments: Dr. Roger Stenbridge Ms. Debra Hurt and Ms. Marilyn Smith.

There being no further comments, the Public Hearing was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Call to Order

Chairman Bobby Blizzard called the June 3, 2008, Regular Meeting to order at 6:38 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 15, 2008 and May 6, 2008 Regular Meetings as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Proclamation Honoring Collins P. Lee

Chairman Bobby Blizzard presented a Proclamation to family members of the late Vice-Chairman Collins P. Lee. The Proclamation recognized the many accomplishments and contributions of Collins P. Lee to his city, his county, his state and his nation.

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

Ordinance Regarding Ban of Certain Large Boats on Lake Sinclair

Sheriff Bill Masee reported that due to the drought conditions causing low lake levels on Lake Lanier and other Georgia lakes it could result in large boats being brought to Lake Sinclair. He feels it would be prudent to consider an ordinance to ban certain large vessels on Lake Sinclair to prohibit boats greater than a certain length, those with toilets, sleeping quarters and cooking capabilities. He reported Putnam County Sheriff Howard Sills has discussed this issue in Putnam County, and a public hearing will be held in Putnam County once Putnam County Attorney Huskins finalizes the wording in the Ordinance. Sheriff Masee stated the majority of other Georgia Power lakes already have restrictions like those proposed for Lake Sinclair, and the issue of large vessels is certainly a public safety issue; but, sanitation and erosion of the shoreline are also problems to be considered. He stated he would work with the Sheriffs from Putnam and Hancock Counties in order for all three counties to operate under the same regulations. He stated the vessels that are currently on Lake Sinclair and on which

personal property taxes are being paid would be grandfathered in. He stated a public hearing has been advertised regarding the proposed ordinance in Baldwin County and recommended the County Commissioners strongly consider adopting the ordinance to address large vessels on the lake.

Update on Sinclair Water Authority Plant

County Manager Joan Minton reported construction of the Sinclair Water Plant is going well, and the plant is slated to be in operation in July. She reported the plant will produce four (4) million gallons of water per day, and both counties knew at the beginning of operation that the allocation between counties would have to be adjusted to meet actual needs of each County. County Manager Minton presented a Memorandum of Understanding allowing Baldwin County to purchase additional water from Sinclair Water Authority and authorizing the Chairman to sign on behalf of Baldwin County once the Memorandum is approved by Putnam County and acknowledged by the Sinclair Water Authority.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is herewith attached at pages _____ and _____.

Retail Beer & Wine by the Drink Application

Assistant County Manager Ralph McMullen presented an alcoholic beverage license application for retail beer and wine by the drink from Jamie Pierce of Hollands Bar and Grill located at 560 Gordon Highway. He reported all legal requirements of the application progress have been met.

Commissioner Dale Epps made a motion to approve the alcoholic beverage license application as presented. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Accounts Payable List Dated June 3, 2008

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion to approve the Accounts Payable list dated June 3, 2008. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Appearances

Ms. Joanne Ogden addressed Commissioners regarding pit bulls. She requested that the County adopt an ordinance banning pit bulls. The County Attorney will be asked to contact the City Attorney to address possible solutions to such situations.

Adjournment

Commissioner Bubba Williams made a motion that the Board of Commissioners meeting be adjourned at 7:05 p.m. The motion was seconded, and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

William R. (Bobby) Blizzard
Chairman

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk