

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
November 1, 2016
6:00 p.m.

A Public Hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2017 and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, November 1, 2016, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Emily C. Davis
Tommy French
Sammy Hall
Henry Craig
John Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Jill Adams

Call to Order of Public Hearing

Chair Sammy Hall called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. He stated the purpose of the hearing is to present information on the proposed FY 2017 budget and to receive public comment on the proposed budget.

County Manager Ralph McMullen thanked the administrative staff that worked very hard in preparing the budget. He also thanked Commissioners, other elected officials and department heads for their hard work and input in the budget process. He stated all legal requirements have been met by publishing a legal notice in the newspaper, and copies of the budget have been made available for public review. The Commissioners are scheduled to officially adopt the budget at the November 15, 2016 meeting.

Finance Director Hudson presented the proposed budget for the period January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017. She stated this is a balanced budget which includes: General Fund; Special Revenue Funds and the Water / Sewer Enterprise Fund. Ms. Hudson stated the General Fund totals \$22,230,000 and the Enterprise Fund for the Water/Sewer Department is \$4,319,000. She presented a breakdown of each Special Revenue Fund.

The presentation outlined where General Fund revenues come from. Forty-seven percent (47%) of the County's revenue is derived from property taxes; seventeen percent (17%) from Local Option Sales Tax, Insurance premium tax is six percent (6%), with other taxes totaling eight percent (8%) for a total of seventy-eight percent (78%) of revenue being derived from various taxes. The remaining percentages of the General Fund revenue are from fines and forfeitures, charges for services, intergovernmental grants, and licenses and permits. Ms. Hudson stated the proposed budget is based on property tax revenue of \$10.36 million; LOST revenue remains the same at \$3.8 million and insurance premium tax will increase slightly to \$1.47 million. Also included in the budget is an increase of the annual alcohol license fees, generating an additional \$10,000 annually, as well as an increase in permit fees and rate structures. With these rate changes total revenue from Licenses & Permits is estimated to increase from \$75,000 to \$100,000 in FY 2017. Ms. Hudson reported there will be an increase in grant revenue of \$1,037,900 with the expansion of the Drug Court, increase in State LMIG funds and a SAFER grant to fund three new fire fighter positions for two years. Other increases include charges for services from \$196,000 in FY 2016 to \$2.44 million in FY 2017 and an

increase of \$85,100 for public building rental, rebates, etc. Ms. Hudson stated that a decrease is expected in fine revenue of approximately \$62,000 for FY 2017.

Expenditures for the General Fund are forty-five percent (45%) for public safety, eleven percent (11%) judicial; and eighteen percent (18%) general government. Public works, health and welfare, recreation and development are other types of expenditures funded through General Fund. She highlighted the following expenditures: county-wide revaluation, increase in personal services for a 6%-10% increase for mandated officers, 3% increase for other employees and new positions for Voter Registration Clerk, Probate Clerk, and Road Maintenance Worker. Grant funded expenditure increases in the amount of \$1,037,900 are also included.

Finance Director Hudson discussed Special Revenue Funds for the Law Library, Drug Abuse Treatment and Education Fund, Confiscated Assets Fund, E911, Solid Waste Disposal Fund and the Enterprise Fund for Water / Sewer. Expenditures for the E911 fund are expected to increase by eight percent (8%) while revenues will only increase two percent (2%). The \$150,000 shortfall will be covered by the General Fund Revenue. The Solid Waste Disposal contract with Advanced Waste has increased by nine percent (9%) since 2009; however, there has been no increase in fees to customers. She stated the Solid Waste fee will have to be increased to continue to cover the cost of the contract. Water and Sewer operating revenues for FY17 are estimated a \$4.3 million based on current water and sewer rates. Budgeted revenues are sufficient to cover operating costs and debt service payments.

Finance Director Hudson discussed the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). She presented information on each project detailing original estimated cost, current estimated cost, total expended to date and percentage of completion.

Chair Hall opened the floor for public comment.

Mr. Grady Torrance discussed the importance of appropriating funds for 4-H programs and other County Extension Services.

Sheriff Bill Masee thanked the Board for budgeting funds to provide salary increases for the Sheriff Department mandated officers.

There were no further comments on the proposed FY 2017 budget.

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order

Chair Sammy called the Regular Meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 18, 2016, Public Hearing and Regular Meeting. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Airport Capital Improvement Plan and Proposed Amendment to Airport Advisory Committee By-Laws

Mr. Jim Wolfgang, Chair of the Airport Advisory Committee, presented the proposed Airport Capital Improvement Plan for fiscal years 2018 – 2022. Mr. Wolfgang discussed projects for each year and funding sources for each.

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the Airport Capital Improvement Plan as presented. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Mr. Wolfgang presented a proposed amendment to the Airport Advisory Committee By-Laws to add the Public Works Director of the City of Milledgeville as a non-voting member of the Committee.

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to approve the amendment to the Airport Advisory Committee By-Laws as presented. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Extension Services Update

Mr. Robbie Jones provided an update on 4-H programs and other County Extension Services.

Surplus Property

County Attorney David McRee presented a surplus property list for the Board's consideration to be auctioned by the County. He stated there is a right of redemption for one year on these properties, and he recommended the County proceed with a public auction and specify the right of redemption in the legal notice.

Commissioner Tommy French made a motion to approve the list of surplus property for auction. Commissioner Henry Craig seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

County Attorney McRee stated the expected date of the auction will be the first auction date in December.

Land Use Administrator

County Manager Ralph McMullen stated the Board discussed at a previous meeting naming an Alternate Land Use Administrator to review plats and documents related to land use issues. He stated Ernie Smith, GIS Specialist, has been working closely with him on Land Use issues, and he recommended naming Ernie as alternate at this time.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to authorize Ernie Smith to serve as Alternate Land Use Administrator. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mr. McMullen stated there is a request for an appeal to a land use decision issued at the administrative level. Thus, there is a need to reconstitute the Land Use Committee that has been inactive for some time. Two of the members of the Committee are deceased; therefore, the County must go through the process of filling the two vacant positions. He stated this matter will be on the next Agenda for further discussion.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

County Manager's Report

County Manager Ralph McMullen presented an update on the Landfill Closure. He said the project is advancing well. He said the goal is to have the remainder of the liner down before it rains again. The anticipated project completion date is the end of December. He stated the project is within the budgeted amount of \$3 million.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:20 p.m. Vice Chair Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk