

**Baldwin County Commissioners**  
**Public Hearing and Regular Meeting**  
**November 3, 2015**  
**6:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing on the proposed budget for FY 2016 and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, November 3, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., Baldwin County Courthouse, Suite 319, 121 North Wilkinson Street, Milledgeville, Georgia with Chair Sammy Hall presiding.

Members Present: Tommy French  
Sammy Hall  
Henry Craig  
John Westmoreland

Members Absent: Emily C. Davis

Also Present: David McRee  
Ralph McMullen  
Cindy Cunningham  
Dawn Hudson

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 2016 budget and to receive public comment on the proposed budget. He stated a legal notice has been published in the newspaper, and copies of the budget have been made available for public review.

County Manager Ralph McMullen welcomed everyone to the budget presentation and public hearing. He commended Finance Director Dawn Hudson on her hard work in the preparation of the budget and this presentation.

Finance Director Hudson presented a proposed budget for the period January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2016. The budget includes: General Fund in the amount of \$19,833,000; Special Revenue Funds totaling \$1,700,000 and the Water / Sewer Enterprise Fund in the amount of \$4,250,500. The presentation outlined where General Fund revenues come from and how these funds are spent. Forty-eight percent (48%) of the County's revenue is derived from property taxes; nineteen percent (19%) from Local Option Sales Tax and the remaining percentages from fines and forfeitures, charges for services, intergovernmental grants, licenses and permits, insurance premium tax and other taxes. Expenditures for the General Fund are forty-seven percent (47%) 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.

Ms. Hudson stated the budget being presented is a balanced operating budget with revenues equal to expenditures. She reported this recommended budget reflects less than a one percent (1%) increase over the current year's adopted budget. County Department Heads requested additional funding of \$797,288 (4%) from the previous budget; however most departments were held to level funding.

Finance Director Hudson discussed specific requests that were included in the budget: increase to support 2016 elections; additional clerk position for Tax Commissioner's office which is contingent upon passage of the State Boat Bill; a contract for revaluation of land values; step increase for County paid Assistant District Attorney (ADA); supplement for Accountability Court ADA; increase in State Court Judge's salary for State approved COLAs; cell phones for Magistrates for after

hour calls; taser body cameras and funding for additional data storage for the Sheriff's Department; 32 self-contained breathing apparatus bottles for the Fire Department; update for computer desk tops for reporting stations and three (3) sets of turn out gear for the Fire Department; new EMA / Support Tech position to maintain mass notification system and yearly maintenance for the system; change of part-time shelter worker at Animal Control to full-time position; upgrade in County Extension from Administrative Secretary position to County Resource Manager; part-time position for Code Enforcement and an increase budget wide for the increased cost of providing services.

Ms. Hudson presented information on community investment - the cost per month per resident for County services with Baldwin County spending \$35.90 per month per resident which is substantially lower than surrounding counties. She stated \$35.90 per resident per month pays for all County services from 24 hour law enforcement and fire protection to recreational facilities and activities.

Ms. Hudson discussed the Net Millage Rate and Five Year History with a decrease in the digest of **(\$172,047)**; legally restricted Special Revenue Funds; self-sustaining Enterprise Fund and current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) revenue and expenditures.

Chair Hall opened the floor for public comment. There were comments from the public.

Commissioner Henry Craig commended Finance Director Hudson and County staff for a job well done in preparation and presentation of the proposed FY 2016 budget.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the public hearing at 6:20 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chair Hall called the November 3, 2015, Regular Meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

#### Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2015 Work Session and October 20, 2015 Public Hearing / Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### County Roads

Dr. Noris Price, Superintendent of Schools, addressed the Board regarding the prioritized list of County dirt roads. She stated she met with County Manager McMullen and requested that the County revisit the prioritization of the roads based on the number of students that live on a road as well as the number of students that are already on the bus before it travels down a road to pick up other students. Assistant Superintendent for School System Operations, Allen Martin, also expressed concern about conditions of the dirt roads. Dr. Price urged Commissioners to re-examine the priority list. She stated the Board of Education feels that Stallings Road should be the number one priority on the list with Moran Springs and Lumpkin following respectively. Mr. Martin requested that Christmas Lane and Reid Road be added to the priority list since the bus gets stuck on these roads when there is rainy weather. Mr. Martin also requested that the County consider placing Nesmith Road on the priority list.

Chair Hall suggested that County Engineer Brian Wood review the current priority list to see if adjustments could be made as outlined by Dr. Price and Mr. Martin. He requested that County Engineer Wood make recommendations to the Board on the re-prioritization of dirt roads. Commissioner Henry Craig asked whether the list of roads

that school officials submitted were in the priority order they wanted. Mr. Martin indicated they were.

#### Proposed Abandonment of Emerald Way North

Chair Hall stated a public hearing was held on October 20<sup>th</sup> regarding a request to abandon Emerald Way North. Mr. Ernie Wetzler who owns property along Emerald Way North addressed the Board at the public hearing requesting the closure of Emerald Way North NE from the intersection with Erin shores Dr. NE to the County Line. He again asked the Board to abandon this portion of the road.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to abandon Emerald Way North as presented. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

#### Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia Military College

County Manager Ralph McMullen presented a Memorandum of Understanding between Georgia Military College Board of Trustees and Baldwin County for mutual aid. He stated the purpose of the agreement is to provide extraterritorial assistance between GMC and Baldwin County under conditions established in Georgia Code 36-69-3 for extraterritorial assistance. The agreement outlines authority of personnel, responsibility for expenses and compensation of employees, and command structure.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with Georgia Military College for mutual aid as presented. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding is herewith attached and made an official part of the minutes at pages \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

#### Grant Awards

Finance Director Dawn Hudson stated two grant awards are on the Agenda for the Board's consideration; however, a grant award for the District Attorney's office was received this afternoon and must be submitted prior to the next Regular Meeting. Ms. Hudson requested the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council 2015 VOCA Continuation grant for the District Attorney's office be added to the Agenda.

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to amend the Agenda to include the VOCA grant award for the District Attorney's office. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Finance Director Hudson presented the following grant awards:

- (1) Juvenile Justice Incentive Grant Award - \$78,804.00; no required match.
- (2) 2015-2016 VOCA Continuation Award for Solicitor's Office-\$50,128; \$12,532 required match which will be paid with State Court victim fines.
- (3) 2015-2016 VOCA Continuation Award for District Attorney's office-\$90,389; \$22,597 required match which will be paid with Superior Court victim fines.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to accept the three grant awards as presented. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

### County Manager's Report

County Manager McMullen had no further information to present to the Board.

### Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

### New Business

Commissioner John Westmoreland requested an update on re-striping County roads. Mr. McMullen stated he would have County Engineer provide requested information.

### Adjournment

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 6:45 p.m. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall  
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham  
County Clerk