

Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
November 21, 2017
6:00 p.m.

The Public Hearing on the FY 2018 Budget and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners was held Tuesday, November 21, 2017, 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
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Public Hearing

Chair Hall called the FY 2018 Budget Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

Finance Director Dawn Hudson stated all legal requirements have been met for public notice regarding the FY 2018 Budget. This required Public Hearing has been advertised; and, the proposed budget has been made available for public review at the library, the Commissioners' office and on the County website. She reported the 2018 proposed budget is scheduled for approval at the December 19th Commissioners' meeting.

Ms. Hudson discussed the budget summary for the General Fund, the Special Revenue Funds and the Enterprise Fund. She stated this year's General Fund budget is \$24,396,000 which is an increase of approximately 9% over last year. She discussed sources of revenue for the General Fund; of which 78% comes from some sort of tax revenue with 48% being derived from property taxes. Charges for services are about 11% of the budget and fines and forfeitures are 3%. The County also has intergovernmental revenue in the amount of about \$19,000,000 which is derived from grants. Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) helps make up 19% of the County's revenue. The current tax will expire in March 2018 and is currently 5.9% under estimated collections. The County is projected to collect \$37.6 million of the estimated collection of \$40 million.

Ms. Hudson stated the County has 9 special revenue funds with one of the major of these being the 911 fund totaling \$844,000, another being the solid waste fund which totals \$1.9 million. Other special revenue funds include drug treatment fund, law library fund, drug task force fund, drug education fund, drug seizure fund, jail inmate fund and training facility fund. The revenues for these particular funds are restricted for specific purposes. The County Water / Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund which totals \$4.5 million. She stated the water/sewer fund has sufficient revenue to cover the operating costs and the service payments of the fund.

Ms. Hudson discussed expenditures stating mandated services account for 85% of expenditures leaving only 15% for discretionary spending. Public Safety expenditures account for approximately 47% of all County expenditures. Public Safety includes the Sheriff's Office, jail operations and the Fire Department. General Fund expenditures are distributed to the following departments: General Government – 18%; Judicial –

11%; Public Works – 9%; Recreation – 8%; Development – 3%; Health and Welfare – 2%; Contingency – 1%; Other – 1%.

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Ms. Hudson discussed other items included in the budget which include payment on the second portion of the County-wide property revaluation; a step increase for classified employees; cost of increase in benefits for employees for insurance and pension benefits; the commitment of \$500,000 to the hospital to assist in keeping the hospital open and for indigent care.

Ms. Hudson stated there was a slight increase this year in expenditures and a small decline in revenue. In the proposed 2018 budget, there is a \$155,000 shortfall, and that is budgeted as a transfer from the General Fund.

The floor was opened for comments from the public. There were no public comments; Commissioners had no additional comments or questions.

Adjournment of Public Hearing

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to close the Public Hearing on the proposed 2018 budget at 6:15 p.m. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chair Hall called the November 21, 2017 Regular Meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Emily C. Davis made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2017 Regular Meeting, November 13, 2017 Called Meeting and November 20, 2017 Called Meeting as presented. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Acceptance of Meriwether Place into County Road System

Chair Hall stated this road has not been completed to meet requirements of the County construction standards; therefore, this item will be presented at a later date.

Appointment to Sinclair Water Authority Board

Chair Hall stated that currently Mr. David Waddell serves as a County representative on the Board of the Sinclair Water Authority, and his term is slated to expire. Chair Hall stated Mr. Waddell is a valuable member of this Board, and he recommended that Mr. Waddell be reappointed to serve in this position.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reappoint Mr. David Waddell as a County representative to serve on the Board of the Sinclair Water Authority. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Amendment to Employee Handbook – Nepotism

County Attorney David McRee reported he had been asked to review the current section of the Handbook as it relates to nepotism and make recommended revisions. Mr. McRee presented the revised nepotism policy for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the Nepotism Policy as presented. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Amendment to Agenda to Add Truck Ordinance and Executive Session for Personnel

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to amend the Agenda to add the Truck Ordinance and to have an Executive Session to discuss personnel matters. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Truck Ordinance

County Attorney David McRee presented a draft truck ordinance. He stated the Ordinance must include a list of roads that will be specifically posted for no truck traffic. Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to table the ordinance until such time that it can be finalized to include a list of road names. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business to come before the Board.

New Business

There was no new business to come before the Board.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m. to discuss personnel matters. Vice Chair Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reopen the Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Chair Hall announced that Mr. Carlos Tobar, current Grady County Administrator, has been named as the finalist for the position of Baldwin County Manager.

Adjournment

Vice Chair Tommy French made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:07 p.m. Commissioner Emily C. Davis seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk