

**Baldwin County Commissioners
Public Hearing and Regular Meeting
November 4, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

A Public Hearing on the proposed FY 2015 Budget and the Regular Meeting of the Baldwin County Commissioners were held Tuesday, November 4, 2014, 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
Johnny Westmoreland

Also Present: David McRee
Ralph McMullen
Dawn Hudson
Cindy Cunningham

Public Hearing on FY 2015 Proposed Budget

County Manager Ralph McMullen reported that Commissioners and County Administrative Staff met with elected / appointed officials and department heads regarding their requests for the 2015 budget. He stated the proposed budget was discussed in detail at the October 21st Commissioners Work Session, and this public hearing is being held to solicit public comment. He stated Commissioners have received their first draft, and it is also available at the Commissioners Office and the public library.

Finance Director Dawn Hudson reviewed the budget calendar for the 2015 budget process. She stated the formal presentation of the proposed budget will be made at this hearing and comments on the budget received from the public. The adoption of the 2015 budget is scheduled for 6:00 p.m., November 18, 2014.

Ms. Hudson presented the budget summary by fund including the general fund, special revenue funds and enterprise fund. She presented local revenue sources for FY 2015 with estimated revenues and expenditures totaling \$4,072,500 for all funds.

Ms. Hudson discussed sources of estimated revenues and expenditures with 49% of revenue coming from property taxes and 46% of expenditures being for public safety. She presented per capita expenditure by function which is projected at \$432 per person for FY 2015.

Finance Director Hudson detailed the summary of requests, mandates and reductions as follows: mandatory 1% increase in salary for elected officials; implementation of the compensation plan updates as recommended by the Carl Vinson Institute; increase to update the County's aerial photography and funds for technology upgrades; part-time position for a personal property appraiser in the Assessor's office; increase in Clerk of Courts budget to scan and restore plat books; and fully funding a victim advocate position for the Solicitor's office that was added as part-time in 2014. She stated increases are also included for vehicle replacement for the Sheriff's Department; increase for food and utilities at the jail, based on current costs; increase for fire administration to purchase turnout gear and uniforms; addition of part-time employee at animal control to assist in maintenance of shelter and feeding and caring for the animals; funds were also added to implement a pavement preservation program that should extend the life of County road surface; however, this increase will be offset by reductions in other areas of the department budget. Ms. Hudson reported the Code

Enforcement / Building Inspection for the County will now be done through a contract with SafeBuilt. This will be an increase from 2014 but reflects a decrease from 2012 when the department was fully staffed. Allocation to the Greenway Authority was increased due to increased maintenance costs, and the proposed budget will provide an increase in the County's contingency fund.

Finance Director Hudson presented the net millage history with 2014 net M & O millage at 9.64. She presented information the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax projects; discussed SPLOST collections to date which are 7.19% under the original estimated collections and presented a schedule of projects undertaken with sales tax proceeds.

Chair Hall opened the floor for questions and comments from Commissioners and the public. There were no questions or comments from the public. The public hearing was adjourned at 6:25

Call to Order of Regular Meeting

Chair Hall called the November 4, 2014, Regular Meeting to order at 6:25 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2014 Work Session and Regular Meeting as submitted. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Introduction of Mr. Steve Owens, Safebuilt

County Manager Ralph McMullen introduced Steve Owens who will be Baldwin County's Chief Building Inspector through contract with Safebuilt. Mr. Owens thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with the County in the capacity as Chief Building Inspector.

Mr. McMullen stated a "meet and greet" will be held Wednesday, November 12th from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m., in the Commission Chambers, to provide an opportunity for area contractors to meet Mr. Owens and ask any questions and/or provide their comments.

Appointments to Code Enforcement Panel

Chair Sammy Hall reported the Safe Property Standards Ordinance states a panel will be established to review appeals made by property owners who disagree with their issuance of notice of violation. As discussed at the last meeting, two members of this panel are to be appointed by the Board of Commissioners, and he asked each Commissioner be prepared to submit recommendations for these two appointments.

The following names were submitted for consideration: Eddie Eubanks, Hudman Evans, Timothy Thomas, David Jackson, Quay Fuller and Mark Fairbrass.

After discussion, Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to refer this matter to the Property Committee with the two recommendations to be presented at the November 18th meeting. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously.

Approval of List of "Knocked Off" Property Parcels

County Manager Ralph McMullen presented a list of property parcels for the Commissioners' consideration to be declared surplus for auction.

Commissioner John Westmoreland made a motion to declare the list of properties as surplus property and to proceed with the sale of said properties. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

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

Contract for Professional Services for Airport Project

County Attorney David McRee reported that at the May 20, 2014 meeting, Commissioners approved W.K. Dickson & Co. as Consulting Engineer for airport improvements projects. Mr. McRee stated he has reviewed the Contract for Professional Services and the recommended changes have been made.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the Contract between Baldwin County and W.K. Dickson for consulting engineering services for the airport. Mr. John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A copy of the Contract for Professional Services is on file in the Commissioners Office.

County Manager's Report

County Manager McMullen reported the 2015 LMIG list will be finalized and presented to the Board at the November 18th meeting for their consideration. Commissioner Westmoreland requested that Engineer Brian Wood present information at the Work Session on the LMIG road list explaining road ratings for the priority list.

Old Business

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis stated she continues to receive complaints regarding services for garbage collection and the convenience centers. She stated Advanced Waste must correct the issues.

After discussion, Commissioners requested that a meeting with Advanced representatives be held to discuss these issues and what measures will be taken to correct them. Information will be presented to the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to appropriate \$40,000 to the Central State Hospital Local Redevelopment Authority with funding to be paid in four quarterly payments of \$10,000 each upon receipt of quarterly progress reports from the Authority. Also, Commissioner Craig stipulated if the State approves funding of \$650,000, any funds paid to the Authority would be returned to the County. He further stipulated that if the City of Milledgeville decreased their funding to CSHLRA, the County funding would then be decreased by the same percentage. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed by the following vote:

Aye: Craig, Westmoreland, French, Hall Abstention: Davis

New Business

Commissioner Craig expressed his appreciation to all veterans for their service to our Country.

Public Comments on Non-Agenda Items

There were no public comments.

Executive Session

Vice Chair Emily C. Davis made a motion to adjourn into Executive Session to discuss property acquisition. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. The Regular Meeting was adjourned into Executive Session at 6:50 p.m.

Regular Meeting

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to reopen the November 4, 2014 Regular Meeting at 7:05 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Property Acquisition

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to approve the allocation of funds for the purchase of state property through the Fall Line Regional Development Authority with said funds to be allocated from sales tax revenue for economic development purposes. Commissioner Tommy French seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Adjournment

Commissioner Henry Craig made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 7:15 p.m. Commissioner John Westmoreland seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Sammy Hall
Chair

Cynthia K. Cunningham
County Clerk