

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING HELD

MONDAY, JUNE 18, 2012 AT 5:30 P.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Public Hearing on Monday, June 18, 2012 at 5:30 p.m. in Courtroom #2 of the White County Courthouse. The purpose of the meeting was to conduct a public hearing on the proposed budgets for White County for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2012 (FY 2013). Present at the meeting were: Chairman Travis Turner, Commissioner Terry Goodger, Commissioner Lyn Holcomb, Commissioner Edwin Nix, Commissioner Craig Bryant, County Manager Michael Melton, Finance Director Vicki Mays, and County Clerk Shanda Smallwood.

Chairman Turner called the Public Hearing to order.

Mr. Michael Melton presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2013 (see attached presentation). Mr. Melton detailed the influencing factors in the developing of the FY 2013 budget as revenue decreasing from property taxes by approximately \$875,000 due to declining property values, 17% increase in employee health insurance, requests for additional staff / equipment, and proposing a 3.5% cost of living increase for County Employees.

Following discussion regarding the proposed 3.5% cost of living allowance - Commissioner Goodger suggested leaving the cost of living allowance at 3.5%, Chairman Turner, Commissioner Holcomb and Commissioner Nix stated they felt more comfortable with the increase being set at 3% - therefore there was a consensus among the majority of the Board of Commissioners that they would feel more comfortable with a 3% increase being budgeted.

Commissioner Holcomb stated that he wanted the Board to consider reinstating the County retirement contribution for Fiscal Year 2014. Commissioner Bryant said he would like for this to be reviewed January 2013.

Ms. Vicki Mays explained that in the proposed budget for FY 2013, General Fund's contribution to several other funds had been reduced by utilizing the other fund's fund balance to replace General Fund's contribution; thereby reducing the burden on General Fund.

Chairman Turner opened the floor for public comment concerning the proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget.

Mr. John Jordan asked what was the Board of Commissioners goal was in terms of the number of months of operation expenses which would be set aside in the General Fund's fund balance (reserves).

Ms. Vicki Mays stated that as of the FY 11 audit, there was 5.2 months of operating expenses in the General Fund Reserve (Fund Balance).

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Mr. Jordan asked how much of the General Fund - Fund Balance was being utilized to balance the FY 2013 Budget.

Mr. Mays stated the proposed budget, as presented, utilized \$875,000.00 in fund balance; however additional surplus funds from FY 2012 budget would be rolling into fund balance after the FY 2012 audit was complete.

Mr. Jordan stated he was concerned about the amount which was transferred from the Hotel / Motel Tax Fund to General Fund.

Mr. Melton stated that all Hotel / Motel Tax revenue was being expended in accordance with State Law and for the purposes intended. He indicated that the auditors had cautioned about building up excess reserves and advised that a portion of the fund balance did need to be utilized.

Commissioner Bryant stated that a portion of Hotel / Motel tax had always gone into the General Fund and the County's financial status was currently the best it had been in the ten (10) years he had been Commissioner.

Chairman Turner stated the Board of Commissioners planned to adopt the Fiscal Year 2013 Budget on Monday, June 25, 2012.

The Public Hearing was adjourned.

The minutes of the June 18, 2012 Public Hearing are hereby approved as stated this 9th day of July, 2012.

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

s/Travis C. Turner
Travis C. Turner, Chairman

s/Terry D. Goodger
Terry D. Goodger, District 1

s/Lyn Holcomb
Lyn Holcomb, District 2

s/Edwin Nix
Edwin Nix, District 3

s/Craig Bryant
Craig Bryant, District 4

s/Shanda Smallwood
Shanda Smallwood, County Clerk