

WHITE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MINUTES OF THE BUDGET WORK SESSION HELD

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2015 AT 8:30 A.M.

The White County Board of Commissioners held a Budget Work Session on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 8:30 a.m. in the Master's Hall Meeting Room #4 at Unicoi State Park Lodge. The purpose of this budget Work Session was to review preliminary departmental budgets for Fiscal Year 2016. 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 Murphy.

Mr. Melton reviewed that the preliminary draft budget as presented stating that this included the budget request as submitted by the elected officials, capital requests, no fund balance included as revenue and was not balanced – with revenues at \$13,971,590.00 and expenses at \$17,125,806.00. However, with the information being presented it would be possible for the Board to have enough information to being process to a balanced budget.

Sheriff Neal Walden presented the following budgets:

- Detention Center Revenue / Expenses: \$2,900.00 / \$2,136,299.00
- Sheriff's Office Revenue / Expenses: \$203,737.00 / \$3,195,670.00

Both proposed budgets included a 5% increase for salaries & wages, tasers / equipment, 2 vehicles and live scan fingerprinting machine.

The Board directed that all capital / equipment purchases be taken out of the budget and moved to a central listing that could be evaluated to be paid by SPLOST and that all salary increases be taken out of the proposed budget at this time so that all departments could be evaluated equitably.

Mr. Bryan Payne, Chief Appraiser, presented a proposed budget for the Assessor's Office of \$537,779.00 compared to \$573,606.00 for FY 2015. The Board of Commissioners directed that the Professional Services – Attorney be reduced from \$10,000.00 to \$2,500.00 based on the history of expenses within this line item. The Board also directed that \$17,350.00 be taken out of the budget for the personal property audit and the Board of Commissioners would be meeting with the Board of Assessors regarding the cell tower audit budgeted in the FY 15 Budget.

Mr. Robert Hamrick, IT Director, presented a FY 16 Budget (\$317,427.00) which was 9.4% over the FY 15 Budget (\$290,032.00) with capital equipment purchases included – with the same budget representing a 1.5% decrease (\$285,827.00) with the capital items being deferred to SPLOST.

Mr. David Murphy, Public Safety Director, presented the following budgets for Emergency Management, 911 Communications, Fire Services, and Animal Services:

- Emergency Management: \$175,506 (An Increase of \$4,990 / 2.93%);

March 25, 2015 – Budget Work Session Minutes (continued)

- 911 Communications: \$849,911 – Total (An Increase of \$9,946 / 1.184%, General Fund Contribution Increased by 3.096%);
- 911 Restricted Capital & Upgrade Fund: Fund Balance of \$89,150 – 2016 Projects in the amount of \$48,000;
- Fire Services: \$1,461,895 (An Increase of \$435,151 / 42.38% with Capital Expenses of 2 tanker replacements or a 3.424% increase without capital); and
- Animal Services: \$380,709 (An Increase of \$89,204 / 30.61% with Capital & Personnel Expenses and 14.31% increase without Capital & Personnel Expenses).

Mr. Ken Payne, Maintenance Supervisor, presented a proposed FY 16 budget request of \$400,817.00 compared to the FY 15 amended budget of \$345,713.00. He detailed that the increased budget was due to benefits elected by the employee added in September 2014, slight increases in operation expenses, and \$45,000.00 in capital requests. There was a consensus that the enclosed trailer included in the FY 16 capital requests should be purchased during the FY 15 budget year with the expense to be taken from SPLOST funds.

Ms. Bonnie York, Director of Senior Services, presented a total proposed FY 16 budget of \$377,695 – compared to the FY 15 budget of \$364,382 – however due to the increase in state grant funding the County’s contribution would be \$150,134 – compared to \$153,913 in FY 15. Ms. York noted that the program was in need of a mini-van to use for the home delivered meal program. The Board asked that Ms. York obtain quotes on the type van needed and bring these back before the Board at a later date of consideration. The painting of the handicap van was also discussed.

Ms. Lynn Adams, Director of the White County YMCA, presented the FY 16 budget with the County’s contribution remaining at \$606,602. The revenue projected for 2015 was \$883,550 and the expense was \$861,147. The Board asked Ms. Adams to provide information on the expenses contained in the “intra YMCA” line item in the amount of \$101,608. Ms. Adams said she would request that information and forward on to the Board. There was also discussion regarding the decline in the participation within the youth programs, which Ms. Adams was working on an action plan to address.

Mr. Terry Palmer, Public Works Director, presented a proposed FY 16 budget of \$1,530,276 – which was an increase of \$64,006.00 from the FY 15 budget of \$1,466,270.00. Without the capital requests the FY 16 budget would have represent a \$14,994 decrease from FY 15. The capital requests included a crew cab pick-up truck, a 12 foot snow plow, a multi-purpose loader bucket, and a GMC 6500 truck spreader body.

Mr. Tom O’Bryant, Director of Community & Economic Development, presented the following proposed budgets for FY 16:

- Economic Development: (FY 15) \$123,321 / (FY 16) \$122,009;
- GIS: (FY 15) \$90,757 / (FY 16) \$91,110;
- Building Inspection: (FY 15) \$111,833 / (FY 16) \$136,627 – requesting a part-time position be re-classified to full-time;
- Code Enforcement: (FY 15) \$24,163 / (FY 16) \$24,726;
- Planning: (FY15) \$82,063 / (FY 16) \$91,046;

March 25, 2015 – Budget Work Session Minutes (continued)

- Solid Waste: (FY 15) \$66,332 / (FY 16) \$59,462;

Total: (FY 15) \$498,469 / (FY 16) \$524,820

The Board discussed increasing the current fee (\$2 for up to 6 bags) for household garbage to \$3 – which they planned to discuss at the next Commission Meeting.

The Board also discussed implementing a per meeting compensation rate for the Alcohol Beverage Commission Members – which they also planned to discuss at a later date.

Mr. Matt Bidwell, MSI Benefits Group, presented preliminary information to the Board of Commissioners for the 2015 renewal of the employee benefits program. The entire report was submitted to the meeting file for record; however the following options were discussed in detail:

- Current renewal with Alliant -9.87%
- Renewal option 1 with Alliant -3.31% (Rx Co-pay Schedule Replacing the % based Rx Plan)
- Current plan design with Blue Cross Blue Shield -9.03%
- Renewal option 2 with Blue Cross Blue Shield -7.45% (Rx Co-pay Schedule Replacing the % based Rx Plan).

The Board asked that Mr. Bidwell ask Alliant for their best possible renewal rate for the Alliant Option 1. Mr. Bidwell would be returning to the Board in April to present this information.

Ms. Vicki Mays, Finance Director, presented a proposed FY 16 budget for the Finance Department of \$171,271 – which was a decrease of \$18,551 from the FY 15 budget of \$189,822 due to the reallocation of a portion of an employee's salary & benefits to the Board of Commissioners.

Ms. Shanda Murphy, County Clerk / Director of Human Resources, presented the following proposed budgets for FY 16:

- Countywide: Expenses (FY 15) \$2,662,247 / (FY 16) \$2,618,372 – with revenues to be determined by the amount of fund balance needed to balance the general fund budget. Ms. Murphy noted that currently \$4,294,695 was available in fund balance.
- Board of Commissioners Office: Revenues (FY 15) \$3,354,394 / (FY 16) \$3,490,375 Expenses (FY15) \$457,606 / (FY 16) \$516,734 Ms. Murphy stated that the increase in expenses was due to the reallocation of personnel expense from the Finance Department and the Freedom Park landscape contract.
- Human Resources: (FY 15) \$70,380 / (FY 16) \$71,869 Ms. Murphy stated that the increase in expense was in salaries and training.
- Hotel Motel Tax: Revenue & Expenses (FY 15) \$676,675 / (FY 16) \$676,675

The Board asked that fuel cost be re-evaluated at \$2.50 per gallon instead of \$3.50 per gallon.

The Board expressed their appreciation to the staff for their work on the preliminary budget work session.

March 25, 2015 – Budget Work Session Minutes (continued)

The minutes of the March 25, 2015 Budget Work Session are hereby approved as stated this 4th day of May, 2015.

s/Shanda Murphy

Shanda Murphy, County Clerk