

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman
Randy Ognio, Vice Chairman
Steve Brown
Charles W. Oddo
Charles D. Rousseau



FAYETTE COUNTY, GEORGIA
Steve Rapson, County Administrator
Dennis A. Davenport, County Attorney
Tameca P. White, County Clerk
Marlena Edwards, Deputy Clerk
140 Stonewall Avenue West
Public Meeting Room
Fayetteville, GA 30214

2018 BUDGET RETREAT MINUTES

May 3, 2017
8:30 a.m.

There were no official votes taken during this meeting. A copy of the PowerPoint presentations and backup packet, identified as "Attachment 1" follows these minutes and is made an official part thereof.

Breakfast was provided from Chick-fil-a.

Call to Order

Chairman Eric Maxwell called the May 3, 2017 Fiscal Year 2018 Retreat to order at 8:30 a.m. A quorum of the Board of Commissioners was present. Chairman Maxwell turned the meeting over to County Administrator Steve Rapson.

Commissioner Steve Brown expressed disappointment in not having all the departments on the agenda after the Board specifically requested and voted to have it added to the retreat agenda. He referenced and provided the January 26, 2017 Board of Commissioners minutes where the Board approved to have the department directors on the agenda.

County Administrator Steve Rapson stated that May 15 was set aside for the Department Heads to meet with the Board after the retreat. Commissioner Brown stated that the best way to make the decisions was to hear what the departments have to say before voting on the budget.

Mr. Rapson briefed the Board that he had spoken with the Chief Financial Officer Mary Parrott to set aside a date with the directors to discuss the goals, objectives and budget of the departments, similar to what was done for Department Outreach in the past.

Elected Officials; Constitutional Officers; Boards & Authorities

State Court Solicitor General

8:36 a.m. Solicitor General Jamie Inagawa introduced his Office Manager Tina Payne and gave a brief description of the role of his office. His budget request included an increase for a part-time position; funded currently at 18 hours. The budget request included an increase of 11.78 hours bringing the hours to 29 hours to be divided by two individuals at an aggregate budget increase of \$10,046 with benefits. Staff recommended the increase.

Senior Citizens Center

8:40 a.m. Fayette Senior Services Director of Operations Daniel Gibbs gave a PowerPoint presentation outlining the services provided and resources needed to provide services. The year 2018 will mark the 40th Anniversary of Fayette County Senior Services. Currently there are 37 employees; full and part-time; approximately 300 volunteers and 2,400 paying members. The budget request included \$62,024. Staff recommended funding half of that amount at \$31,042 and if the funds identified as being at risk, i.e. United Way, Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) are not received, the County would revisit the funding amount.

Commissioner Charles Rousseau asked if other municipalities contribute in any way. Mr. Gibbs stated that Peachtree City contributed between \$7,500 to \$15,000 in addition to the \$185,000 management contract. He stated that they send out an

“ask” each year to the municipalities and have received vehicles and funds in years past. Commissioner Rousseau stated that the county could request an “ask” from the municipalities as well to fund the entire \$62,024.

District Attorney / Victims' Assistance

9:09 a.m. District Attorney (DA) Ben Coker briefed the Board on duties and responsibilities of the district attorney’s office. Services are provided for Fayette, Upson, Pike and Spalding Counties. Fayette County is the only county that provides the DA’s office with six county paid employees. The county also pays a portion of the DA’s supplement. The budget request included an increase of \$200,091 due to caseload analysis. Staff will work with the Human Resource Department to determine if the \$49,000 in their budget would include adding an additional person; contract or otherwise.

Griffin Judicial Circuit

9:24 a.m. District Court Administrator Will Simmons briefed the Board on the budget for Superior Court. The Griffin Judicial Circuit included Fayette, Upson, Pike and Spalding Counties. There was no request for any line item budget increase. The budget request included an increase in the supplement from \$36,000 to \$50,000 at \$14,000 for each Superior Court Judge. The Georgia State Statue allows up to \$50,000 in supplement for each superior court judge. The compromise was an agreement to not hire any new transcriptionist for the judges. Staff pointed out that the agreement was only as good as the judge that currently sits and was not a guarantee for any new judge in the future. The increase would be a two fold increase for the county. The increase to the Griffin Circuit would be roughly \$31,000 and funds are available to cover that amount in Fund 101. An additional \$22,000 increase would come from the general fund for increases in supplements to the State Court Judge (\$12,600) and Solicitor General (\$9,450) which are local supplements tied to the Superior Court Judges.

Judge Edwards stated that the judges signed a memorandum of understanding to not hire a court reporter. He stated that he had been re-elected four times and this was his first time having a need to come before the Board to make a request.

Vice Chairman Randy Ognio stated that when he reviews the request he looks at it in terms of all the employees. He stated that he was concerned how granting this increase would look like for all other employees that are not granted an increase. He stated that he was not for or against this request at this time.

Judge Edwards stated that there are not automatic cost of living increases giving by the State.

Staff recommendation was to not fund the increase in supplement. Mr. Rapson would send the Board an email outlining who would be impacted by a supplement beyond the State Court Judge and Solicitor General for all those who receive supplements.

Fayette Factor – Family Connection

9:46 a.m. Executive Director Becky Smith gave a presentation to the Board on services provided. The desired outcome for the organization was to increase access for people with disabilities and to decrease youth substance use, decrease child sexual abuse and child neglect. The federal and state grant fund the programs provided. The County remains the fiscal agent for Fayette Factor to receive State grants to allow services to Fayette County.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:10 a.m.

Probate Court Judge

10:10 a.m. Probate Court Judge Ann Jackson introduced Chief Clerk Lynn Crittenden. The budget request included a capital improvement project to reconfigure the cubicles and to hire a part-time clerk to handle birth certificate requests. Not all services provide in Probate Court are strictly for Fayette residence, however 100% of fees go straight to Fayette County. The budget request included \$20,293 for a part-time employee and \$21,117 for the capital improvement project. Staff recommends funding this request.

Fayette County Development Authority

10:25 a.m. Interim Development Authority CEO Joan Young with the support of City of Fayetteville Mayor Edward Johnson, member of the Fayette County Development Authority presented a PowerPoint overview to the Board. Fayette Development Authority Chairman Darryl Hicks offered his regrets for not attending due to his father's death. The funding structure for the authority included the County and all municipalities in Fayette County. The Joint Development Authority consists of Meriwether, Coweta and Fayette Counties to provide a higher job tax credit to companies that locate and relocate in the County. The County receives \$500 for job credits which allows the Authority to offer \$1,250 in credits to companies for each job brought to the county. Ms. Young stated that Fayette county currently does not have a representative on the Joint Development Authority. Commissioner Rousseau requested a list of all companies who receive the job credit. The budget request included \$471,943 which was the same amount that the County funded last year. There was an additional \$13,500 allocated for the utilities at the Old Courthouse which houses the Development Authority.

Commissioner Brown stated that he would like to see a list of accolades and county awards available in a consolidated place in possession of the Authority. He stated that he would like to have a serious conversation related to the land issue and what land is being preserved for corporate uses and avoid residential development on land that is the prime industrial land. He stated that he would like to see an agreement with the jurisdictions.

Coroner

10:56 a.m. County Coroner Bee Huddleston and Assistant to the Coroner Lee Ellen Gaston presented an overview of the coroner's duties and responsibilities. There were three items identified as needs for the Coroner's office. A vehicle was requested and has been provided. Compensation for the Deputy Coroner's use of personal vehicle was requested and has been provided. The remaining budget request included a cooler for body storage and facility to store the cooler. \$15,000 was allocated to fund that purchase. Commissioner Rousseau requested a cost analysis for a larger cooler.

Promise Place

11:16 a.m. Promise Place Director Vanessa Wilkins gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding the services provided. The budget request remained the same as last year. A portion of the organization was funded by Fayette County and Peachtree City provided funds at five percent. The majority of funding comes from grants.

Dept. of Family & Children

11:29 a.m. Fayette County Department of Family and Children Services (DFCS) Supervisor Lisa Gary read a letter from DFCS Board Chairman Pete Nelms and provided an overview of the roles and duties of the DFCS. The budget request remained the same at \$39,325.

Youth Protection / Bloom

11:33 a.m. Bloom Board President Norman Allen gave a brief presentation of the services offered through Bloom. The Bloom organization serviced three times the number of foster children than years past. The budget request included \$19,743 which was the same amount funded last year. The County is a service provider for Bloom.

Boxed lunches were provided from Hanna Brothers Café.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:40 a.m.
The Board reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Elected Officials; Constitutional Officers; Boards & Authorities

Clerk of Superior Court

1:03 p.m. Shelia Studdard presented a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Upson and Griffin Circuit Judicial Data Exchanges. The budget request included a part-time position to be moved to a full-time position and the offset would come from decreasing a vacant part-time position. The net impact to the budget would be \$13,848 for that position.

Mr. Rapson stated that the \$13,848 is the variance of the enhancement and not the four departments that would roll up.

Public Health

1:33 p.m. Environmental Health Director Robert Kurbes, Health Department County Nurse Angela Nutt, District 4 Director of Administration Bridgette Smith and District 4 Project Manager Morris Hutchenson. Board of Health Chairman Ted Toles was also present. An overview of the Public Health services was presented to the Board. Services are not restricted to Fayette County. The Health Department provides services for Fayette County and surrounding counties. The budget was \$1.6 million with half of that amount generated through fee impound. \$493,000 was given toward the budget by the State and Fayette County provides about 17% through a master agreement through the State to provide a facility. The budget allocation from the County would remain the same.

Ms. Smith stated that the Health Department was working on receiving its accreditation and that part of receiving the accreditation was providing increased services to the community. She stated that this would be achieved by increasing staff. She expressed concerns associated with the current facility used at the Administration Complex and the need for a larger facility in the future. Suggestions were given to reach out to the post office and the school board for property located in the area in addition to possibly applying for the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) grant for assistance.

Commissioner Rousseau stated that he was asking the Board to be futuristic in reviewing the needs. He stated that this was one of the most critical areas of need in addition to greenspace. He stated that this is a public health service and the CDBG grant would be a help. Commissioner Rousseau requested that staff run some numbers for capital outlays for future years to be presented to the Board.

McIntosh Trail CSB/Fayette Community Options/Fayette County Counseling Center

2:06 p.m. Center Director Beatrice Mason-Collins and Director Wendell Jordan gave a presentation regarding the Fayette Community Options and Fayette County Counseling Center (FCCC), divisions of McIntosh Trail Community Service Board (CSB). The budget request included an increase of \$6,397 based on the patience and increase in the number of beds and \$4,800 for an increase in the rent for the office building for a total of \$11,197. Staff recommended the increase.

State Court Judge

2:32 p.m. State Court Judge Jason Thompson introduced Judicial Assistant Toni Tomlinson. State Court requested new Audio-Visual equipment to be more efficient in the courtroom. Judge Thompson made an additional budget request of 25 hours at a 12 on the pay scale rate for a total of approximately \$25,000. Staff recommended a part-time position at \$23,533. \$100,000 was set aside for capital improvements “justice wide” at the Justice Center which would cover the request for Audio-Visual.

Sheriff

2:37 p.m. Sheriff Barry Babb and Major Michelle Walker presented information to the Board. Recommended funding for the Sheriff’s office included \$100,000 allocation for capital improvement projects for office refurbishments, \$97,000 for parking lot upgrades, \$74,000 for HVAC replacements for the first year, \$51,000 for Tasers and vehicle replacements for 12 vehicles at \$605,000.

Public Defender

3:17 p.m. Public Defender Allen Adams requested an increase of \$14,000 for salaries for some of the lower level attorneys. These employees are county employees under State statute that are provided by Upson, Spalding, Pike and Fayette Counties. The budget for this office was broken down by caseload for each county and a consolidated budget was presented. The raises would go to Fayette County State employees. Spalding County funded an increase in cases in 2015, Upson County funded an increase in cases for 2016 and there was no request made to Pike County because there was not a substantial increase in cases. The benefits are higher because they are State employees. Staff recommended switching the employees to make them county employees. Mr. Adams mentioned other issues that would need to be considered. The \$14,000 increase was not recommended by staff.

Planning Commission & Zoning Board of Appeals

3:33 p.m. Community Development Director Pete Frisina, Planning Commission Chairman Brian Haren and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) Chairman Bill Beckwith answered questions from the Board regarding the approvals of variances, legal presentation at the meetings, procedures used to make decisions by the Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals, the consideration for cart path systems as developers come into the county and training opportunities for the members of each.

Commissioner Brown stated that in terms of some of the approvals related to setbacks, he did not see the “extraordinary circumstance” in the approvals granted by the ZBA. He stated that he noticed there was not legal representation at the meetings and that was a concern for him.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that as of 2013 his firm was not asked to attend those meetings, therefore they do not attend.

Mr. Frisina stated that when the ZBA has a need they consult legal.

County Administrator

3:58 p.m. Mr. Rapson briefed the Board that the Tax Commissioners office was not present. The budget request was to eliminate a full-time position and reclassify other positions. This was a savings of \$50,000 to \$60,000. The Magistrate Court Judge requested a Judicial Administrative Assistant and a Judicial Law Clerk. These positions are not recommended by staff. Juvenile Court requested a part-time Deputy Clerk and a copier. Staff recommended funding both of these request.

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the FY2018 retreat. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The May 3, 2017 Board of Commissioners FY2018 retreat adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk

Eric K. Maxwell, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 25th day of May 2017. Referenced attachments are available upon request at the County Clerk’s Office.

Tameca P. White, County Clerk