

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 4, 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 Broadway Diner.

Call to Order

Chairman Eric Maxwell called the May 4, 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.

County Administrator Steve Rapson began the meeting with discussions from the May 3 retreat regarding supplements for Superior Court Judges and the impact of an increase. He offered three scenarios for the Board to consider. Taking the Judges from \$36,000 to \$40,000 which was equivalent to a 2.4 percent increase for the State Court Judge and the Solicitor General. This scenario also included the Sheriff, Clerk of Court, Tax Commissioner and Probate Judge means an impact to the General Fund of approximately \$16,000 and an impact to the Circuit was approximately \$9,000. The second scenario was to go from \$36,000 to \$47,000 with an impact of \$28,000 to the General Fund and \$15,200 to the Griffin Circuit. The third scenario was to go from the \$36,000 to \$50,000 with an 8.6 percent increase at a \$56,000 impact to the General Fund and a \$30,400 to the Circuit.

Vice Chairman Randy Ognio asked if the cost for the court reporters that are being phased out would go back to the Circuit. Mr. Rapson stated that it would go back to the Circuit. He stated instead of having an employee with benefits it would be a contract individual for that service. He stated that it would be a savings.

Vice Chairman Ognio stated that it would be a Circuit savings and not a General Fund savings. Mr. Rapson stated that was correct. County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that it was the transcriptionist and not a court reporter position that was being phased out.

Commissioner Rousseau asked how long the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) regarding the agreement not to hire a transcriptionist between the judges had been in place. Mr. Rapson stated a couple of months.

County Attorney Dennis Davenport stated that each judge has a transcriptionist that supports the court reporter. He stated that both are employees who receive benefits, salary and payment by schedule based on documents produced. He stated that the question is if the MOU only covers transcriptionist then that was about a \$15,000 to \$18,000 salary. He stated that compared to the court reporter it was the minor of the two positions. He stated that it was so profound at the county that a meeting was held with the state and it was his recollection that the State was surprised to learn that the county was paying them as employees and off the schedule.

The next discussion was regarding a \$300 monthly stipend that was provided to all constitutional officers with the exception of the State Court Judge and the Solicitor General. This practice was implemented through a previous Board some years ago. County Attorney Dennis Davenport will provide information to determine if the county provides a stipend that it would be done through a local act.

The last of the continued discussions involved the State Court Judge and Solicitor General's participation in the County's Defined Benefits Plan. The Board instructed Mr. Rapson to address the request with the Retirement Benefits Committee to modify the plan.

8:57 a.m. Chief Finance Officer (CFO) Mary Parrott gave a PowerPoint presentation of the financial overview of the county. Topics discussed were as follows:

Financial Overview/Forecast

- 1. Governmental Funds:**
 - a. General Fund
 - i. Property Tax Digest History
 - ii. LOST/TAVT/Auto
 - b. 911 Operations Fund
 - c. Fire Fund
 - d. EMS Fund
 - e. Surcharge Funds
 - i. Jail Surcharge
 - ii. Victim's Assistance
- 2. Proprietary Funds/Water System Fund**
- 3. Internal Revenue Funds:**
 - a. Workers Compensation
 - b. Employee insurance
- 4. Tax Digest/Millage Rate History**
- 5. Capital/CIP/2017 SPLOST Projects**

The revenues are higher than expenditures. The fund balance as of year-end 2017 was \$26,820,387. The increase to the tax digest was approximately 13% with a 2.5 percent from new growth and the remainder was assessments. The final digest numbers are not determined until August. The County currently maintains three months of reserve in the General Fund as outlined in the county policy.

Information from the State shows that the sales tax for the county had increased by 17%. This was 8% more than last year.

An update of capital improvement projects completed since the last retreat was presented. The Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) projects, project tracking and publications were discussed. There is currently \$1.6 million of capital designated to the SPLOST. The majority of that would go toward the radios.

The Board recessed at 10:48 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:56 a.m.

SPLOST Implementation Overview

10:56 a.m. Mr. Rapson presented a PowerPoint to discuss the SPLOST allocations provided by year from 2018-2024 and the expenditures provided for the project including the year the project would commence. Environmental Engineer Bryan Keller presented the Stormwater projects outlining the Category I and the Category II-Tier 1 projects to be expedited. There are twenty-six Category III/IV projects that are projected to begin in November or December during the paving off-season and will be completed by in-house staff.

11:12 a.m. Public Works Director Phil Mallon discussed the SPLOST Transportation projects. The Redwine Road Multi-Use Path to start construction award in FY2018 with completion in FY2019. There was further discussion regarding moving the path to the other side of the road at the request of Whitewater Creek homeowners. The right-a-way acquisition has begun and six of the twelve needed have not yet made any response. Staff will be contacting them for discussion.

11:14 a.m. 911 Director Bernard Brown presented a brief overview of the plan for implementation of the Public Safety Radio System. There are expert consultants working with staff to implement this system. A request of \$150,000 was made

for Phase I and II of the system. Staff anticipated this item on the Board of Commissioners agenda for the second meeting in June.

11:32 a.m. Fire Chief David Scarbrough presented to the Board the plan for a fire station #4 and pumper. Staff recommendation was \$1,683,612 for relocation, \$394,070 for replacement of the fire pumper and the fire training center site development at \$150,770. These projects are approved SPLOST projects.

GASB 77 Tax Abatement

11:36 a.m. CFO Mary Parrott gave a brief presentation regarding GASB77 Tax Abatements and what it means for the county. The tax abatement is an agreement between a government and an individual or entity with the promise from government to forgo tax revenues. The total tax abatement for FY2017 for Real and Personal Property was \$468,962. The amount since inception of the first abatement in 2008 to 2017 was \$3.87 million and the amount of tax abatement over the life of agreements from 2008 through 2033 was \$6.3 million. There was no effect on the financial statement.

The Board recessed for lunch at 11:54 a.m.
Lunch was provided from Broadway Diner.
The Board reconvened at 12:37 p.m.

Permits & Inspections Overview/Enhancements/Renaming

12:37 Permits and Inspections Director Joe Scarborough and Assistant Director Steve Tafoya provided a presentation outlining the accomplishment of the department. The discussion included the customer service option for after hour inspections and third party engineer inspections. There was also discussion regarding the renaming of the department to Department of Building and Safety. There was no opposition to staff moving forward with the renaming of the department.

Board Appointments Policy – Revision 100.19 Policy

1:23 p.m. Mr. Rapson briefed the Board regarding the redline version of the Board Appointments policy. After discussions County Attorney Dennis Danvenport would provide the recently approved policy and remove item #3 from the policy. The Board discussed the advertisement of available positions would be published 90 days prior to expiration, incumbents would be identified in the application process to the Board and all applications would be made available to the Board. The language to have an applicant serve beyond an unexpired term if appointed for a term of six months or less would be provided by the County Attorney.

Drone Policy Proposal – New Policy-This item was removed from the agenda due to recent bill passed in the House of Representatives.

Assessor Overview & Valuation Process

1:46 p.m. Chief Assessor Joel Benton presented an overview of the Tax Assessors office.

Transportation Project Delivery Overview

2:07 p.m. Mr. Mallon gave a presentation on how to get a project into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) facilitated by the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). The PowerPoint presentation included the steps, estimated timeframe and the approvals required.

Revenue Fee Proposal

2:24 p.m. Environmental Management Director Vanessa Birrell began the discussion of the Revenue Fees with a fee change proposal for the Inert Landfill. The presentation included a proposed rate change of \$150/load or \$15.00/cubic yard. This proposal would also include allowing the City of Fayetteville and Board of Education to use the Inert Landfill.

2:33 p.m. Chief Scarbrough presented a fee change proposal for EMS department. The proposal would include an increase in transport base rate by \$200 for each type of service for \$478,600 revenues. This increase would be incorporated into the FY2018 proposed EMS budget.

SDS (Service Delivery Strategy) Discussion

2:50 p.m. Mr. Rapson briefed the Board regarding Intergovernmental Agreements in the county. The deadline for the Service Delivery Strategy report was the end of June. The results of the SDS would come back before the Board for direction.

Classification & Compensation Study Findings

2:54 p.m. The findings for the classification and compensation study was not available at the time of the retreat. Mr. Rapson provided recommendation to address retention for the Fire and 911 department. There would be a reclassification which would come out of the Fire fund and for the 911 department the recommendation would be to increase the salary of the Communications Office. Staff will have University of Georgia/Carl Vinson Institute of Government look at the reclassifications for fire and 911.

Parliamentary Procedures Overview

3:07 p.m. Mr. Davenport reviewed the parliamentary procedures with the Board. A refresher on tabling, abstentions and motions was discussed.

The Board recessed at 3:25 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 3:30 p.m.

Chairman & Commissioner Topics

Commission Meeting Start Time & Level of Detail Minutes (Chairman Maxwell)

3:30 p.m. Chairman Maxwell led the discussion regarding changing the Board of Commissioners (BOC) meeting time from 7:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. There were reasons given to change the time and reasons not to change the time. After further discussion the Board agreed to move the start time of the BOC meetings to 6:30 p.m. starting July 1, 2017. Staff will aggressively publish the time change to ensure that citizens are aware. Chairman Maxwell also requested that the Board consider shortening the minutes. After further discussion the Board agreed to allow the Clerk to use discretion to provide summary minutes/shorter minutes.

Fayette County Senior Citizens' Council (Commissioner Rousseau)

3:59 p.m. Commissioner Rousseau led the discussion regarding the creation of a Senior Citizen Council where seniors can come together to discuss trends, Medicaid/Medicare, transportation and the like. This would be an advisory board that would bring ideas to the Board. After discussion from the Board and Mr. Dan Gibbs of Fayette Senior Services, the Board decided to have this item placed on the May 25 agenda.

Fayette County No Parking Lawns Ordinance (Commissioner Rousseau)

4:25 p.m. Commissioner Rousseau led the discussion regarding citizens' concern of vehicles parked on lawns. Mr. Davenport briefed the Board about how the ordinance was changed in the past. The County does not have active code enforcement. Commissioner Rousseau expressed that he merely wanted to bring this to the Board for discussion because it was a concern brought to him.

4:34 p.m. Mr. Rapson gave an overview of the meeting.

The Board agreed to have Mr. Davenport revise the Public Arts Committee from eleven members to seven members.

Commissioner Brown moved to adjourn the May 4, 2017 FY2018 retreat. Vice Chairman Ognio seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

The May 4, 2017 Board of Commissioners FY2018 retreat adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

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