

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in a Special Called Budget Workshop on Tuesday, May 22, 2007, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room, Suite 100, at the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Jack Smith, Chairman
Herb Frady, Vice Chairman
Robert Horgan
Eric Maxwell
Peter Pfeifer

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Jack Krakeel, Interim County Administrator
Mary Holland, Director of Finance
Sergio Acevedo, Budget Officer
Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant
Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008:

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel said the first item for discussion would be the non-departmental budget.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET

Finance Director Mary Holland remarked that the non-departmental budget was divided among functions. She noted that function 10 was administration, function 20 was judicial and function 30 was public safety. She said most of these were utilities and insurance cost was shared among all departments.

FAYETTE ART CENTER & GALLERY

Kathleen Brewer remarked that after moving to Fayette County two years ago and realizing there was no art center or gallery anywhere in the County, she opened one. She said there had been a tremendous response to her gallery. She said after speaking with the School Board she learned that they would not be able to provide any funding. She said she was trying to determine where available funding might be found in Fayette County.

Mr. Krakeel asked if she had done any research on grants through the Carnegie Foundation.

Ms. Brewer said she would have to have paid employees in order to apply for those type of grants. She said at this time she did not have any paid employees. She noted that she could qualify for the National Endowment for the Arts this year because she had been a 501-C for the last three years. She said she had worked closely with the Georgia Council of the Arts and they had grants but would only give 2% of the operating cost.

Mr. Krakeel asked Ms. Brewer how much funding she was requesting.

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Ms. Brewer responded that she was requesting \$50,000 and that amount would go toward infrastructure of the entire organization and would allow her to hire two staff people. She pointed out that Fayette County was the only county outside of the entire metro Atlanta that did not have any cultural arts center. She felt there was a good foundation but work needed to continue forward.

Mr. Krakeel remarked that there were a lot of requests made to the Board by 501C3 organizations and if funding was approved to those, there would not be enough funds left to budget the operations of County government. He said after funding of the County government, if there were opportunities to assist these organizations, the Board would certainly take a look at that. He said this year's budget was very strict and significant cuts had been made across the board with a number of agencies and departments and there was not an additional \$50,000 that he could take from someone else's budget to help with this request. He said he could certainly have staff assist her in identifying some grant opportunities.

PERMITS & INSPECTIONS

Commissioner Maxwell remarked that a new position had been approved for this department.

Commissioner Horgan questioned the \$500 budgeted for uniforms for each employee in this department.

Mr. Krakeel remarked that the County needed a uniform policy for day and night jobs for departments including the Water System, Permits and Inspections, and Fleet Maintenance.

Commissioner Frady questioned the charges for legal fees in this department.

Mr. Krakeel responded that some of these fees may involve the new building codes that were put in place.

Commissioner Horgan questioned the eight trucks being assigned to this department and noted that tire expenses were different from the other departments.

Mr. Krakeel said these trucks were F-150's and Fleet Maintenance should track tire replacement and have them purchase tires for the entire county at a discount. He said the Fleet facility could review the mileage on each vehicle as well as the condition of the tires.

Chairman Smith asked if there was a County-wide policy for copiers throughout the County.

Mr. Krakeel replied that there needed to be a County-wide standard for copiers.

PLANNING & ZONING

Commissioner Pfeifer pointed out that the compensation for the Planning Commission members needed to be included.

Commissioner Horgan questioned the amount listed for the cost of color maps being duplicated by this department. He felt the applicants should provide all of these copies.

PROBATE COURT

Chairman Smith said the equipment rental was down from last year.

Ms. Holland remarked that this department had added two copiers last year and would not need any additional in this year's budget.

PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Maxwell questioned the administrative secretary transferring to the IS Department and yet still working for the Purchasing Department.

Commissioner Horgan noted the amount of the legal bill for this department.

Mr. Krakeel replied that this related to contract review.

Chairman Smith commented on the significant increase in contract maintenance.

SOLID WASTE

Mr. Krakeel interjected that discussion of this budget could be done during the Road Department budget.

Commissioner Maxwell questioned the gasoline use for this department.

Commissioner Frady remarked that this related to the large machinery including the front end loader.

STATE COURT JUDGE

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that this budget did include the 90 percentile request to the base and to the supplement. He said Judge Sams had indicated to him that fee collections were expected to increase significantly this year. He said this would be a result of a proposed change in the fee structure associated with licenses and individuals driving without a license. He said the focus on D.U.I. arrests would also have an impact.

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Commissioner Maxwell asked if Judge Sams was a State employee or a County employee and Ms. Holland replied that Judge Sams was a County employee.

Commissioner Maxwell said Judge Sams should be treated the same way as the constitutional officers.

Chairman Smith felt before the Board decided on this issue, that Mr. Krakeel should contact the other counties to determine how they were handling this issue.

COUNTY EXTENSION SERVICE

Director of the County Extension Service Lauren Mosher appeared to discuss this budget.

Mr. Krakeel remarked that this department was requesting an overall budget increase of 3.2%.

Commissioner Pfeifer questioned the repair cost for the 1999 van with 62,600 miles on it and Ms. Mosher replied that these were really the first problems they had encountered with this van. She noted that most of the time the van was driven locally.

Chairman Smith questioned the increased cost for 4-H supplies.

Ms. Mosher responded that the reason for increased supply cost was the result of more schools in the area being added to the 4-H program. She noted that the bulk of that cost was one of the core programs which was the public speaking competition.

Mr. Krakeel asked Ms. Mosher for the amount of the total budget.

Ms. Mosher remarked that the only money she received from the State was in the form of salary and benefits for the County Extension Agents. She said she would provide the Board with a total budget figure.

RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Director of Recreation Anita Godbee and Division Director Tony Parrott appeared to discuss this budget.

Ms. Godbee remarked that the budget for grass mowing had decreased by \$10,000 because of the new contract. She said that contract included the mowing of Kiwanis Park, Brooks Park and McCurry Park.

Commissioner Frady noted that landscape grading services were down \$6,400.

Ms. Godbee remarked that some soil testing had been done and it was determined that not as much lime or fertilizer would be necessary thus allowing a savings in this category.

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Mr. Krakeel remarked that staff's recommendation to the Board regarding the agreements for recreational services between the City of Peachtree City and the Town of Tyrone was something that the Board needed to discuss. He said historically the City of Peachtree City would receive \$150,000 per year from the County and last year, for the first time, the Board had given the Town of Tyrone \$18,000.

Commissioner Frady questioned why the line item for Georgia Power had doubled and Ms. Godbee replied this was a result of the addition of service for Kenwood Park.

Commissioner Frady asked when user fees had been increased.

Ms. Godbee replied that the program fees were adjusted every year depending upon the expense cost of the program.

Chairman Smith questioned the purchase of equipment for Kenwood Park.

Mr. Parrott replied that equipment would be needed when the new park opened and some of the existing equipment needed to be replaced. He said there would be a new grounds keeper at Kenwood Park and he would need a mower.

Chairman Smith said he was just questioning if staff needed to revisit the equipment that was going to be purchased for Kenwood Park. He said since the equipment would not be stored at the new park, less equipment might need to be purchased.

Mr. Parrott said the new equipment would be needed since the existing equipment would be in use at other facilities. He said they were also requesting an additional building and grounds person to cover the additional work that would be required with Kenwood Park opening. He said the first phase of Kenwood Park consisted of more than 75 acres with a multi-purpose field, tennis courts, volleyball courts, basketball courts and two miles of walking trails.

Chairman Smith asked Ms. Godbee about the renovation of the building that was listed under the building maintenance category in order to house new staff.

Ms. Godbee responded that the new staff person would need an office and this would be located downstairs at the current facility. She said the work would be done on the ceiling and a couple of walls. She said this work would be done internally.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, it was the consensus of the Board to adjourn to have lunch.

WATER SYSTEM

Water System Director Tony Parrott was present to discuss this budget.

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that there were two GEFA loans that would be paid off this year.

Commissioner Horgan discussed the boat docks and the condition they were in currently.

Mr. Parrott responded that these docks were twenty years old. He said the decking and runners at Kedron needed to be replaced.

Mr. Krakeel questioned the staffing model that Mr. Parrott was using for his shifts. He asked why a twelve hour staffing model was used and asked if he had looked into using an eight hour shift analysis.

Mr. Parrott replied that it had worked well with the four shifts at eight hours each.

Chairman Smith questioned the cost of training the plant operators.

Mr. Parrott responded that this training falls in a two year annual cycle and the operators must get their points for their certification.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any questions on the South Fayette Water Plant.

Mr. Krakeel responded that this reflected a 13% increase.

Chairman Smith noted the \$69,000 reduction in power and the \$20,000 reduction in chemicals.

Mr. Parrott said they had made an estimated judgment for power and it came out lower than expected and this amount was thereby adjusted.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further questions and there were none.

MAGISTRATE COURT

Judge Chuck Floyd and Debbie Barron were present to discuss this budget.

Debbie Barron asked if the Board wanted them to lease or purchase a copier.

Mr. Krakeel replied that the County would be taking a comprehensive view of the copier issue as to whether to purchase or lease. He said there was no standard policy for County departments. He said this year an individual would be coming on staff to manage the entire Information Systems infrastructure program who

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would take a look at this issue comprehensively and make a decision as to whether it was better to purchase or to lease and develop standards that could be applied to similar and like departments.

Judge Floyd remarked on the issue of Fayette County being the only County in the State without a full time Magistrate Office. He felt this position would serve the County well. He said he was glad the Board was discussing this issue and he would abide by the Board's decision when that was made.

Chairman Smith said the Board would be discussing this issue at the retreat.

Chairman Smith asked Judge Floyd if the Magistrate Court would have a problem with serving papers.

Judge Floyd replied yes. He said he was not prepared to discuss that issue today but he said the Magistrate Court would not be amenable to that. He said this was an issue that had come up before and there was a process that brought them to where they were now. He said in emergencies the Sheriff's Office would assist the Magistrates. He said he could get the Board a written response to that issue and provide that to the Board.

Mr. Krakeel asked if there was a structural reason for not having a single agency from a legal perspective serving all papers or did it relate more to the level of service responsiveness and those kinds of issues.

Judge Floyd responded that the things that the Magistrate Court handled have not been a top priority for the County. He said they were not a top priority for the Marshals Office or the Sheriff's Department either. He said the Magistrate Court takes pride in the service that they render. He said there was a reason the Magistrates prefer to maintain it the way it is now, and he would be glad to address that within the next ten days.

Mr. Krakeel replied that this would be helpful to the Board as part of a broader discussion that the Board of Commissioners would have during their retreat. He said the ten day time frame would be fine.

DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Randy Hayes and Matt Forshee were present for this discussion.

Matt Forshee discussed the Development Authority's activities. He said he would like to focus on trying to attract companies and bring them to Fayette County and working with the existing companies to help them grow and succeed here. He said one of the challenges that he foresees coming up would be the loss of developable property.

Mr. Krakeel asked if the Development Authority had funding sources outside of what the County provides.

Mr. Forshee replied no, nothing regular.

Mr. Hayes interjected that they would receive fees on bonds when they come through.

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Commissioner Frady asked how many people were working for the Development Authority.

Mr. Forshee replied that besides himself, there was an Executive Assistant.

Mr. Hayes said this was the same number of people on the payroll for the last fourteen years.

Mr. Hayes remarked that approximately three years ago when they had come in to discuss the Clayton State Initiative and had asked for \$25,000 in the budget.

Mr. Forshee remarked that the Development Authority was finally at a point where Clayton State wanted to move forward with putting a full time facility in Fayette County. He said Clayton State wanted to offer some level of undergraduate program and a full MBA program as well out of the facility here in Fayette County. He said they had identified property on the West side of Fayetteville in one of the office parks that was going in and they were currently moving forward with leasing negotiations to occupy approximately 8,000 to 10,000 square feet in one of those office parks. He said they had talked with the City of Fayetteville regarding some assistance on their end and they were looking at committing some things to bring Clayton State here whether it be through an in kind waiver of fees such as impact fees or water and sewer fees. He said it was hoped that classes would start by January, 2008. He said they would actually like to start classes by August and the MBA Program could begin in January, 2008. He said in that case they would really need to make a decision fairly quickly. He said they had not put the \$25,000 back on this budget as they had done in the past.

Chairman Smith said after going through the budget documents, the \$25,000 was included in the contingency fund and did not show up in the Development Authority budget.

Mr. Hayes asked for the Board's consideration to include the \$25,000 for the Development Authority. He said Clayton State would be looking to the Development Authority for assistance in this endeavor. He said this issue had been in discussions for several years. He said they had told Clayton State that the Development Authority was limited as to what could be done as a community.

Chairman Smith said he had two questions. He said Mr. Hayes had mentioned that the City of Fayetteville would be making a contribution, but nothing was said about the City of Peachtree City assisting with this endeavor.

Mr. Hayes reminded the Board that the City of Fayetteville had not assisted Peachtree City in the development of the tennis center. He noted that Peachtree City had contributed approximately \$25,000, the Chamber of Commerce also contributed \$10,000 and the Development Authority contributed \$25,000.

Chairman Smith asked if the \$25,000 would be a one time contribution.

Mr. Hayes replied yes that was correct. He said the \$25,000 would be a one time contribution and not a reoccurring contribution.

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Chairman Smith asked if it would matter if the County was on the verge of having somebody contribute the land for this facility. He asked if it would change the time frame for Clayton State.

Mr. Forshee replied that the facility that Clayton State was currently looking at was one that they consider temporary. He said that could mean anywhere from three to five years to possibly up to ten years.

Mr. Hayes interjected that Georgia State University was also looking in this area.

Mr. Krakeel questioned the Finance Director Mary Holland what would happen to any funding that was left over in the current fiscal year for agencies such as the Development Authority. He asked if this would automatically revert back to the County or would it remain with the agency.

Finance Director Mary Holland responded that actually these funds were in the contingency fund and it was still in that fund. She said the Board would have the right to decide whether these funds would be carried forward or not.

Mr. Krakeel questioned the equipment lease and what it represented.

Mr. Forshee replied that this included a copier and postage meter.

Mr. Hayes remarked that the Development Authority was continuing to identify available land to attract companies to Fayette County.

Commissioner Frady questioned the Chinese Company that was currently in negotiations with the Development Authority to locate in Fayette County.

Mr. Hayes the Authority was currently in negotiations with this company. He said one of these things that the Chinese company wanted to do was to put their executives on site in approximately twelve homes to be located on the 200 acres. He said they were currently speaking with the City of Peachtree City to discuss the Chinese proposal.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Mr. Hayes and Mr. Forshee for their presentation.

JUVENILE COURT

Judge Schell and Phyllis Harris appeared to discuss this budget.

Mr. Krakeel said the big line item in this budget that has been cut was the \$70,000 request for an indigent court appointed guardian ad litem. He said the request was for \$70,000 and this was an increase of \$23,000 from previous years. He said this line item was cut down to \$50,000.

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Judge Schell remarked that Juvenile Court had been very busy throughout the circuit. He said violence with guns was fast becoming a problem. He said previously he had asked for property to locate a drug rehab center. Also, he requested an increase in the two Associates' pay which would come to \$40,000 each. He noted that the Associates held regular attorney jobs and this was becoming more demanding for the Associates as far as time spent.

Chairman Smith asked why would there not be just two full time judges instead of having two part time judges.

Judge Schell replied that he was 100% in favor of that. He said until this circuit gets one more Superior Court Judge the State would only pay for one judge. He said he was being paid 100% by the State and not a penny was being paid by the County.

Commissioner Maxwell asked what the other three counties were doing.

Judge Schell responded that Upson County had approved the request. He said he had reassurances from Pike County and Spalding County.

Commissioner Maxwell asked for clarification on the amount of the request.

Judge Schell replied that the request was for a total of \$20,000.

Mr. Krakeel said the increase amount for the total budget was \$50,000 plus.

Ms. Holland interjected that this did not involve a supplement and the County was not paying one penny of Judge Schell's salary.

Commissioner Maxwell asked Judge Schell what he was asking for from Fayette County for the Associates' pay.

Judge Schell replied that he was asking for an increase of approximately \$20,000.

Chairman Smith remarked that the word indigent used in this budget was not really the proper terminology.

Judge Schell agreed with Chairman Smith and said indigent was not the correct word. He said this referred to any child who was deprived and was entitled by law to a guardian ad litem. He said any child in a delinquency case who wanted something that his attorney recommended against was entitled to a guardian ad litem in addition. He noted that the guardian ad litem represented the best interest for a child as opposed to a defense attorney.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any further questions. Hearing none, he thanked Judge Schell and Ms. Harris for their presentation.

STATE COURT SOLICITOR

Commissioner Maxwell questioned the investigator position that was approved.

Ms. Holland replied that was a position that was approved during last year's budget.

Finance Director Mary Holland replied that this was funded out of the victims assistance fund and not the general fund.

STREET LIGHT DISTRICTS

Chairman Smith said the only issue with the Street Light Districts budget was that there needed to be a determination on the fees to make sure the County was collecting enough to cover not only the cost of the street lights but the administrative burden as well.

TAX COMMISSIONER

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel said staff had met with Mr. Wingo and his budget was modified in some areas. He said he was pleased with Mr. Wingo's response to some of the cuts that were made and he was agreeable with those.

COUNTY CORONER

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that the County was required by statute based on what the Coroner selected as his methodology for payment. He said he had discussed this with him as part of the major issue items. He said the County would have to comply with this funding as required by law.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDRENS SERVICES

Finance Director Mary Holland said this budget assisted children in foster care as well as in the food stamp program. She remarked that this was a State agency and the County would be responsible for providing funding.

FORESTRY COMMISSION

Mr. Krakeel remarked on the \$2,500 line item and stated that was a forestry charge.

JUDGES & COURT REPORTERS

Ms. Holland remarked that these changes included the increase on the supplements for the Superior Court Judges to \$36,000 and also included the part time Juvenile Court Judges.

VICTIMS ASSISTANCE

Chairman Smith said one of the big line items appeared to be Victims Assistance Request Fund which had a \$16,000 increase.

Ms. Holland remarked that this was funded by the add on surcharge from the courts.

Ms. Holland said one of the issues in this budget was that the additional investigator had been approved and it had to be funded out of this budget.

Commissioner Maxwell questioned why they were spending \$370,000 and taking in \$170,000.

Ms. Holland interjected that this fund would be depleted in a couple of years if this spending continued.

Mr. Krakeel interjected that this budget had doubled in the last three years. He said staff would review this budget further.

YOUTH PROTECTION HOME

Ms. Holland said this was the budget for the Friday Home.

Chairman Smith asked if the County was required to fund this.

Ms. Holland replied that she was not sure but would find out and get that information to the Board.

JAIL OPERATIONS

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that this budget actually included a \$1.4 million increase. He said staff had cut a significant amount of funding from this budget but there was still a significant increase.

Chairman Smith questioned the increase in uniforms and supplies in the amount of \$5,000. He said there were only part time employees that had been added at the jail. He noted that firearms and protective devices had increased 44%. He said the line item for safety equipment had also increased.

Mr. Krakeel said staff had looked at several of this department's categories for historical spending and adjusted some of these.

Commissioner Pfeifer questioned the expenditure in overtime funds.

Mr. Krakeel replied that a lot of this spending was due to the constant turnover of personnel and this department running short of staff. He recalled that this department was seven positions short.

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Mr. Krakeel further remarked that the Board needed to take a comprehensive look at the entire prisoner medical expense issue. He suggested the department head come in and discuss this budget with the Board.

SHERIFF'S DEPT. - PATROL DIVISION

Commissioner Frady questioned the increase for salaries.

Mr. Krakeel responded that this represented a C.O.L.A. and new positions.

Chairman Smith asked if there were any other budget concerns. Hearing none, he remarked that there were several issues that needed discussion. He asked staff to provide the Board with a summary as to the status of the budget decisions and the fiscal issues involved.

On motion made by Commissioner Horgan, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer to adjourn the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk

Jack R. Smith, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 29th day of November, 2007

Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk