Minutes

Board of Commissioners Budget Workshop
May 20, 2008
8:30 A.M.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, May 20, 2008, at 8:30 a.m. in the Commissioners' Conference Room 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 Present:	Jack Krakeel, Interim County Administrator Carol Chandler, Executive Assistant Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk Mary Holland, Chief Financial Officer Toni Jo Howard, Assistant Finance Director Sergio Acevedo, Budget Officer

---

Chairman Smith called the meeting to order.

DISCUSSION OF THE PROPOSED 2009 FISCAL YEAR MAINTENANCE AND OPERATION BUDGET:

OVERVIEW OF THE PROPOSED 2009 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel commended staff for the great job that they had done in preparing this year's budget. He said there were representatives from the Fayette County Development Authority, Promise Place, Department of Family and Children Services and the Public Defender's Office who have requested to appear today to speak to the Board. He asked Ms. Holland to provide the Board with an overview of the 2009 Fiscal Year Budget for the M & O as well as revenues.

Chief Financial Officer Mary Holland distributed a copy of the budget summary overview to the Board and staff. A copy of the summary, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. She commended the elected officials and department heads on the tremendous job in preparing their budget request. She said the budget was balanced and this allowed for the current tax rates and there was no tax increase proposed. She said in looking at the overall County budget there was a 6.2% decrease.

Ms. Holland remarked that there were some old existing projects that staff would like the Board to consider closing and removing from the books and utilize the existing funds to actually fund the projects that were being recommended in FY 2009. She presented a list of the closed capital and CIP projects to the Board. A copy

of the list, identified as "Attachment No. 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof. She noted that these projects totaled approximately $1.6 million. She noted that staff had done an excellent job in researching all of these projects and determining why they were still listed on the books.

The Board commended Ms. Holland and the Finance Department staff for doing such an excellent job in presenting the FY 2009 budget for the Board's review.

FAYETTE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Randy Hayes and Matt Forshee were present to discuss this budget.

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that this budget reflected the same M & O budget as last year with the exception of two additional funding requests related directly to economic development. He said these included $25,000 to assist with the Clayton State University Project and also $50,000 to assist with research and development for industrial land for a total of $75,0000 or a 26% increase in this budget. He said it was his suggestion that these individuals come before the Board today to present their budget request since it had been his recommendation to staff for no increase in funding.

Matt Forshee remarked that Clayton State University was looking to grow here in Fayette County and offering full scale degrees. He said it was anticipated that the University would reach full capacity at their current facility in the next three years and discussions were still underway as to whether this would involve a new facility or expansion at the current location.

Randy Hayes said this would be a one time request from the University. He said the Authority had put this request in the budget as a supplement feature to the budget but not having it approved or anything of that nature. He said the University had now solidified their permanency and noted that there were over 300 students currently attending this facility.

There was a consensus of the Board to approve putting $50,000 in contingency and have the Development Authority come back to the Board with a specific need so that the Board would know exactly where the money was going, and to give Clayton State University the $25,000 with the condition that the money be spent for infrastructure, design improvement and things of that nature and not for operating expenses.

PROMISE PLACE

Sonya Strickland was present to discuss this budget. She reviewed the services that Promise Place provides.

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel said he had previously discussed this budget with Ms. Strickland and she concurred with him that they explore additional revenues from the other counties in the Circuit to support their activities and programs in lieu of granting the budget request which was a 50% increase.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve $20,000 for Promise Place which was the same level of funding as approved in last year's budget.

DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES

Mary Davis was present to discuss this budget. She provided an overview of the Department and how it was doing as a County within the State.

Commissioner Maxwell remarked that the recommendation was $41,800 and Ms. Davis said she was in agreement with that amount and not asking for any additional funds. Ms. Davis said she just wanted to take this opportunity to review the Department's services and provide the Board with a status of the Department.

PUBLIC DEFENDER

Attorney Joe Saia was present to discuss this budget. Attorney Saia remarked that he had originally disagreed with staff's recommendation but after reviewing his budget, he would agree with the recommendation especially in light of the economic down turn.

The Board briefly discussed the collection of fees in the Public Defender's Office and Attorney Saia said he would investigate the issue of fees but felt the majority of fees were being collected by State Court.

Ms. Holland remarked that staff needed to do an in-depth analysis on this because there were fees received from other courts including Superior Court and State Court.

The Board thanked Attorney Saia for all of the work that he and his staff have done in the Public Defender's Office.

At this time, the Board decided to take a short lunch break at 12:00 p.m.

Chairman Smith reconvened the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

RECREATION

Ms. Holland remarked that $150,000 was budgeted for Peachtree City recreation and $30,000 was budgeted for the Town of Tyrone for recreation.

SENIOR SERVICES

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked that Senior Services was requesting additional funding for the congregate meal program. He said part of his recommendation to Senior Services was that they should be looking at other municipalities in Fayette County for revenue to support the congregate meal program based on population. He said Senior Services had done that and gone to the respective jurisdictions but he was not sure of the status of the funding requests. He said it was his recommendation that $117,246 be approved for this budget and the Board agreed.

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - C.I.D. DIVISION

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked there was a personnel request for this department that needed to be considered that was inadvertently not discussed during personnel budget requests. He noted that there had been two promotions previously requested during the period when promotions were frozen last year pending the U.G.A. study being completed. He said staff's research determined that these promotions were authorized and approved positions that needed to be adjusted. He said the financial impact for one position would be $7,000 and $11,000 for another position for an aggregate total of $18,000 per year.
It was the consensus of the Board to approve this request in the budget for a total of $18,000 per year plus benefits.

ROAD DEPARTMENT

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel remarked on the Snead Road issue. He said based on staff's analysis $92,000 in funding would have to be added for this project. He noted that there was $212,000 that had been identified for State aid and the rules for accessing this funding would be introduced this summer. He said with the change in the rules, it was anticipated that it would be at least next summer before the County would receive that funding after going through the application and approval process. He pointed out that the County would not be able to receive State aid until all right-of-way acquisition was completed. He said currently there was an 80% commitment from the property owners but the County still had to go through the process of acquiring the remainder of the right-of-way either through condemnation or negotiated purchase. He noted that the clearing and grading work on Snead Road should begin in late November assuming the County had all of the right-of-way. He said it was anticipated that paving of Snead Road would begin in the summer of 2009.

Mr. Krakeel asked the Board for authorization to put the $92,000 in the budget for this project and it was the consensus of the Board to approve this.

RECREATION

Interim County Administrator Jack Krakeel discussed the Kenwood Park recreation facility. He remarked that the projected cost of Phase II of Kenwood Park was approximately $2.5 million and this was based on a two-year old figure. He remarked that the landscaping that was done still needed to be paid for in the amount of approximately $68,000.

Mr. Krakeel noted that the discussion of proposed updates to the Fayette County Recreation Needs Assessment would be coming up for discussion at the Board's Workshop meeting in June.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

The Board reviewed the remaining proposed budgets for all departments, including expenditures and revenue forecasts and staff provided input.

Staff reminded the Board that a public notice would be issued to the press to advertise the two required public hearings for the proposed budget. The public hearings for discussion of the FY 2009 budget will be scheduled for June 12 and June 26, 2008.

- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - -

The Board completed all budget discussions at this meeting and it was determined that it would not be necessary to meet on Wednesday, May 21st as advertised for further budget discussions.

ADJOURNMENT:
Commissioner Horgan made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 4:15 p.m. Commissioner Pfeifer seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

_____ _____
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 on the 12th day of June, 2008.

_____
Karen Morley, Chief Deputy Clerk