

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia met in Official Session on June 12, 2003, at 7:00 p.m. in the public meeting room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Greg Dunn, Chairman
Linda Wells, Vice Chair
Herb Frady
Peter Pfeifer
A.G. VanLandingham

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Chris W. Cofty, County Administrator
William R. McNally, County Attorney
Peggy Butler, Executive Assistant

Chairman Dunn called the meeting to order, offered the Invocation and led the Pledge to the Flag.

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004:

Mark Pullium, Director of Finance, presented a draft of the Resolution for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004. A copy of the Draft Resolution for the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003-2004, identified as "Attachment No. 1", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

Chairman Dunn asked if there was any discussion. Commissioner Pfeifer said he wanted to rescind the motion he made at the budget workshop to reduce the Development Authority's budget to \$284,000. He said he would like to make a new motion to restore the Development Authority's budget to their requested amount. He said he had misunderstood the amount the Development Authority was receiving. He thought they were receiving more money than last year but in fact they were requesting the same amount as last year. He said that is why he had made a motion to take their budget back to \$284,000.

Commissioner Frady asked Commissioner Pfeifer if he had discussed this with anyone. Commissioner Pfeifer said he had. Commissioner Frady said he felt that \$284,000 was a sufficient amount of money for the Development Authority. He said he did not want to give them more money than they needed to operate with or everything they asked for.

Commissioner Dunn said his recollection of the budget hearing was that the Development Authority asked for the \$304,505 operating budget and it was reduced to \$284,000. He said he believed that this was too big a cut.

Commissioner VanLandingham said he felt the Board did not need to give them less than they had last year.

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Commissioner Dunn said the Development Authority is trying in these economic times to bring good industry into the Industrial Park in Peachtree City and good commercial tenants into the empty properties in Fayetteville and some that are beginning to appear in Peachtree City. He said he felt now more than ever an economic development effort was needed due to the hard economic times. He said he was not proposing an increase in their budget, he just wanted to hold them at the level they were working at last year. He said to do that they would need \$302,000 not \$284,000.

Commissioner Wells said she disagreed. She said that was the reason she supported the motion to take the budget amount back to the \$284,000. She said her and Commissioner Frady had been on the Board since the inception of the Economic Development Authority. She said they started off with a hefty amount of \$150,000 and she agreed with Commissioner Frady that every year there was a special request for a one time situation. She said she wanted everyone to understand that she thought the Development Authority did a good job, but she did not want any organization to grow larger than it needed to be at the taxpayers' expense. Commissioner Wells said that last year the Development Authority gave \$50,000 to Clayton State to help them with a satellite building and then came back and asked the Board to reimburse half of this expense, which the Board did although two Board members voted against it. She said at that time they had over \$100,000 in their discretionary fund. She said she disliked the fact that they kept coming back and the Board kept giving them more and more and now they were up to \$302,000. She said the Board had asked every department and everybody as a citizen to do more work with less. She said economic times had been hard for everybody and she had a problem when the Board turned down department heads, the sheriff, clerk of courts, and people who had said they needed "x" number of people to do a job, and some of it was public safety, and then the Board turned around and gave money to an organization that had an excess. She said individuals had tightened their belts and so should the Board as a governmental agency. She said she did not believe because the Development Authority got \$302,000 last year that they were entitled by right to get \$302,000 this year. She said she would not support this.

Commissioner Frady said the Board had gone about telling everybody they cut their budget by \$300,000. He said this particular department would not have made any contribution to that if the Board voted to leave their budget the same as last year's.

Commissioner Dunn said he did not believe he had said anything to indicate he felt like they were entitled to what they had last year, but he would like to see them have what they had last year and no increase.

Commissioner Frady asked Mark Pullium what was the balance of the Development Authority's account. Mr. Pullium confirmed that it was \$160,000

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Chairman Dunn explained that the Development Authority was entitled to use that \$160,000 anyway they wanted without consulting the Board of Commissioners. He said this \$160,000 was interest money on the bonds they had. He said the Commissioners did not handle these bonds and had no liability on these bonds. He said these bonds earned a certain amount of interest and currently they had a substantial balance. He said one of the reasons they had this balance was because it had been hard to get people in here lately to start a business.

Commissioner Frady said from the beginning it was understood that the Board put the Development Authority to work knowing if they brought business in they could make money off bonds. He said they were not supposed to be getting anything from the Board for the last five years. He said they were supposed to be self supporting but the Board had been supporting them every year. He said he thought economic development was needed but he felt it was in the wrong frame that the Board was doing it in right now.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pfeifer, seconded by Commissioner Vanlandingham, to restore the Fayette County Development Authority's budget to the same amount that it was last year, \$304,505. Discussion followed.

Commissioner Frady questioned the number. Commissioner Frady said when they voted on it in the budget meeting the number was \$327,000 minus the \$25,000 given to them for the school making the total \$302,000.

Commissioner Pfeifer stated that according to the Finance Department the amount was \$304,505.

Finance Director Mark Pullium confirmed the amount of \$304,505.

Chairman Dunn told Mr. Pullium that \$327,000 was the number shown the Board at the budget meeting. Mr. Pullium said the actual expenditures were \$327,000. Commissioner Frady confirmed \$327,000 was the number shown because the Development Authority had over spent their budget this year. Chairman Dunn said if that was the case than the \$304,505 was correct.

Mr. Pullium again confirmed that \$304,505 was the correct number.

Chairman Dunn then called the question. "All in favor of the motion?" Motion carried 3-2 with Commissioner Frady and Commissioner Wells voting in opposition.

Mr. Pullium stated that this vote changed the Budget numbers. With the carry of this motion the Total General Fund became \$44,339,487 and the Total of All Funds became \$66,018,636.

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Chairman Dunn asked what the final general fund number was from last year. Mr. Pullium responded \$44,658,759. The total of all funds last year was \$67,113,817.

Chairman Dunn stated the general budget was about \$319,000 less than last year. The total budget which includes the fire fund, a solid waste fund and the water system is about \$1,100,000 less than last year. He said this had been achieved without cuts in services. He asked if that was correct. Mr. Pullium confirmed that was correct.

Chairman Dunn confirmed with Mr. Pullium that it was the intention of the Board, if nothing changes, to reduce the millage rate by the assessments, that is to roll back the reassessments. Mr. Pullium confirmed. Chairman Dunn stated there should be a slight decrease in taxes and no increase in taxes from the County. Mark Pullium confirmed.

Chairman Dunn clarified that the Board of Commissioners did not get involved with the tax increases set by the school board.

REPRESENTATIVES OF LISBON BAPTIST CHURCH TO PRESENT REQUEST THAT THE COUNTY ABANDON A PORTION OF LISBON ROAD:

Mr. Thomas Romine, 444 Hart Road, Fayetteville, GA, chairman of the Property and Space Committee for Lisbon Baptist Church, said he felt their position had been stated in the letter sent earlier to the Board of Commissioners. A copy of this letter, identified as "Attachment No. 2", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

Mr. Romaine said that where the high school and elementary school intersected on the property behind the church there was a thoroughfare that would continue through mainly for school traffic. He said by closing Lisbon Road the traffic would be shut down in that area. He said the idea was to keep the road from being so close to the church property for the children's safety.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, Seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to allow the Board Attorney to begin the process of abandonment. Discussion followed.

Chairman Dunn stated to Mr. Romaine that it was the understanding that Lisbon Baptist Church agreed if the motion was passed they would put a cull-de-sac at the end of the road that met county standards. Mr. Romaine said that was correct. He said Mr. Hearn informed him it should be 80 feet in diameter with a 6 inch thick gravel base.

Motion carried 5-0.

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Attorney Bill McNally reminded Chairman Dunn that this meeting was a public hearing in regards to the budget.

Chairman Dunn apologized to the public that he had forgotten to ask if anyone present would like to comment on the budget or to discuss the budget as a whole.

Alice Jones of north Fayette County came forward for public comment. She asked if the budget would be available on the website to the public.

Mr. Pullium said there were not plans to post it on the website but he could research the idea.

Chairman Dunn said there was a copy of the budget in the Administration Office for the public look at any time.

Chris Cofty said there was a copy of the budget for the public at the Library.

Ms. Jones asked that realizing there were generalizations in the budget alluring to allocations to various line items under the general fund, the \$44million, were the activities for recreation included in that line item?

Chairman Dunn answered that they were. He also stated he thought the items Ms. Jones were interested in were in the CIP budget which included \$537,000 for the park in 2004.

Ms. Jones next asked that realizing the talk of a reduction in millage rate, and seeing what had happened from last year to this year, the property tax values had increased so the budget may or may not remain at the same level with the property values increasing?

Chairman Dunn replied that it is the intention to roll back the entire reassessment of property above what it was in the past. He said on the County's part which includes fire and county government there will be a reduction in the millage rate.

Chairman Dunn asked if anyone else would like to speak on the budget. No one did. Chairman Dunn again apologized for getting the meeting out of order.

FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF RENEWAL OF SERVICES FOR THE COUNTY'S WORKERS' COMPENSATION THIRD PARTY ADMINISTRATOR AND REINSURER:

Connie Boehnke, Director of Human Resources, recapped the three points of the renewal of services for the County's Workers' Compensation third party administrator and reinsurer.

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She said the first item was the renewal with the third-party administrator which was Underwriter Safety and Claims who actually process the claims. She said they had the same fee as charged in the past with the option of additional fees incurred if the number of claims exceeded the number of claims proposed. She said the second point included incorporating the PPO network into the Workers Compensation program with an estimated cost of \$5,250.00 based on the current claim history available for the past year. She said the third point was to renew with Midwest Employers Casualty Company for the specific reinsurance. She said there would be an increase in the self-insured retention from \$225,000 across the board to a tier plan of \$275,000 for employees other than public safety who would be at \$350,000.

Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Pfeifer, to approve the renewal of services for the County's Workers' Compensation third party administrator, the PPO network and the reinsurer as presented. Discussion followed.

Chairman Dunn stated that this issue had been debated before and there was no need to debate it again. The Board did not vote on it the last time because they wanted to take an additional look to make sure the money was not out of order in any way.

Motion carried 5-0.

PRESENTATION BY MARTHA MCDANIEL OF THE SOUTHERN CRESCENT TRAILBLAZERS OF AN OVERVIEW OF THE ORGANIZATION'S EFFORTS TO SECURE ABANDONED RAILWAY CORRIDORS AND OTHER GREEN SPACE:

Martha McDaniel of the Southern Crescent Trailblazers told the Board about a concept between Fayette County and Spalding County to create green space and paths for passive recreation between the two communities. She said an organization had been formed called the Southern Crescent Trailblazers. She said they requested, by form of a resolution, the Board's approval of the concept of the Trailblazers going forward with this project. She said they did not have any money involved and they felt the first step was to have a partnership with the local governments. She said the group started with approximately 70 members last January and subsequent to that time they worked with the National Park Service and had received a planning grant from them to start going in the right direction between the communities. She said they had no monetary payment to them, this was something the park services awarded them. Ms. McDaniel said they hoped that when the Board looked at their comprehensive plan they would consider networking with Spalding County to continue the process that had spiked a lot of interest of a lot of people.

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Commissioner Pfeifer stated he knew there were several people in the city of Brooks who were interested in this and he assumed they were working with the Trailblazers. Ms. McDaniel confirmed that they were. She said there were a lot of people in the audience from Brooks who were working with this organization. Chairman Dunn asked those in the audience who were working with this project to stand.

Ms. McDaniel said they had their eye on several different areas they felt would be beneficial to both communities and it did not stop at Brooks. She said she knew there was interest in Senoia.

Commissioner VanLandingham said that they had briefly talked with Clayton County about the Flint River opening up for canoeing. He said it might be something to look at because Flint River went into Spalding County.

Ms. McDaniel said she felt both of the communities recognized the fact that they were going to lose their identity if they did not start doing something about it now. She said she thought everyone recognized the importance of keeping green space available to the citizens. She said this was a small effort that they thought could blossom into a lot of other things.

Chairman Dunn asked if they had gotten a Resolution of Support from Spalding County. Ms. McDaniel said they had.

Chairman Dunn asked if they had gotten a Resolution of Support from the city of Brooks. Ms. McDaniel said they had not that they were going county to county rather than city to city. She said the counties were their first consideration. Chairman Dunn said Mayor Butler had been talking about this issue for a couple of years. He said the railroad track ran a few miles through Brooks. Ms. McDaniel said she would be glad to talk to Mayor Butler if he invited her to.

Chairman Dunn said the Board had a proposed resolution in front of them that did not commit to taxpayers money being expended. He said there had been a regular flow of money coming into both counties for the Green space Program but that program was over because the new administration cut that out of the budget. He said it would be hard for the county to raise money for this type of project. He said they could present the resolution at this meeting or wait until the next Board of Commissioners Meeting.

Motion was made by Commissioner VanLandingham, seconded by Commissioner Wells, for Chairman Dunn to sign a resolution on behalf of the Fayette County Board of Commissioners expressing the Board's support for the efforts of the Southern Crescent Trailblazers as they strive to secure and improve enhanced passive recreational pathways. Motion carried 5-0. A copy of the resolution identified as "Attachment No. 3", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

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PRESENTATION BY LYNN REDWOOD, FAYETTE COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, OF INFORMATION CONCERNING THE NEED FOR SPACE FOR HEALTH SERVICES:

Chairman Dunn said Ms. Redwood notified the Board that she could not be at the meeting tonight and asked to reschedule for July 2. He said they could accommodate her on that request. He said there was one thing to mention. Ms. Redwood had requested for additional space for the Health Department. He said the Board had not made a decision on this but had asked the County Administrator to look into finding some additional space for the Health Department.

CONSENT AGENDA: Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Motion carried 5-0.

SUNBELT STRUCTURES - BID AWARD FOR CULVERT REPLACEMENT:

Approval of recommendation for Director of Purchasing, Tim Jones, to award bid to low bidder Sunbelt Structures in the amount of \$148,043 for Bid #424 Hampton Road Culvert Replacement. A copy of the memo, identified as "Attachment No. 4", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Members of the public are allowed up to five minutes each to address the Board on issues of concern other than those items which are on the evening's agenda.
NONE

STAFF REPORTS:

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Attorney McNally requested an executive session to discuss three legal items.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner VanLandingham, to adjourn to Executive Session to discuss three legal items. Motion carried 5-0.

LEGAL: Attorney McNally advised the Board on a legal matter.

The Board took no action on this matter.

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The Board took no action on this matter.

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EXECUTIVE SESSION AFFIDAVIT: Motion was made by Commissioner Wells, seconded by Commissioner Frady, to authorize the Chairman to execute the Executive Session Affidavit affirming that three legal items were discussed in Executive Session. The motion carried 5-0. A copy of the Executive Session Affidavit, identified as "Attachment No. 5", follows these minutes and is made an official part hereof.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Dunn adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Peggy Butler, Deputy Clerk

Greg Dunn, Chairman

The forgoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 2nd day of July, 2003.

Peggy Butler, Deputy Clerk