

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Monday June 20th, 2011
8:00 a.m.

Vice Chairman Hearn called the budget workshop to order, in absence of Chairman Matthews, at approximately 8:20 a.m. Present for the meeting was Vice-Chairman Hearn, Commissioner Horton, Commissioner Glass, Commissioner Thrash, Financial Analyst Davidson and CPA, Cheryl Idol.

Purpose

The Board of Commissioners met to discuss cuts to the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

Budget Discussion

The meeting started with a report from CPA Cheryl Idol stating that for the fiscal year 2012 budget we need to generate an estimated \$1.3 million dollars. She stated that taking into account we are not doing fire and ambulance fees in 2012 we will have to take cuts within the departments and constitutional officers budget along with a millage increase. She also stated that there needs to be contingency fund set up for storms in the future. Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that we can't cut what is mandated by the courts but that the Commissioners could give the constitutional officers a bottom line number for their budget. Commissioner Thrash stated that they need to look at the line items as it helps to deal with what is actually being spent. It was also noted that the Harris software system cannot generate a bottom line number without having line item totals. Commissioner Horton stated that it was their responsibility as an elected official to review all of the line items so that they could get a true picture of what they bottom line would be. Vice Chairman Hearn stated that they could not tell a constitutional officer what to do with their budget but they could again give them a bottom line number. Commissioner Thrash stated that even though they are elected officials they could not let them hold them hostage to balance the budget. Commissioner Horton stated they needed to stick with the rules and try to do it as fairly as possible. Commissioner Thrash stated that the Sheriff could file an appeal in court stating why he needs the money he has asked for in the budget. CPA Cheryl Idol stated that they need to look at the number of citizens being served by each program funded by the county. Commissioner Thrash stated that it was their jobs to take care of police, fire and roads and bridges as elected officials. Commissioner Thrash stated further they needed to use inmates to clean the courthouse, weed eat and cut the grass where needed. She also stated that they should cut the lawn maintenance from those line items budgeted and use Buddy with the Recreation Department to maintain the lawn care. Commissioner Glass stated he was not yet ready to agree to cut the lawn care maintenance budget until he could speak to Buddy Lanier with the Recreation Department. There was also discussion among the commissioners in regards to getting new thermostats for the buildings so that the heating/air could be monitored. Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that he would get with Tripp Morgan with maintenance in regards to this issue.

Budget Cuts

Commissioner Thrash started the budget portion of the meeting by stating 66% of the budget is made of salary including vacations, holidays and insurance. Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that he

is not for cutting anyone's salary or benefits and he would have to give a lot of thought and prayer before committing to this cut. Commissioner Thrash stated that they needed to investigate the lawn care budget and the custodians who clean the buildings. She suggested we get the community service workers to come and clean the buildings rather than paying for part time workers within the county. There was also discussion in regards to furlough days for all departments excluding mandated court personnel and public safety employees. Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that they could possibly close the office down one day a month depending on how much money that would save the county. Commissioner Thrash requested that they cut all overtime from the budget. She further stated that any vans or equipment from the recreation department not being used needed to be surplus. For more detailed cuts within each department for the FY 2012, the Budget Workbook is available for review at the Administration Building in the Board of Commissioners office.

Adjournment

Vice-Chairman Hearn called for a motion to adjourn at approximately 2:40 p.m. Commissioner Thrash made the motion and it was seconded by Commissioner Glass. The motion passed 4-0.

THE LAMAR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Jay Matthews-Chairman

Jimmy Hearn-Vice-Chairman

Bennie Horton-Member

Charles Glass-Member

Nancy M. Thrash-Member

Attest:

Carlette Davidson, Financial Analyst