

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES
Monday June 27th, 2011
9:00 A.M

Vice-Chairman Hearn called the budget workshop to order at approximately 9:20 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 the Fiscal Year 2012 budget.

The commissioners discussed the Extension Office budget in regards to the salary and travel line item and the state contribution towards their retirement. There was also discussion about the Ag Agent coming from Upson County to serve Lamar County as necessary. Currently there is no access to a Field Agent. Chairman Matthews joined the meeting at approximately 9:30 a.m. with continued discussion in regards to funding the Ag Agency. Lamar County receives assistance only if there is an emergency such as potential business loss.

The commissioners continued with the bottom line cuts they had made so far. CPA Idol reported that Revenues are currently at \$7.3 million dollars excluding Fire and Ambulance fees with expenditures at \$8,300,231.00 dollars. The original worksheet showed expenditures at \$8,522,877.00 dollars leaving the cuts at \$222,646.00 dollars including some cuts to the recreation department. CPA Idol stated that the cuts included salary overtime; schools, meeting and training; and lowered amounts for repair and maintenance. Also, the total purchased contract services were cut by about \$6,500.00.

Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that he meet with Buddy at the Recreation Department in regards to the Coaches Association taking over the programs next year starting with the Baseball and Softball season. The Parents Association has the concessions but the Coaches Association would handle the programs. Vice-Chairman Hearn reported that Buddy thought this would be a good idea with a saving of about \$50,000.00. Commissioner Thrash stated that they had told Buddy last year they wanted to turn the programs over to the Parents Association. Vice-Chairman Hearn stated that it was too big to turn it over to Parents Association and it would need to be turned over to the Coaches Association. Commissioner Thrash thought this would generate about an \$80,000 savings with CPA Idol calculating about a \$50,000.00 cut to the budget. Commissioner Hearn reported that the Coaches Association would handle everything except staff, and the facilities.

Commissioner Thrash stated that the salary and benefits portion of the budget is top heavy as it is showing about 66% of the total budget. The Commissioners discussed that they are going line item by line item and there was discussion in regards to furlough days excluding Constitutional Officers. Commissioner Glass reported that he spoke to Brad White with the Sheriff's Department and currently they are hiring part-time people to cover shifts of those full time employees that are absent or on vacation because they are short on staff.

Chairman Matthews reported that he and Commissioner Thrash are meeting with benefits representative in regards to the benefit options for the county. Commissioner Thrash and Commissioner Horton will meet with Judge Fears in regards to the budget of the Towalagia Court. Vice-Chairman Hearn reiterated that they had cut the drug court line item from the budget.

Commissioner Thrash brought up the Planning and Zoning staff in regards to the revenues they are producing that warrants their employment. Chairman Matthews stated that he did not know what the legalities are in regards to sharing the duties of the Building and Zoning office with other departments. Chairman Matthews and Commissioner Thrash stated that they would speak to the Building and Zoning department in regards to their staff.

Chairman Matthews proposed to cut the County Administrator from the budget. Commissioner Thrash agreed with that if CPA Idol agreed to stay on. Commissioner Horton concurred with this and Commissioner Thrash thanked CPA Idol for that entire she has done financially with the departments. CPA Idol stated that she would be available but was planning to scale back a little. Commissioner Hearn stated that there are still a lot of decisions to be made and wondered if it would be beneficial to have a Commissioner in the office at all times. Commissioner Horton agreed to this and commended Commissioner Glass being the Commissioner who is in the office the most. Chairman Matthews came back with looking at putting the County Administrator back in the budget this time next year. Commissioner Thrash stated that they run the risk of losing qualified candidates. All of the Commissioners agreed that James Rigdon had done a great job with the Road Department side of the office and CPA Idol stated that there have been new internal controls put in place within the office. Commissioner Hearn brought up putting someone solely in charge of the office and Commissioner Thrash agreed.

Chairman Matthews asked if there was further discussion to the budget and Commissioner Glass brought up coming back to further discussion of possible furlough days and paid holidays. Commissioner Thrash stated that they need to review this and the impact of paid benefits for the employees. Commissioner Horton stated that they Sheriff would work with them in regards to the budget as long as you give him a bottom line to work with. Commissioner Thrash stated that they are at a standstill until Chairman Matthews and herself could work with the benefits representative. Financial Analyst Davidson reported that she had received a deductible option from ACCG with the option of raising the deductible to \$5000 from the current \$2,500 deductible. The premium before the dividend would be \$173,497. This translates to a saving of \$10,030. After the dividend credit of \$23,602.00 Lamar County's new final adjustment premium would be \$140,895 rather \$160,000. The Commissioners discussed that raising the deductible would mean they would have to put the \$11,000 in savings to cover the claims. The Commissioner discussed the pros and cons deciding that this would not be feasible due to many of the cars owned in the county are not worth \$5000.00. This would leave us as having liability insurance only. Commissioner Thrash brought up the idea of leasing vehicles. Financial Analyst Davidson reported that all of the departments had signed off on the vehicles back in March that a report of those vehicles was recently generated by ACCG for review.

Executive Session and Adjournment

Commissioner Thrash made a motion to go into executive session to discuss personnel at approximately 10:25 a.m. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Horton and passed

unanimously. The Chairman and the Commissioners returned out of executive session at approximately 11:10 a.m. and adjourned the meeting.

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