

August 19, 2010  
Budget Workshop  
Bonifay, Florida

The Holmes County Board of Commissioners met in Special Session on the above date with the following members present: Commissioner Ron Monk, Commissioner Kenneth Williams, Commissioner Jim King, Commissioner Phillip Music, and Commissioner Monty Merchant, Chairman of the Board.

Alice Vickers, Deputy Clerk, was present and kept the minutes.

Chairman Merchant reconvened the meeting which was recessed on August 17, 2010.

Chairman Merchant advised that a cut of \$162,437 was needed to balance the 2010-11 budget.

The Board discussed problems with County parks, litter, and dog ordinance violations. Chairman Merchant stated that he talked with the Sheriff who advised that an additional Deputy would cost \$48,000 per year. Commissioner King stated that he had also discussed this with the Sheriff and requested that these issues be addressed with the current deputies. Discussion included checking with the City of Bonifay regarding a holding pen for dogs and talking with the local veterinarian to see if he would be interested in housing dogs.

Chairman Merchant advised that David Brazile, Arthropod Director, had reviewed the bids for the spray equipment and recommended the low bid of \$7,940 which also included training. No action was taken.

Mr. Jay Felsburg of the Times/Advertiser announced that the Broadband grant had been approved and that Holmes County was included.

Mr. Jesse Mills spoke regarding his opposition to the septic tank bill which was recently passed by the Legislature. He also discussed the organization and purpose of the Holmes County Development Commission.

The following cuts were made to the General Fund budget:

Emergency Medical Services	27,157
Tri County Community Council	3,375

The following cut was made to the Transportation Trust budget:

New Equipment	65,953
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The following changes were made to the Special Transportation Trust budget:

Infrastructure	(65,952)
Interfund Transfer to TT	65,952

The Board discussed that Mr. Jerome Szczekot, EMS Director, was driving a County vehicle home to Panama City each day with the County providing the fuel. Mr. Szczekot advised that this was part of the benefit package offered to him by Mr. Wood (former County Administrator) when he was hired. He also advised that he was promised a 10% raise for the first two years of employment but he had not pressed this issue since he knew County funds were tight. The Board also discussed that County policy required a department head to move to the County within six months of the hire date. Mr. Szczekot informed the Board that since the housing market had declined, he was unable to sell his home and that Mr. Wood had never indicated that he was required to move to the County. He also advised that if the vehicle benefit was revoked, it would be a \$3,000 pay cut for him. Discussion also included that the vehicle was donated to the County. Commissioner King offered a motion to allow him to drive the vehicle home but that the County would no longer provide the fuel. Commissioner Williams offered a second. Commissioners King and Williams voted yes with Commissioners Monk, Music, and Merchant voting no. The motion failed.

The Board discussed the Building Department expenditure budget which is \$44,905 more than the projected department revenue for 2010-11. The Board agreed to charge \$44,905 in salaries and benefits to the Planning Department since the Building Department assists with planning.

Commissioner Music offered a motion to use \$65,952 of LOGT funds and \$65,953 from the new equipment funds to balance the budget. Commissioner Williams offered a second. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board agreed to hold an Executive Session on August 23, 2010 at 4:00 p.m.

The Board agreed to hold the Final Budget Hearing on September 27, 2010, at 5:01 p.m.


Shep Eubanks, Extension Service Director, discussed purchasing tables for the Agri-Center. He advised that due to some air conditioning repairs, the funds may not be available in his budget. The Board agreed to purchase the tables and to adjust the budget if needed.

Ann Payne, Recycling Coordinator, spoke with the Board regarding the Recycling Grant Contract for 2010-11. She advised that the State has new requirements for the grant which requires a written plan for expenditures. The Board agreed to fund the salaries and benefits for both positions from the grant and to fund the Landfill water monitoring expenses from the revenue generated at the Recycling Center. Ms. Payne also requested salary increases for both positions in the department. The Board agreed to discuss this after Union negotiations are complete.

The Board discussed a request from a citizen for some salvage items at the Recycling Center. The Board agreed to set the policy of not allowing the public to go through the "scrap" at the Center due to the potential liability if someone is injured. Ms. Payne also advised that the Road Department and the Sheriff's Department used the scrap metal for equipment repairs and the remainder was sold to generate revenue.

Mr. Hubert Hendrix, Shop Foreman, discussed the monitoring wells for the fuel tanks at the Shop. He stated that he would like to pour a concrete slab but it would cover one of the wells. Chairman Merchant advised not to cover the well and he would check on this issue.

The meeting was adjourned.

  
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Clerk

  
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Chairman