

MINUTES OF THE GLADES COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORKSHOP HELD TUESDAY, JULY 11, 2017 AT 2:30 P.M. IN THE
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING ROOM, GLADES COUNTY COURTHOUSE,
MOORE HAVEN, FLORIDA

The Glades County Board of County Commissioners met on Tuesday, July 11, 2017 for a Budget Workshop at 2:30 p.m. with the following Commissioners present:

John Ahern, Chairman
Donald Strenth
Weston Pryor
Tim Stanley

Not present:

Donna Storter Long

Others present:

Julie Mann Braddock, Administrative Secretary
Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of Court
Bob Jones, Public Safety Director
Tiffany Patterson, Finance Director
Gail Jones, Tax Collector
Aletris Farnam, Supervisor of Elections
Lorie Ward, Property Appraiser
David Hardin, Glades County Sheriff
Dewayne Pottorff, Chief Deputy - GCSO
Shelly Ridgdill, Finance Director - GCSO
Charlie Murphy, Okeechobee Radio
Mary Booher, Director – Glades County Library
4 citizens

Chairman Ahern called the workshop to order at 2:30 p.m.

PRAYER

Commissioner Pryor gave the invocation.

PLEDGE

Commissioner Strenth led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

OPENING REMARKS

County Manager Carlisle gave an update on the changes made to the budget since the last workshop. He stated 3 budget recaps had been handed out. He stated several quotes had been received regarding the Healthstat Clinic. He stated it would cost the County approximately \$400,000.00. He stated this figure had doubled and was still in recap No. 1. He stated the second recap removed the Healthstat Clinic and had several

minor revisions. He stated the third recap did not include the Healthstat Clinic; however, it did include a \$500.00 stipend for County employees to be given around Christmas. He stated the School Board would be meeting on the 27th and he was not sure if they would include the Healthstat Clinic in their budget. He stated the tentative millage rate would remain the same. He stated some consideration had been made regarding raising the MSTU for Law Enforcement by .25 mills. He stated he was not sure if the Board still wanted to consider this. He stated there were several other changes that needed to be addressed. He stated some of these would affect this budget year and the bottom line. He stated the County would have only 7 air packs that were in compliance after August of this year. He stated 4 air packs were needed in each unit for a total of 20. He stated the County would need to purchase 13 air packs and an additional 5 masks to remain in compliance. He stated these 13 air packs and additional masks would cost \$80,613.00. He stated he would recommend that the Board do a budget adjustment for this amount and then budget for the replacement of the other 7 air packs and masks in the next year's budget. He stated this would reduce the \$150,000.00 already figured into Mr. Jones's budget to \$45,000.00. He stated the purchase would be spread out over 2 years. He stated these were the biggest revisions to the budget. He stated needed direction from the Board on which way the Board wished to go with the Healthstat Clinic.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked how long the air packs would be last.

County Manager Carlisle stated the air packs would be good for 15 years.

Vice Chairman Stanley suggested staggering out the purchase of the next 20 air packs that would be needed.

County Manager Carlisle agreed. He suggested starting at year 10 and purchasing 3 or 4 per year. He stated the tower in Muse had been deemed unsafe and the County would be looking at assisting with the relocation of the tower.

Commissioner Strenth asked if the money could be dedicated every so many years for the purchase of the air packs instead of wanting until they needed to be purchased. He stated this way the County would get the maximum use of the air packs.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Board could do this. He stated the purchases did need to be spread out. He stated the Board could dedicate a revenue fund for these types of purchases in the future; however, the Board could not pledge next year's money that was not budgeted and obligate the next Board to the purchase.

Chairman Ahern asked if any consideration had been given for the purchase of another fire truck.

County Manager Carlisle stated this had not been budgeted, but had been discussed. He stated the Board could budget \$20,000.00 for the Buckhead Ridge fire truck that was having some electrical problems that would need to be addressed in the near

future. He stated Mr. Jones had received 3 quotes on the repair of the City's fire truck. He stated the same thing would be done for the Buckhead Ridge fire truck. He stated he could do this if this was the consensus of the Board.

It was the consensus of the Board to add \$20,000.00 to the Buckhead Ridge Fire Department budget.

County Manager Carlisle stated Mrs. Patterson had actually already added this figure in the recap.

Commissioner Pryor stated he believed the only way the Board would be able to have the Healthstat Clinic was if the School Board chose to participate. He stated he liked the budget recap that included the employee stipend, but not the Healthstat Clinic.

Chairman Ahern stated he agreed. He stated he wished the County had the funds to give a raise; however, it did not, and the employee stipend would help the employees at Christmas.

Vice Chairman Stanley agreed. He stated he would rather see the employees get a raise that would last throughout their career; however, he would settle for the stipend this year. He stated he thought the County may be able to get the Healthstat Clinic next year which would benefit the employees. He stated the Board would eventually have to start raising the employees' salaries.

Commissioner Strenth agreed. He stated the employee's definitely needed a raise in the future.

Chairman Ahern stated it was the consensus of the Board to go with the third recap which did not include the Healthstat Clinic, but did include an employee stipend.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated he would like to see the MSTU for Law Enforcement remain "as is" for this year.

Commissioner Pryor explained that if each employee received a .10¢ per hour raise it would amount to \$208.00 per year versus a one-time lump sum of \$500.00 per year.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the raise would continue throughout the years and the stipend would not.

County Manager Carlisle stated the raise would also add to the employee's retirement. He stated he would continue to look at getting the Healthstat Clinic to come to Glades County. He stated this would be an added benefit to the employees and their families and believed it would help retain employees.

Vice Chairman Stanley stated the Board needed to look and see what income the new truck stop would bring to the County, as well, as the new stores and businesses. He

stated that maybe next year the County would be in a better financial situation. He stated the Board was doing the best it could with what it had.

County Manager Carlisle asked if there was any other direction from the Board regarding the budget.

Chairman Ahern stated he was satisfied with the budget as it was.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked why the Tax Collector fees had increased by \$32,000.00.

Mrs. Patterson stated this was a 3 year average of what had been collected over the past 3 years.

County Manager Carlisle stated the Cash Carried Forward figure had changed dramatically. He explained that when Mrs. Patterson had done the original budget, she had budgeted conservatively that all departments would spend 100% of their budget. He stated the numbers had changed. He stated when the Board went into the budget hearings it would have a better idea of what the expenditures would be at that time. He stated the County would have the funds that it had expended for the Loves Travel Stop from Duda on or before October 1st. He reminded the Board that the bottom line was still \$2 million in the red.

Vice Chairman Stanley asked why the Seminole Tribe of Florida Gaming Compact figure had been reduced.

Mrs. Patterson stated this figure was based off what the Seminole Tribe had paid.

Vice Chairman Stanley commented on a recent article he had read where the Governor had made a deal with the Seminole Tribe.

County Manager Carlisle stated he could not comment since he had not seen the agreement. He stated he did not know what the County would receive this year.

Commissioner Pryor questioned why every county received a percentage of the funds. He asked why the host county (Glades County) would not get the funds.

County Manager Carlisle explained that the State took the revenue and then dedicated a percentage to each county. He stated Glades County received a dedicated revenue from the compact for being a host county.

Commissioner Pryor stated our County was the one impacted the most from the casino. He stated one of the worst roads the County had was County Road 721.

County Manager Carlisle agreed. He stated it was also our police force, along with the Seminole Tribe's police force that had to respond when the people visiting the casino left the reservation. He questioned who was responsible for the drunk drivers and the

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things that happened when these people left the reservation. He stated this responsibility fell to Glades County's officers and paramedics. He stated there was \$9 million set aside in the 2020/2021 SCOP/SCRAP funds to rebuild County Road 721. He stated he was not sure these funds would be sufficient. He stated the Tribe was doing what they agreed to do. He stated he believed the County should have a better conversation with the State regarding what the compact said the host county would receive.

County Manager Carlisle reminded the Board that the Tentative Millage Hearing would be held on July 24th at 6 p.m. He stated there would be 2 budget hearings in September to finalize the budget. He stated the MSTU Law Enforcement millage rate would remain the same.

All Commissioners agreed.

ADJOURN

ON MOTION of Vice Chairman Stanley seconded by Commissioner Strenth the Board moved to adjourn the meeting.

Motion carried by 4 – 0 vote.

There being no further discussion Chairman Ahern adjourned the workshop 2:54 p.m.

John Ahern, Chairman

ATTEST:

Sandra H. Brown, Clerk of the Circuit Court

Approved: September 25, 2017

THESE MINUTES ARE NOT A VERBATIM RECORD. TAPES ARE AVAILABLE FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN LISTENING TO THE ENTIRE MEETING.