

(08-15-03)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
BUDGET WORKSHOP (FY 03-04)
AUGUST 15, 2003 9:00 A.M.**

The Bradford County Commissioners met August 15, 2003 to conduct a budget workshop for fiscal year 2003-2004. Attending were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Cooper, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Marlene Stafford, Lisa Hall, Sheriff Milner, Randall Zipperer, Mark Crawford, Jimmy Wilson, D.Z. Griffis, Capt. Pearson, Melissa Britt, Mary Lou Gardner, Wilson Whidden and Terry Vaughan.

(A copy of documentation presented at this workshop is located in Supplement File No. 08-15-03.)

Chairman Cooper called the workshop to order at 9:03 a.m.

The first order of business was to address the Facility Maintenance Budget.

Mr. Griffis said that his budget has a \$2,710.00 increase from last year, which includes the proposed 3% raise for employees.

Chairman Cooper asked Mr. Farrell if there is a 3% increase to the salary line items in the proposed budgets. Mr. Farrell said that it is included on the Board's side.

There was brief discussion regarding utilities cost and repairs and maintenance within the Facility Maintenance Budget. Chairman Cooper asked that the utilities cost be cut to \$9,000.00 from the \$13,000.00.

The next item for discussion was the County's health insurance costs. Chairman Cooper said that Av-Med notified the County this year advising that they anticipated a premium increase of 28%. A 20% increase has been factored in the proposed budget.

Chairman Cooper explained that with the current policy, when an insured is admitted to the hospital there is no out of pocket expense. The policy can be changed to require a \$250.00 per day hospital expense, up to a maximum of \$1,500.00, which generates a \$66,000.00 premium savings. On an average, the County has three or four hospital admissions per year. Using those figures, if the County reimbursed the employee directly for the up to \$1,500.00 of out of pocket expense, the County would be spending 6 to \$7,000.00 per year. It just makes sense to save \$66,000.00 in premiums, take some of that savings and set it aside to pay the direct expense as a way to keep the premiums down. With this change, it brings the premium increase down to about 17%.

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Following some discussion, there was a consensus to pursue the policy amendment as represented by Chairman Cooper.

There was brief discussion regarding Workers' Compensation costs.

The next item for discussion was the Sheriff's budget request. Sheriff Milner gave a lengthy presentation concerning the budget request for both the law enforcement side and the jail side of his budget.

Sheriff Milner said that he hopes to bring back some firmer numbers no later than two weeks, after speaking with each Commissioner individually and working with the Jail Finance Committee.

Chairman Cooper addressed some areas of concern regarding the Fine & Forfeiture Budget and shared his vision for solutions.

At 10:20 a.m., Chairman Cooper called for a 10-minute recess.

Chairman Cooper called the workshop back to order at 10:32 a.m. The next item for discussion was the Court's Budget.

Mary Lou Gardner approached the Commission and presented the budget request for the Eighth Judicial Circuit.

Terry Vaughan presented the next budget request. Mr. Vaughan said that the Elections' Budget is about \$25,000.00 less than the current year budget.

Wilson Whidden presented the budget request for the Building and Zoning Department. Their biggest increase stemmed from employee benefits. There is a 3% raise for employees and a new line item for one employee promotion.

The next budget request addressed was that of the Clerk of the Court. Clerk Norman said that the reasons for the increase to his budget are the 3% raise for employees, health insurance increase and the fact that he is becoming a fee officer. As in the past, any unused fees will be returned to the Board.

Discussion ensued regarding the shortfall in the proposed budget and the new line items within the budget requests.

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After discussion, the next budget workshop was scheduled for August 22, with department heads present to answer any questions. Mr. Farrell was instructed to create a column called "New Items" on the summary sheet, to assist the Board in deciding on which "New Items" to consider, and how the 3% raise affects the budget. Mr. Farrell said that he could provide the figure for the raise for the Board only, not the constitutional officers. Chairman Cooper said that he would meet with Mr. Farrell and Clerk Norman to make any adjustments from today's workshop.

There being no further discussion, the workshop adjourned at 11:25 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY**

JOHN S. COOPER, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk