

(07-22-04)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
JULY 22, 2004
BUDGET WORKSHOP 5:00 P.M.
REGULAR MEETING 7:30 P.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met July 22, 2004, to conduct a fiscal year 2004-2005 budget workshop and their regular scheduled meeting.

(A copy of all documentation presented at these meetings is located in Supplement File No. 07-22-04.)

FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005 BUDGET WORKSHOP

Attending were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Cooper, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Marlene Stafford, Mark Crawford, Sheriff Milner, Nelson Green, Percy Sullivan and Bill Dampier.

Chairman Johnson called the workshop to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Johnson said that there are items the Board can discuss at this workshop, however, as far as the County departments are concerned, recommended that each liaison commissioner meet with their respective department heads to arrive at more realistic budgets.

Following brief discussion, a budget workshop was scheduled for August 2, following the regular scheduled meeting.

Chairman Johnson then directed the discussion to the budget requests submitted by outside agencies. There was Board consensus to fund the agencies as follows:

- Shands at Starke: Hold off on a decision until it is determined what other cuts will be made.
- Chamber of Commerce: Leave at \$12,500.00, same as last year
- ACORN Clinic: Leave at \$10,000.00, same as last year (Requested amount)
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (Tourism Task Force): Leave at \$4,000.00, same as last year (Requested amount)
- North Central Florida Regional Planning Council (General Membership)(Per Capita): \$5,249.00 (Requested amount)
- North Central Florida Health Planning Council: Requesting \$1,350.00, did not fund last year. Hold off until it is determined what other cuts will be made.
- Meridian Behavioral Healthcare: Fund \$77,343.00 (Requested amount), an increase of \$37,343.00 (Based on FS 394.76)
- Suwannee River Economic Council: Leave at \$8,617.00, same as last year (Requested amount)

(07-22-04)

- Episcopal Children's Services: Requested \$10,000.00. Do not fund until it is determined what other cuts will be made.
- ARC: No request submitted yet. Leave at \$13,921 (Normal Request)
- Communities in Schools: No request submitted yet. Last year budgeted \$3,700.00. Commissioner Cooper will check on and report.

Following an inquiry by Commissioner Cooper, which spurred discussion, there was consensus to fund Juvenile Justice at \$15,000.00.

Mr. Farrell brought the following items to light:

- Special Events line item is budgeted at \$14,500.00. There was Board consensus to leave it at that amount.
- Florida Sheriff's Youth Ranch Programs: Requesting \$12,000.00. (\$24,000.00 being split between the School Board and the Commission.) Hold off on approving funding until verify reason for increase from last year.

The next budget discussed was the Eighth Judicial Court Fund Budget. Mr. Farrell said that the reason for the decrease is related to Article V costs shifted to the State. There was consensus to approve the budget request as submitted. The Eighth Judicial Court Fund Budget is set at \$190,000.00, which includes the Public Defender, State Attorney and Guardian Ad Litem.

There was discussion regarding the possibility of sharing the costs for the Guardian Ad Litem Program with Baker and Union counties and submitting a funding request to those counties for their portion of the costs.

Chairman Johnson requested that each Commissioner have new budget amounts for their respective departments to Mr. Farrell no later than July 28 for the August 2 budget workshop.

There was brief discussion regarding the Clerk of Courts' budget, the fact that he is now a fee officer and how that influences the budget.

There being no further business, Chairman Johnson adjourned the budget workshop at 6:14 p.m. The Regular Scheduled Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

**REGULAR SCHEDULED MEETING
7:30 P.M.**

Attending the meeting were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Hersey, Commissioner Cooper, Clerk Norman, Marlene Stafford, Lisa Hall, Terry Brown, Mark Crawford, Sheriff Milner, Cheryl Brownlee, Percy Sullivan, Terry Vaughan, Nelson Green and Bill Dampier.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. Commissioner Hersey led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mr. Malcolm Hill commented on the following:

--Asked the Commission to consider using the sales tax monies allocated for a new library in some other area in the county by renovating an existing building instead of constructing a new one.

Mr. Paul Still commented on the following:

--Urged the Commission to reduce the Solid Waste budget by about \$300,000.00 and use that money for road maintenance and to upgrade the Volunteer Fire Department equipment. The number of collection sites can be reduced from six to four. Bradford, Union and Baker Counties spend over \$300,000.00 to collect recyclables worth about \$50,000.00. If the landfill saved that much money, then \$100,000.00 could come back to each of the counties. There are private companies that could run the recycling operation and collect newspapers at no cost and possibly even generate a small amount of revenue.

Mr. Ed Wagner of 3736 SE SR100, Starke, commented on the following:

--He owns 29 acres in Theresa and has six mobile homes on the property, each on one-acre lots. About three years ago, he went through the Zoning Office and got three more lots sketched out. He purchased a mobile home in December of 2003 to put on one of the lots and was told by the Zoning Office that he could not get a move-in permit because it was not done properly. The Zoning Office said that he had to get the nine lots resurveyed, which he did, at the cost of \$2,800.00.

Commissioner Thomas said that he would check with the Zoning Department to see what needs to be done.

Mrs. Betty Hodges commented on the following:

--She is a state certified building contractor. The name of her company is B & F Building Contractors, Inc., located in Bradford County. Upon receipt of her license from the state, she came to Bradford

(07-22-04)

County and registered her license with the building department, went next door to the SHIP Office and was advised by Ms. Macey that she could not register with the SHIP Program because they are Workers' Comp exempt. She and her husband are the only two employees of the corporation and are the officers of the corporation and there are no other employees in the company. They are registered with the Clay County SHIP Program, the VA Hospital in Gainesville, and the Military Affairs Dept. at Camp Blanding.

She had to get the Workers' Comp exemption before she could even apply for a builder's license. She had to have liability insurance and show that she was financially responsible before they would even consider giving her a license, besides taking the test.

This problem has been addressed since March and they have not received an answer. On June 7th, she wrote a letter to Ms. Macey, the Commission and to Congressman Stearns. The letters were sent certified and were all received. She has not gotten a reply from anyone and would like an answer.

Mr. Brown said that Mr. Brolin has been involved in this situation. He has consulted with the builders and Ms. Macey and is prepared to advise the Commission.

Mr. Brolin said that his research indicates that in the surrounding areas, Clay County is in the minority as far as allowing people who do not currently carry Workers' Comp insurance to work in their SHIP Program. Florida statutes say that it is well within the Commissions' jurisdiction and authority to decide whether or not companies with Workers' Comp exemption are allowed to participate in the SHIP Program. The SHIP Program is the only program where the County currently does not allow those with the exemption to practice.

The Commission has two options: 1) Change the rule and allow them to participate in the SHIP Program. 2) Allow them to sign a release that would indemnify the County in the event that they operate in the County in the SHIP Program in violation of the Workers' Comp statute so that there would not be any liability for the County.

Discussion ensued.

Mr. Brolin said that a concern expressed during discussions with Ms. Macey was in the matter of policing. If a Workers' Comp exempt contractor came to Bradford County and was able to win a contract on the basis of being able to be the low bidder because they are not forced to cover the extra overhead of Workers' Comp insurance, and then brings in a number of uninsured people, this may open the County up for liability.

Commissioner Cooper requested that the SHIP Advisory Board meet to review this issue and make a recommendation to the Board at the next regular meeting.

(07-22-04)

Mr. Hodges said that the advertisements for the SHIP Program ask for state certified, general contractors and state certified residential contractors, which is what they are. The Commission should revisit how the advertisements are handled.

Mr. James Buehne commented on the following:

--Expressed concern that the Commission is considering renovating the newly constructed offices in the north wing to provide space. To save money, the Commission should consider moving SHIP, Zoning and Building and Solid Waste to the annex building and leave the newly constructed spaces alone.

--Expressed concern regarding the funds that Camp Blanding is requesting for the survey. The County could spend \$100,000.00 for nothing. There is no guarantee that Camp Blanding will stay open.

CONSENT AGENDA: None.

APPROVE GROUND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN BRADFORD COUNTY AND KENNETH ETHERIDGE—TERRY BROWN: At the request of Mr. Brown, this item was pulled.

APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS: **Comm. Thomas MOVED** to pay the bills as reviewed. **Comm. Cooper SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

PERSONNEL MATTERS: None.

COUNTY ATTORNEY REPORTS: None.

CLERK REPORTS: None.

CHAIRMAN COMMENTS: None.

(07-22-04)

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Thomas commented on the following:

--A seminar is being held next month regarding the FRDAP Grant that Ms. Macey needs to attend. **Comm. Thomas MOVED** to allow Ms. Macey to attend the seminar. **Comm. Hersey SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

HERMAN JOHNSON, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
Ray Norman, Clerk to the Board

These minutes typed by:

Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk