

(09-09-04)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
1ST PUBLIC HEARING TO ADOPT
TENTATIVE MILLAGE AND BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004-2005
SEPTEMBER 9, 2004 5:15 P.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met September 9, 2004, to conduct the First Public Hearing to Adopt the Tentative Millage and Budget for Fiscal Year 2004-2005. Attending were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Cooper, Commissioner Hersey, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Marlene Stafford, Pete Eberlin, Sheriff Milner and Mark Crawford.

Chairman Johnson called the hearing to order at 5:15 p.m.

Chairman Johnson said that the tentative millage rate is 9.500 mills. The millage rate is broken down in the County Budget as follows:

GENERAL FUND	7.181 mills
FINES & FORFEITURE FUND	2.000 mills
EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FUND	0.184 mills
HEALTH DEPARTMENT TAXES	<u>0.135 mills</u>
TOTAL	<u>9.500 mills</u>

This is expected to generate approximately \$5,661,863.

Chairman Johnson asked for comments from the public and the Commission concerning the tentative millage. There was no response.

Comm. Mann MOVED to adopt the tentative millage rate for fiscal year 2004-2005 as set forth above. **Comm. Thomas SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0**.

Chairman Johnson announced that the tentative budget for fiscal year 2004-2005 is as follows: The total operating tentative budget, including interfund transfers and bond reserves is \$21,472,571.

Chairman Johnson asked for comments from the public and the Commission concerning the tentative budget.

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Mr. Paul Still commented on the following:

--Legal issues concerning the Solid Waste Special Assessment

--Transferring the \$30,000.00 expenditure in the Solid Waste Budget for household hazardous waste to the Volunteer Fire Department, as DEP offers a program to cover the cost of household hazardous waste.

--Reducing the number of Solid Waste collection sites and the hours of operation and using the savings for road maintenance and Volunteer Fire Department training.

--Budgeting enough money to fund a program to assure that road maintenance is being done based on sound engineering.

--Budgeting enough money to fund a training program for the Volunteer Fire Department.

--Urged the Commission to re-evaluate what the budget priorities should be to better serve the needs of Bradford County residents.

There being no discussion, **Comm. Thomas MOVED** to adopt the fiscal year 2004-2005 tentative budget of \$21,472,571. **Comm. Mann SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

Chairman Johnson announced that the date for the final adoption of the millage and budget is Monday, September 20 at 5:15 p.m., and adjourned the public hearing.

EMERGENCY MEETING

Chairman Johnson then called an Emergency Meeting to order. The purpose of the emergency meeting is to discuss the need for equipment to assist with clean up from the hurricanes.

He reported that two (2) chippers have been located that can be purchased on State contract: One in the amount of \$38,950.00, and the other in the amount of \$29,675. There is a possibility that half of the cost will be reimbursed by FEMA.

There was brief discussion concerning the size and brand of the chippers, the vendor, and availability.

Commissioner Mann asked what funds would be used to purchase the chippers. Commissioner Thomas said that the funds would come from the Solid Waste budget.

Comm. Thomas MOVED to approve the purchase of the two (2) chippers as presented. **Comm. Cooper SECONDED** and the **MOTION CARRIED 5-0.**

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Commissioner Thomas said that the Road Department is also in need of a bulldozer. The one they have is 30 years old and it is inoperable. Commissioner Mann said that it is in need of a major repair and it will cost as much to repair it as it is worth.

Discussion ensued which was not limited to but included; a lease/purchase option, cost new and used, and the time frame to acquire the dozer.

Chairman Johnson asked Mr. Eberlin to have some cost figures available for Monday's regular meeting.

Commissioner Cooper asked everyone to funnel calls concerning road problems through Mr. Eberlin, Mr. Waldron and the EOC. They are trying to prioritize the roads based on how many people reside on the road, how inaccessible the road is, school bus routes, etc.

Chairman Johnson announced that Monday, September 13 at 8:30 a.m., there is a joint meeting with the School Board in the County Commission meeting room.

There being no further business, the emergency meeting was adjourned at 5:36 p.m.

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

DOYLE THOMAS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene Stafford, Deputy Clerk