

(09-17-04)

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA
BUDGET WORKSHOP
SEPTEMBER 17, 2004 10:30 A.M.**

The Bradford County Board of County Commissioners met September 17, 2004 to conduct a fiscal year 2004-2005 Budget Workshop. Attending the workshop were: Commissioner Mann, Commissioner Thomas, Chairman Johnson, Commissioner Cooper, Commissioner Hersey, Clerk Norman, Jim Farrell, Marlene Stafford, Sheriff Milner and Mark Crawford.

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Commissioner Hersey led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Johnson announced the date for the Final Budget Hearing of Monday, September 20, 2004 at 5:15 p.m. Any changes, additions or deletions need to be made prior to this hearing. He requested the Commissions' support to add \$120,000.00 to the budget for the sole purpose of financing an office for a County Manager/Administrator. It is his contention that this would be an asset to the County and its citizens. A well thought out job description and an honest search for the right person, will be beneficial to everyone. It is time to put personal feelings aside and do what is best for Bradford County.

Commissioner Thomas said that it is not personal feelings but rather financial reasons that he cannot support a County Manager/Administrator.

Commissioner Cooper expressed his support of a County Manager/Administrator. He credited the Board for accomplishments in the last three or four years, despite not having the right administrative organization in place to get it done. Although there have been many accomplishments, the lack of this position which handles day-to-day operations, personnel matters, long range planning, etc., keeps the Commission in the mode of "putting out fires" instead of concentrating on planning for the future.

Commissioner Hersey said that he has no problem supporting a County Manager/Administrator, however, the Board needs to be very cautious with the job description, defining the duties, the authority, etc., without taking away any authority of the Board. If it is handled correctly, a County Manager/Administrator can be a very valuable asset. If not, it can be detrimental. Commissioner Hersey expressed his appreciation to the Clerk's Office for all the assistance they have provided over the years.

Commissioner Hersey asked for an explanation of the \$120,000.00 being requested for the position.

Chairman Johnson said that previously approximately \$117,000.00 was budgeted to run the County Administrator's Office.

Commissioner Thomas said that if he were going to commit the County to \$120,000.00, he would much rather make it available it to the departments whose budgets have been cut in order to balance the budget, which would allow them to provide better services.

(09-17-04)

Chairman Johnson said that a County Manager would help the departments run more efficiently.

Commissioner Mann said that he does not have anything against a County Manager, however, financing the office is a concern. Everyone has worked very hard to get the County in the financial shape it is in today. Although his time as a Commissioner will soon be over, he still has an interest in Bradford County. The right person in the position can make things a lot easier, but on the other hand, the wrong person can make things miserable. A County Manager should be able to pay his/her own way, or be able to prove where he/she has saved enough money to validate their position.

Chairman Johnson said that all he is asking today is that the Commission put the \$120,000.00 in the budget. He recommended taking the funds from the one-cent sales tax for the first year and then see what happens from there.

Commissioner Thomas said that he has not heard a public cry from the tax paying citizens that they want a County Manager. Each commissioner was voted into office to represent the citizens. When he put his name on a ballot, he knew it would not be a bed of roses. If he was not willing to work, then he would not have run for office and assured the citizens that he would try to save their tax dollars and not spend them.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the following Commissioners were in favor of putting the \$120,000.00 in the 2004-2004 Budget: Commissioner Cooper, Commissioner Hersey and Chairman Johnson. The following Commissioners were in opposition: Commissioner Mann and Commissioner Thomas.

Commissioner Hersey wanted it made clear that putting the money in the budget does not mean that the County is getting ready to hire a County Manager. He does not want to move forward until "all ducks are in a row."

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

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

DOYLE THOMAS, CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
RAY NORMAN, CLERK TO THE BOARD

These minutes typed by:

Marlene K. Stafford, Deputy Clerk