

The Board of County Commissioners of Citrus County, Florida, met in special session on the above date for the purpose of conducting preliminary budget hearings on the 2003/2004 budget. The Chairman called the meeting to order. Commissioner Wooten led in the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. Flag.

<b>Commissioners:</b>	Jim Fowler, Chairman; Gary Bartell, Josh Wooten, Second Vice-Chairman; Roger Batchelor; and Vicki Phillips
<b>Administrator:</b>	Richard Wm. Wesch
<b>Management and Budget Analyst:</b>	Janice Saltmarsh
<b>Clerks:</b>	Betty Strifler, Clerk; Theresa Steelfox and Glenda Brown, Deputy Clerks

Mr. Wesch made opening comments, and advised that this year's budget did not reflect an increase in the millage rate. He stated that the growth factor of approximately 7.16 percent was offset by a decrease in retail sales tax of \$340,000 due to changes in state revenue sharing as dictated by Article V. He also stated that positions normally funded by the Board (one and one-half Public Defender positions and two Victim Witness positions in the State Attorney's office) had been eliminated due to budget adjustments this year that reflected the recently passed Article V legislation. He reported a decrease in earnings on investments of almost \$600,000 and an overall increase in state retirement contributions of \$612,000. He added that even with the adjustments, staff was presenting a balanced budget and met the Board's contingency fund profile of one percent of the General Fund at \$550,000.

He then proceeded to review the constitutional officer's preliminary budgets for 2003/2004 as follows:



**CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE** (Page 3/\$338,558, overall decrease -8.30%)

Judge Patricia Thomas spoke regarding the effects of Article V on the Drug Court and Teen Court Programs. She reported that Drug Court would continue to be funded by the state according to county population; however, it appeared that the larger counties would receive more resources. She mentioned that both Drug Court and Teen Court were very successful preventative type programs. She distributed and reviewed handouts titled "Citrus County Court Alternatives Program 2003/2004 Budget Request" and "Value of Teen Court to Citrus County" (filed with the Clerk's agenda). She advised that state funding would be eliminated within 30 days for the Teen Court Program, and asked the Board to support the \$30,000 budget request.

She responded to the Chairman's question by stating that the recommended budget for personal services for Drug Court was \$85,500 and the total operating expense was \$12,500. John Sullivan, Director of Courts, explained that revenue sources would decrease the Drug Court expense to \$69,000.

Judge Thomas responded to Commissioner Phillips' question regarding the effect of Article V on the continued revenue sources of lab fees and court fines by stating that the issue needed to be addressed because those fees must be retained for operating the drug-testing equipment.

Mr. Wesch advised that lab fees were segregated from the fines or forfeitures that might be levied under Article V; therefore, those fees would be separate and would continue to be a recurring revenue source. He added that Drug Court would be fully funded for a twelve-month period in this year's budget. He suggested that Teen Court be funded in this budget with the exception of the Assistant Teen Court Director's position at \$30,920.

Judge Thomas clarified that if a participant successfully completed the Drug Court Program, court fines were waived; however, there was language in the new law (Article V) that pertained to the inability of judges to waive fines.

Commissioner Wooten mentioned a request the Board received from Judge Yerman to send a letter to the state supporting funding for the Teen Court Program.

Thomas Moore, Teen Court Program Director, answered Commissioner Wooten's questions by stating that this was a one-time only request of \$30,000 for the Assistant Teen Court Director. He mentioned that the Florida Association of Teen Courts was preparing a lobbying effort to assure that the \$3 assessment fee, which under Article V would be eliminated by July 2004, remained dedicated to the Teen Court Program throughout the state. He explained that the Assistant Teen Court Director position was funded by pass through grants from the Department of Juvenile Justice, and that funding had been eliminated this year. He asked the Board to consider this one time only appropriation of \$30,200 to retain the position of the Assistant Teen Court Director so that the level of service could be maintained. He advised that 211 people were referred to the program last year, and that the recidivist rate was 12.6 percent since the inception of the Teen Court Program in 1996. He added that if the legislature did not allow the \$3 assessment fee, which compensated his salary and operating expenses, and if the grant funding were not secured for the Assistant Director position, there would probably be no Teen Court Program in this County.

Judge Thomas explained to Commissioner Batchelor that the Court System, Drug Court, and Teen Court were three separate budgets, and that Drug Court and Teen Court were not components of the Court System.

Commissioner Wooten remarked that he thought Teen Court should be a priority, and that the Board should lobby to obtain state funding.

Discussion ensued regarding the contingency fund, sending a letter to the state and lobbying for Teen Court, understanding Article V, etc.

Mr. Wesch suggested that this item be listed as a budget issue, and reminded the Board that the final budget hearing would be in September. He advised that Article V would cost the County a half a million dollars this year and that number was expected to increase.

Judge Thomas invited the Board to visit Teen Court on Tuesday evenings and Drug Court on Wednesday afternoons.

Diane Fineout with the Drug Court Program mentioned that a resolution would be presented to the Board within the next few weeks to allow the Drug Court to accept \$300 from each Drug Court dependency participant. She stated that the Clerk's office would collect and retain a small handling fee. She added that Drug Court was constantly seeking other resources from private grantors, and were negotiating contracts with the Department of Children and Families, and if received, funds would be returned to the County.



### **CLERK**

❖ *Clerk to the Board* (Page 5/\$1,018,338); *Clerk of County Courts* (Page 7/\$669,032); *Accounts Receivable* (Page 9/\$179,234); *Historical Resources* (Page 11/\$85,349)

Mr. Wesch pointed out that the Clerk's budget was impacted more by Article V than any other budget, and that due to changes in Article V, the Clerk's budget reflected an overall decrease because it was for only nine months. He mentioned that in keeping with past practices, the Clerk had presented a conservative budget.

Mrs. Strifler expressed appreciation to the Board for their support of the current fiscal year's budget, and stated that many goals had been realized. She also thanked the Board for the construction of new spaces and for renovation of existing areas in the courthouse. She advised that the primary change in the budget was an increase in operating expenses for the purchase of computer software, upgrades, computer hardware, implementation, training, and adding imaging modules to the current finance system.

She stated that the Clerk of County Courts Budget reflected a reduction in the last quarter because the Board would no longer be funding the Clerk's court operations. She added that by July 1, 2004, the Clerk's court operations would be funded by "adequate" filing fees, which would alleviate the Board of approximately \$888,000.

She mentioned that the Accounts Receivable Budget administered the utilities billing and collection function. She provided a comparison of the Clerk's total budget to other counties comparable in population (filed with the Clerk's agenda), which reflected this year's proposed budget as being two million dollars under the nearest county budget.

The Chairman stated that it was a pleasure to work with the Clerk's office each year.



**SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS** (Page 13/\$571,453, overall increase 1.19%)

**ELECTIONS** (Page 15 /\$400,596, overall increase 118.13%)

Mr. Wesch advised that the noticeable increase was to prepare for next fall's elections.

Commissioner Bartell commented that historically, there were peaks and valleys between election years, and asked if the percentage increase was the same from one election year to the next.

Susan Gill, Supervisor of Elections, responded by stating that she thought 2004 would be an expensive year due to the increase in absentee voting and the cost of more ballots. She said that in 2004, an elections satellite office would be open at the Central Ridge Library, the Crystal River office would be open for elections only, and the Elections office in Inverness and all polling places would continue to be open. She added that if 50 to 60 percent of the people voted absenteeism, there might not be a need for all polling precincts in the future.

Commissioner Bartell commended Ms. Gill and her staff for their professionalism and for making the County proud. Commissioner Wooten agreed and mentioned that the Elections office in this County was the first to report results in the 2000 election year.

Ms. Gill explained that next year the Elections office would be required by law to purchase a touch screen for every precinct with an audio feature for the visually handicapped at an estimated cost of \$200,000. She added that 11 to 12 million dollars in federal funds had been earmarked for the state of Florida, and that some of those funds would be allocated to the counties.



**PROPERTY APPRAISER** (Page 17/\$2,652,149, overall decrease -7.29%)

Mr. Wesch answered Commissioner Bartell's question by stating that the reduction in this budget was in previously funded capital equipment and machinery. He stated that the increase in the number of employees from 49 to 54 was correct.



**SHERIFF**

❖ **General Operating** (Page 19/\$17,551.90, overall increase 8.68%), **Court Services** (Page 21/\$2,096,388, overall increase 9.48%)

Sheriff Jeff Dawsy thanked the Board and staff, especially Mr. Wesch, Assistant County Administrator Ken Saunders, and Office of Management and Budget Director Cathy Taylor. He also recognized the Sheriff's Finance Director Donna Tvenstrup who would be retiring, and introduced Becky Smith, who would be the new finance director.

He stated that the increase in his budget was due to the increases in state retirement, special risk insurance, workers compensation, and health insurance. He pointed out that he had no control over those factors.

He responded to Commissioner Wooten's question by stating that he had reviewed his budget to determine if he could contribute some funds back to the County. He stated that the School Board had advised him that they would cover half of the School Resource Officer (SRO) position at \$42,677, which the Board could use, as they considered necessary. He added that he was a proponent of Teen Court and Drug Court.

He answered Commissioner Phillips' question by stating that his office had been successful in acquiring grants for equipment and technology. He stated that he was not aware of any ongoing expenses funded by grants this year that would not be funded by grants next year, which could have an impact on next year's budget.

The Chairman stated that he thought the most important thing the County did was to provide for law enforcement; however, he did not think the Sheriff's Budget should increase more than the County's taxable value increase of 7.16 percent. He asked if the Sheriff could reduce his budget to 7.16 percent to assist with the other critical needs.

Sheriff Dawsy replied that he had reviewed many aspects of his budget this year, but he could not absorb the 15 to 20 percent increases in state retirement and insurance.

Discussion ensued as follows: deferring \$290,000 in the Sheriff's Budget until the next budget year, the \$47,000 from the School Board was a transfer not a deduction from the Sheriff's Budget, the majority of the Sheriff's Budget request was state mandated, there was not a contingency fund in the Sheriff's Budget, reviewing the Sheriff's Budget again for additional funds, etc.

Commissioner Bartell concurred with the other Board members comments, and requested that the Sheriff and all the constitutional officers be flexible and look for additional funds. Sheriff Dawsy replied that he would review his budget again to determine if there were some additional monies.



**TAX COLLECTOR** (Page 23/\$1,950,000, overall increase 0.66%)

Mr. Wesch stated that the Tax Collector's Budget was an estimate of the anticipated return of fees, and that more accurate information would be provided at the final budget hearing in September.



**COUNTY COURT MEDIATION** (Page 25/\$5,500)



**COUNTY PLANNING** (Page 27/\$80,078, overall increase 2.06%)



**DRUG COURT GRANT** (Page 29/\$98,020, overall increase 119.12%)



**DIVISION OF FORESTRY** (Page 31/\$9,392)



**HEALTH DEPARTMENT** (Page 33/\$885,164)



**MEDICAL EXAMINER** (Page 35/\$283,396, overall increase 6.49%)

Mr. Wesch advised that this budget would be impacted by Article V. He pointed out that approximately \$129,000 of this budget came from court costs, which would be eliminated July 1, 2004, and be transferred to an outlay of the General Fund.

He responded to Commissioner Bartell's question by stating that this budget was fully funded; however, the state was removing the funding source July 1, 2004.

The Chairman mentioned that the County was searching for a Medical Examiner and that it was possible the budget might increase next year.

**MENTAL HEALTH - MARION CITRUS** (Page 37/\$300,588)



**MENTAL HEALTH- KEY TRAINING CENTER** (Page 39/\$20,000)

Mr. Wesch confirmed Commissioner Phillips' statement that part of the \$20,000 was for the ongoing contract with the County for tree saplings.



**PUBLIC DEFENDER** (Page 41/\$141,233, overall decrease -23.91%)

Mr. Wesch stated that the decrease was due to Article V legislation, and that the current funding for the one and one-half position would be eliminated July 1, 2004.



**STATE ATTORNEY** (Page 43/\$66,559, overall decrease -28.01%)

Mr. Wesch reiterated that due to Article V legislation, funding was not requested for the two Victim Witness positions in the State Attorney Budget. He explained that the County was recommending zero funding for the equipment and machinery request of \$28,000 based on the premise that the County would not be required to continue funding computer equipment purchases under Article V legislation. He added that the matter would be clarified before the final budget hearings.



**TEEN COURT - FINES** (Page 45/\$49,451, overall decrease -4.31%)



**VICTIM WITNESS PROGRAM** (Page 47/\$46,584, overall decrease -20.82%)

Mr. Wesch advised that this was a nine-month funding proposal based on the implementation period of the Article V legislation. He answered Commissioner Phillips' question by stating that the responsibility to fund this budget would not be the Counties after July 1, 2004, and that it was not clear if the state would continue to fund this program.



**CIP – PARKS AND RECREATION**

(Page 65/\$454,000 overall increase 185.53%)

Mr. Wesch stated that because of cost effectiveness, staff recommended building a new facility at Withlapopka Islands for \$154,000. Ms. Saltmarsh explained that the total costs included \$12,500 for design work, \$131,500 for the building, and \$10,000 for furnishings.

Mr. Wesch answered the Commissioners' questions by stating that the new facility would not be built on the existing site, but rather on a three-acre County owned parcel, and that the \$300,000 listed in the CIP was for a proposed water park.

Ms. Saltmarsh responded to Commissioner Phillips' question by stating that all other park projects for 2004 would be funded by impact fees.

The Chairman opened the meeting for public comment.

Peggy Rushford, representing the Withlapopka Civic Association (Association), requested that the Board consider construction of a new community facility in this year's budget due to the serious parking situation, the existing building's deterioration, and the need for a safe meeting place. She stated that the Association wanted to donate three parcels of land to the County and that the Association would maintain the upkeep of the grounds. She mentioned that the Association published a newsletter every two months and their motto was for the betterment of the community.

The Chairman spoke about the wonderful newsletter published by the Association and the consideration of each other's needs in the community. (11/10:32 P.M.)

**The Chairman recessed the meeting and reconvened at 10:55 A.M.**



Mr. Wesch reviewed the remainder of the budget by division.

<i>DIVISION</i>	<i>PAGE NUMBER</i>	<i>2002-2003 BUDGET</i>	<i>2003-2004 RECOMMENDED</i>	<i>OVERALL % INCREASE/ DECREASE</i>
Community Services Administration	48-49	123,252	124,820	1.27%

Extension Center	50-51	318,586	353,308	10.90%
Canning Center	52-53	58,462	38,470	-34.20%
Nitrate Workgroup	54-55	20,582	20,338	-1.19%
Libraries	56-59	2,104,611	2,332,257	10.82%
Schitzer Trust	60	3,000	3,000	-
Library Trust	61	10,000	10,000	-
Parks	62-63	758,182	786,934	3.79%
Parks Special Programs	66-67	85,091	103,386	-
Chassahowitzka RV Campground	68-69	225,048	248,016	10.21%
Community Support Services	70-71	242,475	300,384	23.88%
Veterans Service	72-73	90,801	96,835	6.65%
Social Services	74-75	80,765	70,373	-12.87%
State/County Welfare	76-77	437,580	455,083	4.00%
State/County Welfare	78-79	658,404	684,470	4.00%
West Side Community Center	80-81	68,175	68,097	-0.11%
Senior Center	82-83	64,497	67,029	3.93%
East Side Senior Center	84-85	52,679	68,601	30.22%
N Paul Dr. Senior Center	86-87	0	20,691	0.00%
Citrus Springs Community Center	88-89	160,626	261,631	62.88%
Tourist Tax	90-91	515,000	510,000	-0.97%
Development Services	94-95	197,537	180,032	-8.86%
Community Development	96-97	1,202,284	1,273,837	5.95%
Housing Services Division	98-99	152,832	144,151	-5.68%
Building Inspection	100-101	1,861,165	2,241,167	20.42%
Public Safety	102-103	513,861	541,891	5.45%
Animal Control	104-105	680,275	805,121	18.35%
Beverly Hills Fire Department	106-107	171,781	141,458	-17.65%
Fire Training Center	108-109	137,258	204,747	49.17%
Fire Administration	110-113	1,759,133	2,099,830	19.37%
Fire Capital Improvement	114	573,648	450,350	-21.49%
Reserves and Transfers	115	612,497	609,697	-0.46%
Code Enforcement	116-117	379,599	575,952	51.73%
Public Works Administration	118-119	397,952	472,210	18.66%
Capital Improvement Program - A	120-121	126,985	75,000	-40.94%
Aviation	122-123	83,356	83,046	-0.37%
Aviation CIP	124-125	361,750	151,000	-58.26%
Water Quality	126-127	212,831	208,888	-1.85%
Water Quality CAP Project	128-129	417,000	577,500	-
Road Maintenance	130-131	6,000,122	6,337,831	5.63%
Road Maintenance CIP	132-133	563,414	517,250	-8.19%
Aquatic Weed Control	134-135	922,970	1,915,179	107.50%
Lake Improvements	136-137	37,090	41,512	-
Maintenance Operations	138-139	3,834,201	4,344,438	13.31%
Fleet Maintenance	140-141	860,105	813,567	-5.41%
Citrus Springs MSBU	142-144	393,770	476,960	21.13%
Beverly Hills MSBU	145	72,332	62,537	-
Landfill	146-148	7,412,423	4,300,570	-41.98%
Long Term Care	149	210,131	486,412	131.48%
Litter Program	150	97,094	169,262	74.33%
Recycling	151-152	424,639	668,326	57.39%
Hazardous Waste	153	64,561	109,825	70.11%
Water & Wastewater	154-156	3,837,990	3,914,068	1.98%
Utility Billing	157	69,916	71,044	1.61%



Utilities Renewal/Replacement	158	1,523,700	83,700	-
WRWSA Renewal/Replacement	159	89,997	97,416	-
Engineering	160-161	1,256,223	1,289,696	2.66%
Residential/Major Road	162-163	15,930,774	16,136,712	1.29%
Board of County Commissioners	164-165	345,694	366,058	5.89%
Administrative Services	166-167	8,074,288	8,483,015	5.06%
Capital Improvement Program (CIP)	168-169	2,615,831	1,571,628	-39.92%
County Administrator	170-171	520,273	553,730	6.43%
County Attorney	172-173	322,030	337,208	4.71%
Human Resources	174-175	247,982	255,463	3.02%
Office of Management & Budget	176-177	353,876	377,088	6.56%
Systems Management	178-179	837,654	890,341	6.29%
Utility Fee Trust Account	180-181	263,000	275,000	4.56%
Reserves and Transfers	183	68,500	68,500	0%
Reserves and Transfers	184	800,000	815,000	1.88%
Reserves and Transfers	185	5,868,861	5,741,227	-2.17%
Crystal River Airport-Tree Removal-Land PR	186	56,250	29,466	-
Inverness Airport Ease/Land	187	50,000	50,000	-
Inverness Lighted Wind Cone	188	13,000	10,832	-
JPA AK 443 Crystal River Easement	189	50,000	50,000	-
JPA AJ 865 Inverness Planning	190	125,000	125,000	-
Crystal River Airport Signage	191	12,500	12,500	-
Holden Property/Inverness Airport	192	86,000	128,000	-
SR-44 DRA Landscaping	193	-	200,000	-
Court Facility Program	194	630,700	300,000	-
Crystal River Airport Roadway AM-334	195	-	208,888	-
Inverness Spray Field REL AM-335	196	-	390,000	-
Boating Improvement	197	70,500	50,000	-
Crystal River Airport Parking APR AM-336	198	-	335,908	-
Court Costs	199	129,035	96,975	-
Occupational License Reserve Fund	200	108,000	124,100	-
Health Insurance	201	2,885,395	3,200,270	-
Insurance Trust	202	2,719,000	3,105,005	-
Dental Insurance	203	-	311,932	-
Chass Reg Wastewater System	204	944,000	952,000	-
Inverness Building Utilization	205	-	110,000	-
SWFWMD/Reclaimed Water Phase I	206	509,650	509,650	-
HWW PH 3 Homosassa Area	207	569,600	569,600	-
HWW PH 4 Chass Area	208	777,000	777,000	-
DEP #LP0305-Chass WW	209	-	750,000	-
Arbitrage Earnings Reserve	210	-	158,000	-
Homo WW-PH 4	211	-	693,750	-
Criminal Justice Facility Debt	213	427,200	406,900	-
Criminal Justice Bond Res	214	745,600	661,400	-
Lecanto Office Building	215	576,100	573,900	-
1999-2000 Projects	216	323,200	321,900	-
2001 Projects	217	382,500	385,000	-
Limerock Special Assessment	218	152,075	170,700	-
Limerock Program	219	34,000	47,603	-
Indian Water Program	220	4,000	4,000	-

Tsala Apopka Gardens Special Assessment	221	-	26,225	-
Laguna Palms MSBU	222	28,325	28,300	-
Riverhaven Special Assess	223	194,000	193,850	-
Kensington Estates U1&2 SLD	224	1,896	2,100	-
Cedar Lake Estates SLD	225	1,297	1,410	-
Carpenters Country Square U1 SLD	226	1,312	1,535	-
Lovelace Lodges SLD	227	3,633	3,633	-
Crystal Oaks SLD PH 7&8	228	5,750	5,910	-
Southern Woods SLD PH 2&3	229	4,400	4,400	-
Southern Woods SLD	230	2,820	3,080	-
Hampton Hills	231	6,060	6,430	-
Castle Lake Park SLD	232	-	4,429	-
Connell Heights	233	940	940	-
Dixie Shores	234	1,360	1,370	-
Emerald Oaks	235	1,030	1,030	-
Apache Shores	236	2,510	2,510	-
Crystal Oaks	237	12,260	12,260	-
Cypress Village	238	193,060	193,060	-
Foxwood	239	1,880	1,980	-
Riverhaven Village	240	17,720	19,100	-
Crystal Paradise	241	7,720	7,750	-
Crystal Glen	242	6,780	6,880	-
Cinnamon Ridge	243	8,310	8,310	-
Water Oaks Subdivision	244	2,410	2,460	-
Flying Dutchman	245	2,620	2,930	-
Oak Forest	246	2,090	2,090	-
Spring Gardens	247	2,000	2,150	-
Road Impact Fees/Dist 2	249	3,510,599	75,000	-
Road Impact Fees/Dist 6	250	1,102,879	20,000	-
School Impact Fees	251	780,000	780,000	-
Law Enforcement Imp Fees	252	152,000	197,000	-
Fire Impact Fees	253	137,885	269,885	-
EMS Impact Fees	254	52,215	52,615	-
Library Impact Fees	255	139,500	140,500	-
Public Bldgs Impact Fee	256	250,000	280,000	-
Park District 4 Impact Fees	257	145,500	150,000	-
Park Impact Fees/Dist 1	258	51,500	27,000	-
Park Impact Fees/Dist 2	259	120,250	114,675	-
Park Impact Fees/Dist 3	260	109,200	161,675	-
Park Impact Fees/Dist 4	261	74,600	171,340	-
Road Impact Fees/Dist A	262	1,035,000	755,000	-
Road Impact Fees/Dist B	263	532,500	470,000	-
Road Impact Fees/Dist C	264	90,000	1,323,000	-
Road Impact Fees/Dist D	265	983,500	245,500	-

The following questions were answered or comments were made:



**COMMUNITY SERVICES:**

Commissioner Bartell stated that the \$300,000 budgeted this year for the water park (page 65 - CIP - Parks & Recreation) was not a top priority and that he would look for that project to be deferred to a future budget of the CIP.

Mr. Wesch explained that the name of this project (water park) was possibly attached by the media; however, it would be for a family recreation complex. He stated that the \$300,000 was placed into the CIP and budget in order to acquire property and to start the conceptual design.

Commissioner Wooten stated that he understood Commissioner Bartell's concern; however, he was still a proponent of this project.



### **DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Mr. Wesch replied to Commissioner Bartell's question by stating that an estimate of the costs and labor involved with correcting the inconsistencies of the Land Development Code and Comprehensive Plan were included in this budget.

Mr. Maidhof answered Commissioner Phillips' question regarding the machinery and equipment request (page 97 - Community Development) by stating that \$4,463 was for the new technician position.



### **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Mr. Wesch explained to Commissioner Phillips that the Code Enforcement position (page 116 - Code Enforcement), which would be funded by the special assessment for litter patrol, was organizationally placed under the Code Enforcement Division. He added that a transfer of revenue was shown in the Solid Waste Budget to offset the cost.

Commissioners concurred with Commissioner Wooten's suggestion that the Deputy Chief of Administration and Deputy Chief of Operations (page 111 - Fire Administration) be pulled until it was determined how to pay for those positions and the paid firefighter positions, and recommended setting a workshop to discuss those matters.

Mr. Wesch proposed funding the Deputy Chief of Administration and the Deputy Chief of Operations positions for six months and inform the Board of that proposal at the final budget hearings in September.

Commissioner Wooten agreed with Mr. Wesch's proposal for budget purposes; however, he stated that if a decision for funding the positions was not made by mid-year the hiring for those positions should be delayed.



### **PUBLIC WORKS**

Assistant Public Works Director Tom Dick replied to Commissioner Phillips' question regarding channel markers (page 135 - Aquatic Weed Control) by stating that the state would be funding additional idle speed/no wake signs during the holiday week-ends for the remainder of this year and that the City and the County would be discussing this matter in the future. He advised that the \$3,000 budgeted for channel markers would be for routine maintenance of the manatee protection signs and other idle speed/no wake signs throughout the County.

He also replied to Commissioner Phillips' question regarding the \$56,676 for boat ramp improvements by stating that funding was for the third year of the Boat Ramp Improvement Plan and would be used for minor repairs of various boat ramps throughout the County.

Mr. Wesch replied to Commissioner Bartell's question regarding funding for water quality projects (page 129 - Water Quality) by stating that there was a fund balance of over \$500,000; therefore, staff had not recommended transferring any money in that fund this year. Commissioner Bartell stated that he felt those projects should be a priority, and would like some money budgeted for Water Quality in order to start some of the projects.

Mr. Wesch advised Commissioner Wooten that the \$250,000 for lake restoration projects was on page 185.

Commissioner Wooten agreed with Commissioner Bartell regarding the need for some additional funding in the Water Quality fund for this year and suggested \$50,000 for preliminary planning of some of the projects. Commissioner Bartell stated that the amount needed was much more than \$50,000. Commissioner Fowler stated that assessments would be needed for those projects and agreed with Commissioner Wooten's suggested amount of \$50,000.



**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM**

Mr. Wesch advised Commissioner Phillips that the \$6,800 for training (page 169) was for the Geographic Information System (GIS).



**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Mr. Wesch advised that the communication services line item (page 171) was for cellular phone communications for two people. He also explained that he would be acquiring a new vehicle this year, that his old vehicle would become part of the vehicle pool stationed at the Lecanto Government Building, and that his current vehicle would replace an older vehicle in the pool.

**Directive:** Staff to provide Commissioner Phillips with a breakdown of the vehicle maintenance line item on page 171.



**COUNTY ATTORNEY**

Mr. Wesch stated that there was no funding appropriated to take over the litigation the County would be responsible for beginning July 1, 2004. He also stated that the Article V legislation was adopted after the budget books were prepared. He added that he would meet with County Attorney Robert Battista and report that information to the Board in September.

Mr. Battista advised that his office would be looking to hire someone in May or June 2004, and funding would need to be available for wages, office space, equipment, etc. from May or June until October 1, 2004. He added that a Public Defender position would also need to be funded through contract, and gave a rough estimate of \$70,000.



**OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET**

Mr. Wesch stated that \$6,300 (page 177 - Machinery & Equipment) was a replacement of an existing copy machine, which would be part of a centralized printer function.



**MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS**

Mr. Wesch advised the Board that staff had prepared a debt capacity update (filed with the Clerk's agenda) and stated that the County was in the low category in debt per capita, income per capita, and debt as a percentage of general fund expenditures.

He replied to Commissioner Bartell that the request from the Withlacoochee Area Legal Services was fully funded in the budget.

Commissioner Phillips suggested listing the projects within the Park District Impact Fees.

***Upon motion by Commissioner Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Bartell, and carried unanimously, the Board 1) established the following millage rates: General Fund at 6.3960, Transportation at 1.2019, Health Department at 0.1431, County-Wide Total for Board of County Commissioners at 7.7410, Fire Protection Taxing District at 0.4810, Library Taxing District at 0.3333, for a total millage rate of 8.5553.***

***Upon motion by Commissioner Bartell, seconded by Commissioner Batchelor, and carried unanimously, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Certificate of Taxable Value, DR-420.***

There being no other business to come before the Board, the Chairman adjourned the meeting. (III/11:20 P.M.)

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_, Clerk \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman