

The Chairman reconvened the meeting and the Board continued with its preliminary budget hearings on the 2001/2002 Budget.

Commissioners: Commissioners Roger Batchelor, Chairman; Jim Fowler, Vice Chairman; Gary Bartell, Second Vice Chairman; Commissioner Vicki Phillips and Josh Wooten
Administrator: Richard Wm. Wesch
Management & Budget Director: Cathy Taylor
Deputy Clerks: Betty Strifler, Clerk; Glenda Brown, Deputy Clerk

ELECTIONS (Page 148/\$545,600 Page 150/\$196,438)

Susan Gill, Supervisor of Elections, stated that she had the lowest percentage of budget increase in the State of Florida. She advised that the eleven-percent increase was due to increased voting precincts, and that additional equipment had been purchased in this year's budget. She mentioned that the disability voting issue might increase costs. She stated that her office had been working with disability groups in regard to the disability voting issue. She explained that in the future, the disabled and the blind would be able to vote through touch screens with earphones. She added that the touch screens had not yet been certified by the State.

Ms. Gill responded to Commissioner Bartell by stating that the County would receive \$131,250 in two yearly installments for the sharing of new equipment. She also advised that after October 1, 2001, the legislature would be distributing six million dollars for voter education, and that the County would receive \$55,000.

Commissioner Fowler spoke on behalf of the Board by stating that he was very proud of the way the election was conducted by Ms. Gill's office.

SHERIFF

❖ **General Operating** (Page 152/\$15,375,898), **Court Services** (Page 154/\$1,715,104)

Sheriff Dawsy introduced employees of the Sheriff's office and gave an overview of the budget. He stated for the record that \$300,000 from the School Board inflated the budget as a revenue source.

Sergeant Gary Johnson handed out the Judicial Complex Project (filed with the Clerk's agenda), and stated that the Sheriff's office was requesting five deputy positions and one civilian position to secure the Courthouse. He stated that security consultant studies and a 1996 Federal Marshall's study had indicated that higher numbers of security were needed in the existing Courthouse. He compared current versus future staffing needs and explained the Courthouse staffing flow.

Commissioner Phillips stated that the new building would be strictly a judicial facility with one main entrance, and that she did not see the need for five deputies and one civilian position on the first floor, when the majority of court services would be on the second and third floors. She also stated that she was not sure that Marion County's facility had that type of deputized service in their Courthouse.

Sergeant Johnson responded by stating that Marion County's Judicial Facility was secured partially by a private company. He advised that currently not everyone coming into the first floor of the existing Courthouse was screened, but that everyone would be screened coming into the new Judicial Facility. He added that even though the Property Appraiser and Tax Collector would be moving out of the building, the Public Defender's office, and possibly the Board and their staff would be moving in, so there would still be a need for the added security officers.

He further explained that the main security system would be on the first floor, and would require the following positions: 1) a person to work the x-ray machine; 2) a person to control the continuous flow of people coming in and going out; 3) an officer at the main holding cell; 4) a civilian position to control all the cameras, monitor the courtroom and holding cells, answer phones, alarms, dispatches, etc; and 5) an officer who would rove the building, monitor the loading dock, and escort people to their automobiles.

He also stated that there were currently seven deputies, that the proposal was for eleven with an additional twelfth deputy to move inmates and jurors from place to place. He added that different types of court were held five days a week, and inmates were in court usually five days a week.

Commissioner Phillips remarked that she could not understand budgeting for three to five additional deputies for the entire year when the building would not be completed this year. Sheriff Dawsy replied that the additional deputies were not budgeted for the full year, but would be phased in starting January 2002.

He informed that he was continually sending between one to five officers into the Courthouse daily, and could not continue to do so. He stated that officers were also mandated to do training in order to keep their certification.

Commissioner Phillips stated that she appreciated the job that the Sheriff's office had done and wholeheartedly supported security, and suggested that the deputies could be supported by a private entity such as was done in Marion County.

Sheriff Dawsy stated that he believed law enforcement should run jails, level ten facilities, and Courthouses, and that if you put private security in place of law enforcement officers, you compromise the facility. He added that Palm Beach County had a private enterprise to x-ray packages and people coming and going, and found that their building was compromised on a continuing basis.

He answered the Commissioners' questions by stating that the consultants had recommended 14 security personnel, and clarified that the 12th deputy would also be utilized for training, vacation, emergencies, sickness, etc. He added that the amount of money budgeted for the five new officers would be phased in, that all judges were not in court five days a week, etc.

He handed out a Gasoline Analysis sheet (filed with the Clerk's agenda), and stated that the Sheriff's office had restricted the use of civilian units for just to and from work to cut down on fuel cost, but that the savings was minimal. He stated that the average fuel purchased from the County per month was 17,600 gallons, and that \$1.50 per gallon was based on the cost of fuel at the time the budget was presented, but that he was willing to compromise the fuel request.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he understood the importance of the Sheriff's agency, but he felt the fuel budget should be the same for all County employees, and that the fuel budget should be based on the cost of fuel currently.

Sheriff Dawsy stated that he was willing to come down to \$1.35 per gallon, and that he had prioritized spending and streamlined operational expenditures whenever possible. He added that he had also looked at outside fuel sources.

Mr. Wesch answered Commissioner Bartell by stating that the County does not calculate fuel on a per gallon basis for County operations, but tried to stay within the Board's guidelines of four percent, and make adjustments in line items if necessary. He stated that staff would calculate the number before the end of the Sheriff's presentation.

The Sheriff advised that the State had reduced the retirement contribution and that the additional money in his budget could be used to increase starting salaries. He was concerned about losing quality people due to not being proactive with maintaining starting salaries of surrounding counties. He handed out a Deputy Salary Comparison Chart, Police "D.R.O.P." Vacancies 2003 chart and a copy of an article from the Tampa Tribune, "Retirement Will Take Bite Out of Law Enforcement" (filed with the Clerk's agenda). He stated that the "D.R.O.P." Program would have a major impact on surrounding counties, due to the mass exodus of experienced officers. He expressed concern that if the Sheriff's Office were to increase in size in order to keep up with the County's growth, starting salaries would have to be adjusted in the next two years. He stated that he believed the amount he was requesting (\$28,800), which was compatible with Hernando County's starting salaries, was allocated in his budget.

Commissioner Fowler stated that he had a problem with the request due to the fact that it had not been a budgeted item. The Sheriff replied that he had planned it to be part of his budget next year, but that he saw an opportunity and solution to offset a problem a year from now, so that the impact next year would not be so severe.

Commissioner Fowler stated that it was not a problem yet, that the County only had \$500,000 in reserves for every department, and that other departments were told to manage their budgets within the guidelines.

Sheriff Dawsy responded to Commissioner Wooten by explaining he was not asking for additional reserves, that based on the market value of other counties, his proposal was to raise the starting salaries to \$28,800, using the existing resources of \$172,000.

Commissioner Wooten requested staff to calculate the minimum salaries and come up with an average salary figure. He also asked, in addition to the zero to six percent “Pay for Performance Program”, were there any additional benefits funded for the employees. Mr. Wesch replied that there was a long-term disability insurance program in the budget to cover the Board’s employees at a cost of \$55,000. He added that the premium was offset using health insurance monies that would have been allocated.

Commissioner Bartell expressed his appreciation to Sheriff Dawsy for his pro-active look at the situation, and stated that the Board would be facing the same issue later with Emergency Medical Services (EMS). He stated that the only way he could support the issue was to rework the budget, and still maintain \$500,000 in the Contingency Fund, and he had not found a way to do that. He added that he would not take funds away from the County employees to give it to a Constitutional Officer.

Sheriff Dawsy suggested putting the issue on hold until the other budgetary items were discussed, and maybe come up with a compromise.

Mr. Wesch stated that the average salary figure that Commissioner Wooten had requested would be \$27,997, and that \$1.35 per gallon fuel cost would be reasonable and supportable. Sheriff Dawsy stated that he would be happy with either compromise.

Commissioner Phillips stated that she appreciated the explanation as to why the Sheriff would like to keep the retirement savings, but that the other Constitutional Officers and the Board had backed those savings out of their budget, and it would only be fair to treat everyone the same.

Sheriff Dawsy stated that he understood, but that he saw an opportunity to be innovative and come up with a solution, and thanked the Board for their comments.

Discussion continued regarding compromises, the contingency fund balance of approximately \$90,000, not budgeting for items, etc. (I-3000/10:20 A.M.)

The Chairman recessed the meeting and reconvened at 10.35 A.M.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

❖ *Community Development* (Page 156/\$1,087,425)

Mr. Wesch stated that a part-time secretarial position was requested, and the budget reflected a 1.9% increase.

❖ Code Enforcement(Page 158/\$341,100)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was a 9.3% increase.

❖ MSTU Administration(Page 160/\$202,695)

Mr. Wesch stated there was a decrease of two positions, a 27.5% decrease in the overall budget, and that the reduction was the result of a Professional Services Account.

Mr. Maidoff responded to Commissioner Phillips by stating that professional services had been used for impact fees and transportation studies, which could now be transferred to the appropriate funding source.

❖ Building(Page 162/\$1,670,756)

Mr. Wesch stated that four new positions were requested, and that one additional part-time secretary was approved.

He responded to the Commissioners' questions by stating that the positions not recommended for approval were two additional construction inspectors and one additional plans examiner. He advised that personnel had been increased the last two years, that there was a reduction in new construction dollars, that average time for permit issuance had been acceptable (five to seven days), etc., and that staff felt comfortable with existing resources. He added that it was a special revenue fund.

❖ Housing Services(Page 164/\$140,559)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was a 2.2% budget increase.

❖ Reserves & Transfers/Mun Ser Tax Unit(Page 167/\$68,500)

Mr. Wesch advised that there was a 5.4% budgetary increase. (I-3393/10:45 A.M.)

PUBLIC SAFETY

❖ Public Safety Administration(Page 168/\$1,447,359)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was a 3.7% budget increase, with no additional personnel.

Commissioner Fowler questioned if Public Safety moved into the Lecanto Government Building, would it reduce the need for one secretarial position. Mr. Wesch replied that a request for an additional secretary for the Kensington Fire Station was denied, but that he felt that no reduction should be made in the positions at this time.

Mr. Wesch responded to Commissioner Phillips by stating that staff included the cost for moving the Public Safety Division to Lecanto for budget workshop purposes, but that a presentation would be brought back before the Board before the final budget hearing. He stated that staff did not mean to imply that a decision had been made, but that they were just trying to plan for the future.

❖ Fire Administration(Page 170/\$1,507,021)

Mr. Wesch stated there was no new personnel requested, and that there was a 7.2% budget increase.

❖ Beverly Hills VFD (Page 172/\$118,750)

Mr. Wesch stated that the budget reflected a 25% decrease. Commissioner Phillips advised that the Beverly Hills Fire Department was financed by an MSBU for that particular area, and that questions had arisen regarding the Beverly Hills Fire Department responding to other areas. She stated that everything had been done in accordance with the MSBU, but that there was a reciprocal agreement throughout the County that Beverly Hills does responds to other areas, and also that other areas respond to the Beverly Hills area.

❖ Fire Training Center (Page 174/\$121,847)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was a budgetary increase of 27.1% due to increased training by outside resources, and that there were no additional personnel.

❖ Fire Administration/Capital Improvement Program (Page 176/\$412,565)

❖ Fire Administration/Reserves & Transfers (Page 177/\$429,014)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was a 7.5% recommended increase.

❖ Animal Control (Page 178/\$572,414)

Mr. Wesch stated there were no additional personnel, and a 1.6% budget increase. He further stated that last year the Board devoted substantial resources to the Animal Control Division, and that was the reason for the reduced budget this year. (II-95/10:50 A.M.)

MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET (Page 180/\$247,532)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was no additional personnel requested this year, and a 9.8% budget increase was largely the result of hiring an experienced Certified Public Accountant (CPA).

Ms. Taylor responded to Commissioner Phillips by stating that she was a Certified Government Finance Officer, and that the Senior Budget Analyst was a CPA.

SYSTEMS MANAGEMENT (Page 182/\$934,668)

Mr. Wesch stated there were no additional personnel, but there was a substantial increase of 48.5%. He added that the increase was due to the continuance of upgrading computer hardware and software and transitioning into the internet based software system, and due to the fact that the equipment in the Lecanto Government Building was five years old.

Darryl Clouse, Office of Systems Management, responded to Commissioner Phillips by giving an overview of the new Internet software that would be used for on-line permitting and human resources applications, etc. He stated that the problem now was that Microsoft and other vendors were constantly releasing upgrades that were larger and required more hardware, and that the big focus was to write and use software internally within the next 24 months that would not require massive upgrades from Microsoft, Novell, etc.

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (Page 184/\$337,536)

Mr. Wesch stated there was no additional personnel.

COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR (Page 186/\$474,893)

Mr. Wesch stated there was a reduction of two positions, the elimination of a clerk typist, and Mary Craven's position was transferred to Tourist Tax. He responded to Commissioner Phillips by clarifying that the Tourist Tax position was evaluated by the Assistant County Administrator.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES (Page 188/\$6,805,522)

Mr. Wesch stated there was a decrease of .7%.

GENERAL FUND CIP (Page 190 /\$2,058,048)

Mr. Wesch stated there was a substantial increase of 61.2% due to the implementation of the major capital improvement projects.

DEBT SERVICE: *Criminal Justice Facility* (Page 193/\$430,600) *Criminal Justice Bond Reserves* (Page 194/\$743,500) *Lecanto Office Building* (Page 196/\$572,500) *2001B Bonds* (Page 198/\$397,800) *2001A Bonds* (Page 201/\$286,000).

COURT FACILITY PROGRAM (Page 202/\$276,560)

HEALTH INSURANCE (Page 204/\$2,769,670)

Mr. Wesch explained that a new benefit was included in this proposal for a long-term disability insurance program that would be effective on the 181st day of the disability injury or sickness, and would provide 60% of the employee's salary until they were eligible for Medicare. He urged the Board to support the program, and stated that it would be paid for by a reduction in health insurance premiums, and that there would be no cost increase for this year.

The Chairman and Commissioner Wooten expressed their support for the new benefit.

INSURANCE TRUST (Page 206/\$2,289,000)

STREET LIGHTING (Page 209/\$292,294)

SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS (Page 210/\$145,200)

IMPACT FEES - OTHER THAN ROADS

❖ *Limerock Road Paving Program* (Page 212/\$34,700)

❖ *Indian Water Program* (Page 214/\$3,500)

Mr. Wesch stated that the County might receive some State and/or Federal money to help with this program.

❖ Laguna Palms MSBU (Page 216/\$28,325)

Mr. Wesch informed that staff was working with residents of Laguna Palms as well as Florida Water Services to back the County out of that relationship so that residents would be able to contract directly with Florida Water Services and save approximately \$30 per month.

❖ Riverhaven MSBU (Page 220/\$160,600)

❖ School Impact Fees (Page 222/\$30,000)

❖ Park Impact Fees/Dist 2 (Page 224/\$22,500)

❖ Road Impact Fees/Dist 7 (Page 226/\$113,000)

❖ Law Enforcement Impact Fees (Page 228/\$60,000)

Mr. Wesch responded to Commissioner Wooten by stating that staff would present a recommendation to the Board at the workshop and adoption hearing at the end of August and beginning of September to implement the law enforcement impact fees at 100% as previously recommended by the consultant. He added that staff was also working on combining the law enforcement impact fees with EMS and Fire Safety for greater flexibility on how those monies could be expended, and that if that were done, the projected number of revenues would be approximately one-half million dollars a year.

❖ Fire Impact Fees (Page 230/\$114,150)

❖ EMS Impact Fees (Page 232/\$500)

❖ Library Impact Fees (Page 234/\$124,500)

❖ Public Building Impact Fees (Page 236/\$250,000)

❖ Park District 1 Impact Fees (Page 238/\$70,000)

❖ Park District 3 Impact Fees (Page 240/\$228,000)

❖ Community Park 3 Impact Fees (Page 242/\$64,200)

❖ Park District 4 Impact Fees (Page 244/\$90,500)

❖ Community Park 4 Impact Fees (Page 246/\$47,650)

❖ Park Impact Fees/Dist 1 (Page 248/\$6,200)

❖ Park Impact Fees/Dist 2 (Page 250/\$62,200)

❖ Park Impact Fees/Dist 3 (Page 252/\$33,400)

❖ Park Impact Fees/Dist 4 (Page 254/\$7,000)

TRANSPORTATION TRUST RESERVES/TRANSFERS (Page 256/\$690,000)

GENERAL FUND RESERVES/TRANSFERS (Page 257/\$6,192,385) (II-578/11:10 A.M.)

TAX COLLECTOR (Page 258/\$1,845,000)

Mr. Wesch stated that pursuant to Florida Statutes, the County had limited, if any budgetary authority over the Tax Collector, that her budget increase was approximately 6.5%, and that the Tax Collector was a fee-based officer.

COUNTY COURT MEDIATION (Page 260/\$5,500)

COURT COSTS (Page 262/\$129,035)

FORESTRY SERVICE (Page 264/\$9,392)

MEDICAL EXAMINER (Page 266/\$250,296)

Mr. Wesch stated that there was a 5.3% decrease.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT (Page 268/\$671,511)

Mr. Wesch explained there was a sizable one-time decrease, realized by taking the County contribution to the Health Department Trust Fund back out of the budget. He added that Mary Beth Nayfield had brought the matter to the staff's attention to either pull the contribution out now or the State could take it when they go back in session. He reiterated that this was a one-time decrease and asked the Commissioners to remember this discussion next year when the budget was restored.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE (Page 270/\$108,000)

COUNTYWIDE RADIO SYSTEM (Page 272/\$4,500,000)

INVERNESS OFFICE BUILDING (Page 274/\$2,500,000)

The Commissioners discussed the following:

Mr. Wesch answered Commissioner Bartell's questions by stating that appropriations for the Historic Courthouse restoration of \$150,000 would come out of this year's contingency fund.

He also stated that Nature Coast Emergency Medical Service (NCEMS) was not a County Department or Division, that the Board contracts with NCEMS for the operation of the ambulance service, however, it was the County's responsibility to make sure the citizens received adequate ambulance service. He added that he could meet with Teresa Gorentz,

Executive Director of NCEMS, regarding the employee wage problems, express the Board's concerns, make modifications, and bring back to the final budget hearing.

Commissioner Bartell remarked that the Board should be concerned about the quality of service to the citizens, and if that service was jeopardized, it should be addressed at the public hearings.

Commissioner Fowler commented that he was impressed with the Clerk of Courts comparisons each year, and suggested that next year the other Constitutional Officers use comparisons also. He stated that he thought there was a need for a lobbyist in Tallahassee due to the many projects in progress, and suggested that the Board consider the \$5,000 request for the Citrus County Art League (CCAL).

Commissioner Phillips agreed with Commissioner Fowler regarding the need for a lobbyist, and stated that she thought the Board had budgeted \$20,000 last year for a lobbyist that was never used, so the money should be there this year. She added that the Board had talked about sharing a lobbyist with other Counties who had similar interests.

Commissioner Wooten concurred regarding the need for a lobbyist, and also agreed with Commissioner Bartell concerning EMS. He stated that he was not ready to support the \$5,000 request by the CCAL, unless they could convince staff that they could match the \$5,000. He stated that he had done some research and had determined that it was not legal for the County to provide traffic control signs for private roads, but that he suggested purchasing street name signs as a one-time gift for private and rural roads for public safety purposes. He requested the purchase of street signs for Arrowhead at \$2,500, and asked for the Board's consideration.

Commissioner Bartell stated that he fully supported the lobbyist idea, and suggested utilizing the services of a lobbyist from another County for a nominal fee. He stated that he could not support the request of the CCAL, due to the fact that there were other organizations that needed money, and the County could not support them all. He stated from a public safety standpoint he fully agreed with the idea of street signs, however, they would have to be furnished Countywide.

Commissioner Phillips agreed with Commissioner Bartell about the placement of street signs on private roads. She stated that she lived on a private road, and that it took years for her to understand that it was not legal for the County to spend taxpayers dollars to take care of private roads, or to place control or street signs on private roads.

Commissioner Fowler replied that the citizens pay taxes for fire protection, EMS, Sheriff's services, etc., but that those services could not be delivered unless there were street signs, and he believed it was absolutely essential that the County furnish street signs for public safety and the saving of lives.

Mr. Maidoff responded to Commissioner Wooten by stating that the County roads were renamed in the 1980's, but that he did not know if street signs were furnished by the County or by the neighborhoods.

Directive: Staff to do a cost estimate for private road street signs and bring back to the Board at a later date.

Commissioner Phillips commented that the CCAL was a worthy cause, and that she would offer a letter of support for the grant, but that she could not support giving \$5,000 when there were other programs out there in need of funds also.

The Chairman agreed with Commissioner Phillips concerning the CCAL. He also agreed with the idea of the road signs, but stated that from a labor and cost perspective, they would need to be phased in over a period of time. He fully supported the need for a lobbyist in Tallahassee. (II-1580/11:35 A.M.)

The Chairman opened the meeting for public comment.

Dave Conant congratulated the Board for their comments and questions, thanked members of staff, Mrs. Striffler, and Sheriff Dawsy. He supported the Pay for Performance Program, the Disability Program, and street signs.

Gaston Hall, President of Hall Brothers of Citrus County, referred to his letter dated July 26, 2001 (filed with the Clerk's agenda), explaining a new Building Code effective January 1, 2002 that would mandate additional plan review and field inspections. He explained that the Insurance Services Office, Inc., (ISO) did an audit last year and reported deficiencies in three areas; plan review staffing levels, field inspection staffing levels, and expenditures for training. He stated that as a result, the Assistant Building Director and Supervisor of Building Inspectors were forced to frequently conduct field inspections. He stated that the money was in the Building Division's budget, and requested that the Board consider restoring the additional personnel to cover the requirements. (II-2013/11:45 A.M.)

Commissioner Wooten thanked the staff for helping him through the budget process and commended them on a job well done.

MILLAGES AND SUMMARIES

Upon motion by Commissioner Bartell, seconded by Commissioner Batchelor, and carried unanimously, the Board established the following millage rates: General Fund at 6.3789, Transportation at 1.2370, Health Department at 0.1251, 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 Fowler, seconded by Commissioner Batchelor, and carried unanimously, the Board approved and authorized the Chairman to sign the Certificate of Taxable Value, DR-420.

Mr. Battista announced that Carl Kern, Assistant County Attorney, had been offered and accepted a position as County Attorney in Flagler County, and would be giving a two-week notice tomorrow morning. He stated that he would advertise the Assistant County Attorney position in the August 15 edition of the Florida Bar News.

The Commissioners thanked Mr. Kern for his service to the County.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting. (II-2230/11:50 A.M.)

ATTEST: _____, Clerk _____, Chairman