

## **Board of County Commissioners Special Meeting**

July 29, 2009

Agenda posted Monday, July 27, 2009 at the Commissioner's Office, County Clerk's Office, Conference Room #106 and on all exit doors of the Courthouse by Shelly Russell, County Clerk.

Present: Commissioners James Wade and Jack Kirk; County Clerk Shelly Russell; County Treasurer Langdon Spivey; County Assessor Cathy Carlile, Court Clerk Kim Jackson.

Call to order by Chairman James Wade.

Board reviewed estimate of needs for 09-10 fiscal year of \$1,657,014.76 and county's financial statement for 08-09 fiscal year. Estimate of needs/budget for 09-10 fiscal year of \$1,096,251.88 was presented by budget makers Sanders, Bledsoe and Hewett, C.P.A. Board approved 09-10 fiscal year budget amount as \$1,096,251.88. Motion Wade, second Kirk. Vote Yes – Wade and Kirk.

Michael White arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Board worked on 09-10 fiscal year budget and listened to those in attendance suggestions.

The most common question was over insurance for employees. Insurance quotes the county had received were discussed and the amount that the county would be liable for was more than the budget would allow. Different alternatives were presented and the Board will be looking into all options for county employees insurance over the next year.

Commissioners requested that their salary be taken from the general budget due to the decrease in highway funds. A decision to pay the commissioner's salary from general budget for six months was agreed upon.

Sheriff Russell, who was not in attendance, had requested \$10.00/ hour for dispatchers and jailers, this amount was unable to be reached; an amount of \$9.50/hour or \$1650.00/monthly salary, a 12% increase, was set.

Shelly Russell stated the increase in salary would benefit those with private insurance who are paying increasing premiums. Russell further stated that the increase would bring salaries to an even level with other companies' salaries in the county and other counties that provide insurance. Carlile also agreed that the increase would benefit her employees; and said she needed to pay her employees a wage that would keep their experience working for the county and not seeking other employment.

Kim Jackson made the statement, since we are not able to fund insurance for our employees, then we should be able to increase their salaries to off set the increasing cost of insurance they have to pay. She claimed, we needed to take care of our employees first.

Reference to the commissioner's suggestions to allotting a percentage of the lodging tax for fire departments and the fairground's upkeep was made. It was explained two new accounts could be added to the general budget and a set allotted percentage amount (for this year 5% = \$2449.48 each) could be appropriated to these accounts.

Board discussed with officials in attendance and explained the salary increase as per their suggestions in their estimate of needs.

Board approved salary increase of 10% for salaried employees; a 12% increase in hourly employees; and a \$75.00/ month raise for Election Board Chief Clerk to be retroactive to 7/1/09. Motion Kirk, second White. Vote Yes – Wade, Kirk, White.

Motion by James Wade to present Excise Board recommended balanced budget in amount of \$1,096,251.88, second by White. Vote Yes – Wade, Kirk, White.

No Unforeseen business (not known at time of posting agenda). No Board action.

Adjourn or recess. Motion Wade, second Kirk. Vote Yes - Wade, Kirk, White.