

SEPTEMBER 23, 1961

The Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, met in the Court House in Bradenton, Florida, Saturday, September 23rd, 1961 at 9:30 A. M. for the purpose of holding a

PUBLIC HEARING ON TENTATIVE BUDGET FOR  
MANATEE COUNTY FOR THE  
FISCAL YEAR 1961-1962

as advertised in compliance with Section 129.03, paragraph 2, sub-paragraph (b) of Chapter 26874, Laws of Florida.

Present were Commissioners Earl Bibey  
H. C. Slaughter  
Irwin Klemmer  
Elmer Bustle  
W. E. Crist, Chairman  
Deputy Clerk Bruce M. Cox  
County Attorney Kenneth Cleary

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET  
TO BE HELD IN COURT ROOM

Chairman Crist announced that in view of the fact that the commissioners' office was not large enough to accommodate the large number of individuals present, the public hearing would be held in the court room on the second floor of the court house.

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The PUBLIC HEARING was opened by Chairman W. E. Crist in the court room, Court House, Bradenton, Florida, September 23rd, 1961 at 10:00 A. M.

He outlined the procedure to be followed in connection with the hearing and assured the people appearing in the interest of the proposed budget that every effort would be made to answer any questions on the various items. (Copies of the Summary of the Budget, as advertised, available to those who wish to examine the estimates.)

He announced that the County Commissioners would convene as a BOARD OF EQUALIZATION beginning Thursday, September 28, 1961, and would continue in session for at least one week thereafter, together with the Tax Assessor, a representative of the firm of Hunnicutt and Associates, and the County Attorney.

The Board then entertained questions and comments from the audience.

Objections to the budget in general were voiced by individuals and the Board was requested to reduce the over-all budget. The majority of objections stemmed from the fact that re-appraisal by Hunnicutt and Associates would cause such a great increase in ad valorem taxes.

The heads of the various county departments were present to explain the reason for budget requests, which, in some instances, represented increase over the budget for the previous year.

Among those offering objections to adoption of the budget, as proposed, were

- Dan S. Blalock, Jr.
- W. P. Mixon, Jr., representing the citrus growers of the county,
- Wayne Mead, representing a group of taxpayers in the Terra Ceia area,
- Mr. Curtis
- Al Grossman
- Bernadene Voorhees
- Worth Henson, Jr.
- J. T. Reeder, dairyman-farmer
- Roger Murray, president of Manatee County Cattlemen's Assoc.
- Robert E. Quinn, by resolution from the Manatee County Taxation Committee of the Sara-Mana Chapter of the Florida Mobile Home Association (request to reduce proposed budget by at least 20%)
- Randolph Snell, representing S.W. Dairyman's Association
- Richard Cummings, builder
- Ed Snyder, apartment house owner, Longboat Key (favors tourism)
- Virle Lee Anderson )
- Mr. Curry )
- Mr. Perdue ) Against tax increase
- J. F. Baker )
- Pinky Suggs )

Mr. Harry C. Young, chairman of Tax and Budget committee of the Manatee County Federation of Community Associations, while noting that the Commissioners had done a very good job relative to the budget, offered recommendations for reducing certain items, which would eliminate \$50,000.00 from the budget.

Abe Cole spoke of the need for Manatee County to have provided means for promotion of tourism and industry in previous years and of the importance of making the county attractive (entertainment, recreation, etc.) in order to entice people to remain.

Chairman Crist called attention to the fact that some \$233,000.00 of the budget was stipulated by law and the commission had no alternative but to provide funds for purposes created by legislative acts.

The hearing was recessed until 1:30 P.M.

1:30 P. M.

Public hearing on the budget was resumed at 1:30 P. M., Saturday, September 23rd, 1961, in the court room, Court House, Bradenton, Florida.

Dr. Irving Hall made a report on his studies involving exodus of families from Manatee County because industrial jobs were not available, and comparison of growth of other counties with that of Manatee County in that industrial growth had not kept pace with population growth.

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(Cont'd)

Mr. Slaughter moved that certain items in the proposed budget be reduced:

\$ 2,500.00 from the Planning Department  
 2,500.00 from the Legal Department  
           20 per cent out of the Road Department  
           20 per cent out of Publicity  
 6,000.00 from bulkhead work  
 15,000.00 from Reserve  
           Reduce Drainage from \$60,000.00 to  
           \$40,000.00

which would be a total of approximately \$347,900.00. Motion was seconded by Mr. Bustle.

Voting "Aye" were Commissioners Slaughter and Bustle; voting "No" were Commissioners Bibey, Klemmer and Chairman Crist. Motion did not carry.

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The Commissioners spent some time answering questions from the audience regarding Road Policy of the county (new roads, repaving existing roads, paving roads, etc.).

Objections to the adoption of the budget were noted from

Mr. Turner (District No. 1)  
 T. J. Green  
 Bob Tichenor  
 Ed Snyder  
 A taxpayer in Hardee and Manatee Counties (residing in Hardee County, but owning property in both counties)  
 J. L. Harrison, Jr.  
 Ed Mead, Palm View

In answer to those individuals who complained about increase in assessments, Chairman Crist advised this concerned another department, that of the Tax Assessor, and this Board could not assume the responsibility of other elected officers; however, if anyone had Equalization problems he should file a complaint before the Board of Equalization.

Mr. C. J. Hughes, a cattleman, stated he was not in favor of cutting the road budget; that if the county continues to grow some means have to be found to pay for prosperity.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

At 3:45 P.M., Chairman Crist declared the Public Hearing closed.

ATTEST:

M. T. McInnis, Clerk

  
 Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: 30 October 1961

  
 Chairman