

BUDGET: FISCAL YEAR
1977-1978

SEPTEMBER 28, 1977

The Board of County Commissioners of Manatee County, Florida, met in SPECIAL SESSION in the Court House in Bradenton, Florida, Wednesday, September 28, 1977 at 7:00 P.M.

Present were Commissioners
Louis E. Driggers, Chairman
Lamar S. Parrish
L. H. Fortson, Jr.
Kenneth D. Dierks

Also present were
R. B. Shore, Clerk
John Sands, Deputy Clerk
Richard Ashley and Ralph Umana, County Finance Department

Vice Chairman Dan P. McClure was not present.

7:15 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Driggers, who opened the public hearing for the purpose of hearing requests and complaints from the public regarding the budgets for the fiscal year 1977-78, in accordance with public notice advertised in the Bradenton Herald on September 21, 1977.

The Clerk explained that the proposed budget reflects 9.42 millage increase over the budget for fiscal year 1976-77, with General Fund budget lowered by approximately one-half mill and increase in millage rate in the Highway Department (classified 1977-78 as Transportation Trust Fund) by approximately one and one-half mills.

Among those present and making comments and asking questions regarding the proposed budget were:

Dick Blankenship, Palma Sola Park, asked for clarification relating to millage required this year to obtain the same amount of funds for expenditure as previous year. He was advised that tax roll in court and not yet approved and basis was on present tax roll.* Other questions on anticipated expenditures were answered by the Clerk and members of the Board. *(Present tax roll plus new construction.)

Bob Selami - asked for clarification on additions to the tax roll, etc.

Westwood Fletcher relayed telephone message from Ms Lois Baylor, 17A Palm Lake Estates, requesting paving 9th Street East from new budget for highways, increased to provide for new construction.

The Chairman read a letter from James Wallace, attorney, speaking as a taxpayer and for some of his clients, including Kentucky Colonel, Inc., Mid Central, Inc., Raymond Investments, Inc., Florida Fidelity Corporation and National Mobile-home Parks, Inc., requesting that county not increase property tax nor the millage rate. He pointed out that this year's tax roll is increased by \$196,000,000 and this increase should cover any increased funding and should be basis for decreasing overall millage and requested the Board to consider these views.

E. S. (Bud) Reasoner, 4610 - 14th Street West, Bradenton, speaking in behalf of the Manatee County Chamber of Commerce, advised that the Chamber endorses the program for increase in ad valorem taxes primarily for use in the road funding program, recognizing that most of the problems in road programming has been due to a lack of funding at local level.

The Chairman declared the public hearing closed in order to hold a separate public hearing on another phase of the budget.

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(Cont'd)

7:30 P.M.

The Chairman opened public hearing on proposed net increase of property taxes by 19 percent as follows: Transportation Trust Fund (Road & Bridge) increase of 23 percent, General Operating decrease of 4 percent; Net plus 19 percent, duly advertised in the Bradenton Herald on September 21, 1977.

The Clerk explained the change in current laws concerning presentation of the budget and the millage increase, and the public hearing on the budget stopped in order to open this public hearing to meet the legal requirements.

The Chairman reopened the public hearing on the Budget.

Audrey Keisacker, vice chairman of the Manatee County Democratic Executive Committee, made a presentation on property valuation comparisons 1970 and 1976, noting increase in growth and valuations should provide needed government services; if more required there are alternative methods more equitable and just than ever-increasing appraisal of property.

During the discussion that followed, the Clerk outlined some of the alternative methods now being considered in conjunction with legislation on home rule.

Mrs. George Newall questioned if county collects franchise fees in utility tax from electric bills. The answer was negative.

C. B. Stewart questioned the fairness of raising taxes on farm lands to build roads, noting that there were areas in government that could be "trimmed" so that more funds are available.

Cela Conneglio questioned mobilehome park assessments as compared to residential; basis for appraisals on various land uses.

Others present and making comments and asking questions were:

Eugene Chamless - comparison time involved in road maintenance several years ago and present time; expense Parks & Recreation replacing trees taken out by mobilehome park.

Clyde Hines, Rye Bridge Road - some property owners paying for road paving (participation projects) and others benefitting road improvements without special assessments.

Ben Schlei - same subject as Mr. Hines; also closer supervision by county departments, specifically manhours involved in minor repairs.

The Chairman declared the public hearing closed on proposed budget for 1977-1978.

Motion was made by Mr. Fortson to adopt the budget as proposed. Motion was seconded by Mr. Dierks and carried unanimously.

Public hearing on the millage increase was continued, then closed.

The Chairman called for a motion on adoption of a Resolution approving the 19 percent increase in the Budget for 1977-78. The Clerk explained that this Resolution was basically and structurally the same as the approved Budget except that Federal Revenue Sharing is not included. Under the new Federal Revenue Sharing laws there are two public hearings required and these public hearings will set priorities in the Revenue Sharing.

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Motion was made by Mr. Fortson to adopt the Resolution approving and adopting the 1977-78 fiscal year budget as follows:

General Fund	\$12,846,641
Transportation Trust Fund	6,309,000
Library Fund	776,000
CETA Fund	4,881,740
Other Special Revenue Funds	455,500
Debt Service Funds	924,700
Capital Project Funds	615,500
Library Construction Fund	1,333,000
Highway & Engineering Capital Proj. Funds	3,080,000
Water and Sewer Fund --M.C.U.S.	16,556,455
Port Authority Fund	2,539,615
Transit System Fund	970,944
Golf Course Fund	328,375
Intragovernmental Service Fund	823,664
Historical Commission Fund	14,360
Self Insurance Fund	350,000

Motion was seconded by Mr. Dierks and carried unanimously.

RESOLUTION RECORDED S-2-296

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned.

Attest:

APPROVED:



Clerk



Chairman