

SEPTEMBER 22, 1994

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in SPECIAL SESSION in the Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, Thursday, September 22, 1994, at 6:02 p.m.

Present were Commissioners:

Sean Stephens, Chairman
 Joe McClash, First Vice-Chairman
 Kent G. Chetlain, Second Vice-Chairman
 John R. Gause, Third Vice-Chairman
 Patricia M. Glass
 Lari Ann Harris

Absent was Commissioner: Maxine M. Hooper (death in family)

Also present were:

William J. Estabrook, County Administrator
 H. Hamilton Rice, Jr., County Attorney
 Judy LaMee, Director of Communications and Development,
 representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

Representatives of the various news media were present.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephens.

BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 1994-1995

Public hearing (Notice in The Bradenton Herald 9/20/94) was held to consider adoption of the Fiscal Year 1994-1995 budget.

James Seuffert, Director of the Office of Financial Management, stated the aggregate tentative operating millage for the budget is 4.11 percent above the roll-back amount. The total countywide millage rate is one percent higher than last year's millage rate.

Overview

He presented an overview of the 1994-1995 budget including:

- ~ Sample Notice of Proposed Property Taxes
- ~ Manatee County Assessed Values - 1984-1995
- ~ Countywide Millage Rates - 1984-1995 (Tentative)
- ~ Countywide Millage Levies
- ~ Millage Summary
- ~ Comparison of Taxes on a \$75,000 Home
- ~ Revenue by Source
- ~ Appropriation by Function
- ~ Employees per Thousand Population
- ~ Six County Comparison (Based on Fiscal Year 1994 Rates)

Public Comments

Rosemary Wiley, Director of Community Connections Telephone Information Referral, requested funding in the amount of \$9,499 for their organization which provides referral services to individuals seeking financial assistance, food service, and other available services.

Hope Botterbusch, Director of METV (Manatee Educational TV), noted that current funding for METV is not sufficient to pay for staff and operating costs. She requested continuing METV funding at a minimum of \$175,000 for 1995 and that it be extended into the future.

Bill Knight, Suncoast Center for Independent Living, stated that based upon the Board's recommendation at the last hearing, he discussed his funding request with the Task Force for Citizens with Disabilities, and they unanimously agreed to fund their program 100 percent. He thanked the Board for their assistance and withdrew his request.

Samantha Brock, Just for Girls, stated she was able to improve her grades in school through the help of Just for Girls alternative education program. She requested continued funding to help others.

Dennis McMahon, property owner, complained about taxes and lack of services provided to the east side of the County.

Beverley Comstock, property owner, complained that taxes are not being spent prudently and that select groups are being discriminated against, specifically waterfront property owners.

Jane Pratt, speaking on behalf of Just for Girls, requested approval of funding for Just for Girls citing the benefits derived by young girls through the alternative education program.

Patricia Bonacic, Director, P.A.C.E. Center for Girls, recommended approval of funding for alternative education programs and requested that funding continue for P.A.C.E. in order to enhance their program.

Richard Crane, 847 Southern Pine Lane, questioned whether any tax breaks were given to industrial parks and stated that new industry and new homes should help offset increased taxes. He recommended that the School Board's budget should require approval of the Board of County Commissioners.

Irv Sussman, resident, spoke in favor of the Just for Girls alternative school program, noting that the program serves middle school girls who are not served by any other agency. He emphasized the benefits derived from the program.

Angie Claxon, President of Just for Girls; requested funding be approved and stressed that the funds are needed for counseling services, which are necessary to successfully serve the at-risk children.

Others requesting approval of funding for Just for Girls, were **Tangelia Shannon**, student; **LaShonda Goodson**, student; **Sherry Truwell**, student; **Christina Smith**, student; **Freedom Warner**, sister of Just for Girls student; **Amy Bozman**, teacher at Just for Girls; and **Doyle Brock**, father of Samantha Brock who spoke earlier in meeting.

Becky Canesse, Executive Director of Just for Girls, requested approval of their funding request and emphasized the critical need for the program. She requested the Board reconsider action taken earlier in the day until discussions can be held with the School Board regarding funding. She requested the Board support the Children's Services Advisory Board's recommendation which includes a four-month review and possible alternative sources of funding.

Bryan Klabik, Just for Girls, stressed the importance and success of the program and requested approval of funding.

Mac Owen, taxpayer, recommended that the financial burden of the County be removed from the taxpayer and placed upon other sources such as tourists, new business, etc.

(Depart Mr. Chetlain)

Motion (Just for Girls) - Failed

Motion was made by Mrs. Harris to reconsider this afternoon's vote on the Just for Girls funding on the premise that we follow the advice of the Children's Services Board, that we give an initial four-month funding with appropriate time to meet with the School Board to discuss concerns over duplicative services. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Glass.

H. Hamilton Rice, Jr., County Attorney, stated the motion is in order.

(Enter Mr. Chetlain)

Discussion: Motion applies to those educational programs whereby there is an issue with the School Board as to funding; requested funding is for enhancing existing program; program will not have to be closed; hold work session with School Board, Sheriff's office, court system; etc.

For clarification, Mrs. Harris stated her motion is for reconsideration of today's vote (at a meeting held earlier in the day). Voting "Aye" were Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Glass, and Mr. Chetlain. Voting "Nay" were Mr. McClash, Mr. Gause, and Mr. Stephens. Motion failed.

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(Cont'd)

Budget Changes**South Florida Museum**

Discussion was held regarding funding request from the South Florida Museum. Mr. McClash stated the Tourist Development Council (TDC) made no recommendation to fund \$5,000 from TDC tax; however, they offered to support the museum in raising the money.

Motion (South Florida Museum) - Carried

Motion was made by Mr. Chetlain to take \$5,000 from the TDC to fund the South Florida Museum request. Motion was seconded by Mr. McClash and carried 6 to 0.

METV

Discussion was held regarding funding request from METV for \$175,000. It was pointed out that concerns have been expressed regarding what educational programming should be for METV and that it is not defined in the Cable Television Ordinance.

Motion (METV) - Failed

Motion was made by Mrs. Harris to fund METV for \$100,000; to revisit the cable ordinance in terms of defining educational programming and government access and what our expectations are; and to revisit the additional funding at a later time. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Glass.

Voting "Aye" were Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Glass, and Mr. Chetlain. Voting "Nay" were Mr. McClash, Mr. Gause, and Mr. Stephens. Motion failed.

Motion (METV) - Failed

Motion was made by Mr. McClash that funding remain at \$175,000, and that the education parameters be revisited in the cable ordinance. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Glass.

Voting "Aye" were Mr. McClash, Mrs. Glass, and Mrs. Harris. Voting "Nay" were Mr. Gause, Mr. Chetlain, and Mr. Stephens. Motion failed.

Motion (METV) - Carried

Mr. Gause moved to fund \$100,000 for this budget year only. Motion was seconded by Mr. McClash.

Voting "Aye" were Mr. Gause, Mr. McClash, Mrs. Glass, and Mr. Chetlain. Voting "Nay" were Mrs. Harris and Mr. Stephens. Motion carried.

Correspondence

Motion was made by Mrs. Glass, seconded by Mrs. Harris and carried 6 to 0, to enter correspondence (four letters) into the record.

Funding Request - Community Connections

Question was raised as to whether request from Community Connections (earlier in meeting) falls within the franchise fees set aside for METV and if they can be granted one-time funding. It was stated that this is a duplication of services provided by the Citizens Action Center.

The Chairman noted that this matter can be considered at a later date since it does not apply to ad valorem taxes.

Discretionary Funds

Mr. Seuffert stated there is a balance of \$80,000 in discretionary funds remaining.

There were no objections to using those funds to reduce the millage.

Recess/Reconvene. All members present except Mrs. Hooper.

Millage Rates

Motion was made by Mr. McClash, seconded by Mrs. Glass and carried 6 to 0, to adopt

B-95-004 RESOLUTION OF THE MANATEE COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT AD VALOREM MILLAGE RATES, ANNUAL 1994-1995 BUDGET. RECORD S44-255

County Budget

Motion was made by Mr. McClash, seconded by Mrs. Harris and carried 6 to 0, to adopt

B-95-005 RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT AN ANNUAL BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994-1995. RECORD S44-256

Port Authority Budget

Motion was made by Mrs. Glass, seconded by Mr. Chetlain and carried 6 to 0, to adopt

B-95-006 RESOLUTION BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO ADOPT THE FINAL BUDGET OF THE MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 1994-1995. RECORD S44-257

Staffing Level Changes

Motion was made by Mr. McClash, seconded by Mrs. Harris and carried 6 to 0, to adopt

R-94-268 RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING AUTHORIZED STAFFING LEVEL CHANGES BY JOB CLASSIFICATION FOR THE DEPARTMENT/OFFICE UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (Departments/Offices: Community Affairs/Intergovernmental Relations; Community Services; Convention and Visitors Bureau; County Administrator; County Attorney; Central Services; Facilities Management; Financial Management; Human Resources; Information Services; Parks and Recreation; Planning, Permitting and Inspections; Public Safety; AA/EEO; Workplace Diversity; Public Works; Public Transportation; Public Services; Court Administration; Metropolitan Planning Organization). RECORD S44-258

Millage Rate Comparison


Mr. Seuffert announced that the increase over the roll-back amount for millage is 3.93 percent.

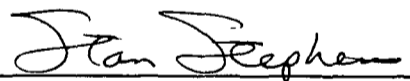
MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

APPROVED:


Clerk
Adj: 8:20 p.m.


Chairman 11/15/94