

**JUNE 18, 2009**

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, met in REGULAR SESSION in the Administrative Center, 1112 Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton, Florida, at 6:00 p.m.

Present were Commissioners:

Gwendolyn Y. Brown, Chairman  
Carol Whitmore, First Vice-Chairman  
Donna Hayes, Second Vice-Chairman  
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr., Third Vice-Chairman  
John R. Chappie  
Ron Getman  
Joe McClash

Also present were:

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator  
Susan G. Romine, Board Records Manager,  
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

#### **AGENDA**

Agenda of June 18, 2009, and sign-in sheet.

[BC20090618DOC001](#)

#### **BUDGET – FY 2009-2010**

Ed Hunzeker, County Administrator, advised that the Board received and began reviewing the FY 2009-2010 budget on May 28, 2009. More work sessions will be held to discuss the budget items before adoption in September.

Jim Seuffert, Financial Management Director, used a slide presentation to outline the following:

- Taxable Property Values – Tax Years 2001 through 2009
- Countywide Millage Rates – FY 2000 through 2010
- Millage Rates – Adopted, Proposed, and Change
- Millage Summary
- Municipal Services Taxing Units Millage
- Comparison of Taxes – Homesteaded Property
- Tax Rate Options
- Revenue by Source
- Appropriation by Function
- Summary of Recommended Positions
- Analysis of Recommended Budget

Mr. Seuffert explained the zero-based budget process and noted County departments began working on budgets in December 2008. Budgets for departments, agencies, and capital plans have been established for this year and projected ahead for next year. The Capital Improvement Program (CIP), the constitutional officer budgets, and the decision unit summaries have been reviewed by the Board of County Commissioners. More information regarding the process is in the budget message, which is on the County's website ([www.mymanatee.org](http://www.mymanatee.org)).

[BC20090618DOC002](#)

#### **Public Comment**

##### **Retiree Benefits**

**Deborah Porter**, Manatee County Government retiree, expressed concern for health care premium cost increases with a decrease in coverage. She noted the savings this year in health care with less claims and the millions of dollars saved by the County. She requested consideration for the service given to retirees and the impact this increase would have on their limited budget.

##### **Anna Maria Island Trolley**

**David Teitelbaum**, Vice-Chairman of the Tourist Development Council (TDC), pleaded with the Board to keep the trolley free to riders, and submitted a handout of proposed ideas to subsidize funding. He suggested fare boxes for donations and reviewed other options to raise money to fund the trolley.

[BC20090618DOC003](#)

##### **Sheriff's Budget**

**Dr. Craig Trigueiro**, member of the Sheriff's Advisory Board, spoke of the effect of last year's reduction in the Sheriff's budget and noted more cuts this year would ultimately remove deputies from the road and endanger public safety. He suggested other public services could be cut, and the Sheriff should receive an increased budget to battle crime and protect citizens.

##### **Walton Tennis Center**

**Linda Jentsch** spoke of tennis fees rising by 30 percent for next year and questioned if the increase would be for all recreational activities.

Mr. Hunzeker noted 30 percent was not an accurate figure, but this item would be on the fee structure agenda for discussion at the board meeting on June 23, 2009. He informed there would be an expense reduction and a nominal fee increase. Staff was directed to contact Ms. Jentsch with details.

Discussion: Support free island trolley; fare box for donations; work out details; policy decision; passenger count of residents v. tourists; funds for marketing; can use tourist dollars for marketing; tax burden; community support of the trolley; etc.

Mr. Hunzeker supported the Tourist Development Council's proposal to generate trolley funding. The County is attempting to reduce the taxpayer subsidy to the transit system. Mr. Hunzeker suggested the current funding arrangement with the three island municipalities, the TDC, and County government, be maintained for the coming year (FY 2009-10) while funding alternatives are developed for FY 2010-11. The funding subsidy would need to be met annually to fund the following budget year, or the only other alternative would be to take the funding from the TDC marketing account.

Discussion: Good job by staff to reduce budget; reduction in Sheriff's budget; local option sales tax discussed with State Representative Ron Reagan; public referendum; try not to reduce law enforcement; etc.

Mr. Getman noted when retirees exit the system; they no longer have any representation and suggested a meeting with County insurance representatives to discuss insurance alternatives.

Mr. Hunzeker explained State Statute requires maintaining retirees in the health system if they so choose. Statute also dictates not charging retirees a premium higher than that charged to a current employee. The County subsidizes current employees by paying a portion of the insurance premium. State budget reductions to the Clerk's Office have impacted retiree's benefits, and a policy decision will be implemented for the County's reduction to health benefits. A review of insurance alternatives will be conducted to schedule a meeting with retirees.

Discussion: Matrix on Constitutional Officers, County and State retiree subsidies; determine liability; review report before budget adoption; etc.

Mr. McClash supported rolling excess funds back into the Sheriff's budget so that public safety would not be jeopardized.

Discussion: Are \$500,000 of TDC funds being used for Civic Center improvements; more discussion needed for funding the Civic Center; are island municipalities paying the \$8,000 per municipality contribution to the trolley; etc.

Mr. Hunzeker noted the budget recommendation in May did not request any funding from the island cities. Based on the proposal from the island cities and the new recommendation, contact will be made with the cities, and if they support the proposal, they would be required to pay \$8,000 for one more year only.

Discussion: Funding for the Civic Center improvements; discuss at next TDC meeting; etc.

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 6:59 p.m.  
/mh

Minutes Approved: July 28, 2009