Minutes

Budget Meeting

Board of Commissioners
May 24, 2012
4:00 P.M.

Notice: A complete audio recording of this meeting can be heard by accessing Fayette County's Website at www.fayettecountyga.gov. Click on "Board of Commissioners", then "County Commission Meetings", and follow the instructions. The entire meeting or a single topic can be heard.

The Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, met in Official Session on May 24, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. in the Public Meeting Room of the Fayette County Administrative Complex, 140 Stonewall Avenue, Fayetteville, Georgia.

Commissioners Present:	Herb Frady, Chairman Robert Horgan, Vice Chairman Steve Brown Lee Hearn Allen McCarty
Staff Present:	Jack Krakeel, County Administrator Floyd L. Jones, Chief Deputy Clerk Mary Holland, Chief Financial Officer Toni Jo Howard, Assistant Finance Director Sergio Acevedo, Budget Officer

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Chairman Frady called the budget meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

FY2013 Constitutional Officers' Budget Requests:

County Administrator Jack Krakeel informed the Board that several Constitutional Officers had concerns about their Fiscal Year 2013 (FY2012) budgets, and they wanted to discuss those concerns to the Board. The following four Constitutional Officers the discussed their budgets with the Board: 1) District Attorney Scott Ballard; 2) Clerk of Court Sheila Studdard; 3) Sheriff Wayne Hannah; and 4) Magistrate Judge Joseph Ruppenthal.

District Attorney's FY2013 Budget Requests:

District Attorney Scott Ballard requested an increase to his FY2013 budget, explained the reasons for his requests, and answered questions from the Board. He requested an increase to his budget for the following three purposes: 1) an increase in insurance costs in the amount of $15,500 for State Paid Circuit Reimbursed (SAFR) employees; 2) a 5% raise for each of the employees in the District Attorney's Office, and 3) a circuit-

wide increase of $42,000, with Fayette County's portion being $13,045, for an entry level prosecutor position in order to free up a more experienced prosecutor to go litigate Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations (RICO) claims and generate more funds for the circuit and affected counties.

Clerk of Superior Court's FY2013 Budget Requests:
Clerk of Superior Court Sheila Studdard requested increases to her FY2013 budget, explained the reasons for her requests, and answered questions from the Board. She requested an increase to her budget for the following two purposes: 1) a request to encumber funds, due a change of jury laws and related expense, in the amount of $3,000; and 2) an increase to her salaries budget in the amount of $10,862. Concerning this second request, Mrs. Studdard explained that a position with a $59,327 salary had recently been vacated, but instead of hiring a new person for the position, she split the salary for that position by giving her remaining employees additional duties and raises. She essentially requested that the raises be kept in effect (meaning that the $59,327 remain in the budget) and she asked for an additional $10,862 as additional funding for salaries due to Board of Equalization (BOE) allocations.

Finance Director Mary Holland informed Mrs. Studdard that typically encumbered funds are budgeted by issuing a requisition which turns into a Purchase Order, and then the Purchase Order is carried over to the next Fiscal Year along with the necessary funds from the current Fiscal Year. She continued that as long as there is a vendor, a legitimate purchase, funds in the current budget, and the requisition is placed before the end of June 2012 that the funds would be encumbered.

Fayette County Sheriff's Office FY2013 Budget Requests:
Fayette County Sheriff Wayne Hannah requested increases to his FY2013 budget, explained the reasons for his requests, and answered questions from the Board. He requested increases for the following reasons: 1) Since there would be no demonstrative savings experienced by the Sheriff's Office with regard to the expected employees who would probably take advantage of the Early Retirement Initiative (ERI) since he would have to fill or replace each position, he asked for the salaries budget to remain the equivalent to the FY2012 budget; and 2) an increase for $16,000 for various needs (Equipment Rental in the amount of $3,000; replacement of nineteen protective vests in the amount of $5,000; and Communications Supply in the amount of $8,000).

Fayette County Magistrate Court's FY2013 Budget Request:
Chief Judge of Fayette County Magistrate Court Robert A. Ruppenthal requested an increase to his FY2013 budget, explained the reason for his request, and answered questions from the Board. He requested an increase for the following reason: to restore and fund the Constable position which had been recommended for elimination by staff.

The Board recessed from the Budget Meeting at 6:09 p.m. and returned to the Budget Meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Public Works' FY2013 Budget Requests- Heavy Equipment:
Public Works Director Phil Mallon and Road Department Director Andy Adams returned to the Board with answers to questions that were asked at the May 9, 2012 Budget meeting. Mr. Mallon explained that their objectives were to clarify what is being requested pertaining to new equipment for FY2013 and to present a

true long-term Equipment Replacement Schedule. He told the Board that, based on his findings, the cost to upkeep or replace fleet equipment was approximately $268,000 annually with the exception of several pieces of equipment such as large bulldozers and panscrapers which are used too infrequently to purchase.

The Board recessed from the Budget Meeting at 6:58 p.m. and returned to the Budget Meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Fire Services Consolidation:

County Administrator Jack Krakeel updated the Board about ongoing discussions between Fayette County and the City of Fayetteville regarding fire services consolidation since it has budget implications. He said staff was not at a point yet to provide the Board with a recommendation since it was still waiting on additional financial data primarily concerning the valuation of the city's fire services' facilities. He said he hoped to have the information soon. He said there would be costs in merging the city's workforce into the county's workforce. He told the Board that one of the benefits of consolidation is that it would diversify the Fire Fund digest. He said a second tangible benefit of consolidating the fire services was that it would eliminate the issue of annexation that currently, negatively impacts the County's Fire Fund. He continued that a third benefit of consolidation concerned the issue of long-term planning and the elimination of duplicate facilities. He summarized that while the benefits have monetary values, it is very difficult to quantify those values. Mr. Krakeel then answered questions from the Board concerning this issue.

Directions on Budget Requests Presented to the Board:

The Board directed staff on how to proceed with the budget requests. The following are the Board's decisions based on consensus:

A) District Attorney's Requests:

1. **Increased Insurance Costs–** The Board consented not to approve this request.
2. **Five-Percent Raise for Each Employee–** The Board consented to not approve this request.
3. **New Entry-Level Prosecutor Position--** The Board directed staff to obtain more information on this request.

B) Clerk of Superior Court's Request:

1. **Additional $10,862 Funding for Salaries plus 7.65% Benefits–** The Board consented to staff's recommendation by not providing the additional requested funds.

C) Fayette County Sheriff's Office Requests:

1. **Nineteen Protective Vests for $5,000–** The Board consented to approve this request.
2. **Communication Supply (Air Cards) for $8,000–** The Board consented to approve this request.
3. **Equipment Rental for $3,000–** The Board consented not to approve this request.

D) Magistrate Court's Request:

1. **Constable Position for $55,700–** The Board consented to fund the Constable's position as requested, and to reduce the Sheriff's budget by the amount necessary to fund the Constable's position. County Administrator Jack Krakeel suggested that rather than cutting the Sheriff's budget, that the Board allow him the opportunity to return and justify the need for two Warrant Specialist positions. The Board agreed to that suggestion.

E) Public Works Request:

1. **Grade-All Heavy Equipment:** The Board consented to utilize $300,000 from the existing Fund Balance of the Vehicle Replacement Budget for the Grade-All, to obtain actual costs utilizing the governmental discount, and to consider trading in the old Grade-All.

Elimination of Assistant Planning Director Position, the Building Maintenance Technician Position, and the Custodian Position: The Board consented to eliminate the Assistant Planning Director's position, the Building Maintenance Technician Position, and the Custodian's position as recommended by staff.

Commissioner McCarty moved to adjourn the May 24, 2012 Budget Meeting. Commissioner Horgan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Commissioners adjourned from the May 24, 2012 Budget Meeting at 10:39 p.m.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk Herbert Frady, Chairman

The foregoing minutes were duly approved at an official meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Fayette County, Georgia, held on the 13th day of September 2012.

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Floyd L. Jones, County Clerk