

MINUTES

RETREAT

April 1, 2004

The Davidson County Board of Commissioners met on Thursday, April 1, 2004, at 8:00 A.M. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room, Governmental Center, 913 Greensboro Street, Lexington, for a retreat to discuss budget for the 2004-2005 fiscal year.

PRESENT

Commissioners: Chairman Fred C. Sink, Vice Chairman Sam Watford, Cindy Akins, Priscilla Hege, Billy Joe Kepley, Don Truell, Dr. Max Walser

County Manager Robert Hyatt, County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Robert Hedrick, Finance Director Jane Kiker, Budget Officer Zeb M. Hanner, Tax Administrator Joe Silver, Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress, Public Works Director Bill Clutter, Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman, MIS Director Joel Hartley, Interim Human Resources Director Carol Black, 911 Communications Director Lisa Martin, Senior Services Director Kathryn Gentry, Health Director Diane Crouse, Social Services Director Catherine Lambeth, JTEC Director Pat Everhart, Board of Elections Director Ruth Huneycutt, Assistant Director of Libraries Ruth Ann Copley, Inspections Director Ron Triplette, Register of Deeds Ron Callicutt, Transportation Director Zeb F. Hanner, Veterans Director Bob Leonard, Cooperative Extension Director Robert Lopp, Landfill Director Charlie Brushwood, Soil and Water Director Bruce Wilson, Emergency Services Director Doug Lowe, Fire Marshal Perry Tyler, Chief Deputy Dallas Hedrick, Day Reporting Director Wayne Oppel

A. CALL TO ORDER AND WELCOME

Chairman Fred Sink called the retreat to order.

B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Board agreed by consensus to add Closed Session for Personnel.

C. 2004-2005 BUDGET AT A GLANCE

County Manager Robert Hyatt outlined the plans for discussion and noted that the plans were made for a span of five years.

The Board discussed construction of schools with Commissioner Truell noting that he favored educational impact fees.

Increases in Budget

Zeb M. Hanner noted that the increases in the proposed budget are for the 1/5 and 1/10 increases in salary for employees and a projected 15% increase in insurance costs.

Insurance

Mr. Hanner noted that the County still has a liability with CIGNA and that Palmer-Cay Consultants advocates staying with CIGNA for another year to complete the modified premium, to be out from under the liability and then pursue the consumer driven insurance.

C. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT - 5 YEAR PLAN

Mr. Hanner reviewed the list of capital projects and pointed out the need for a study of the *radio system*.

Commissioner Akins noted the number of complaints she has received about the lack of hours in the Denton Library.

1. Revenue Projections

a. Tax

Tax Administrator Joe Silver stated that there have been no vehicle repossessions or home foreclosures and noted that he has allowed for the setting up of payments for citizens. He noted that Davidson County is at 95% fair market value and the value of the County is \$9.4 billion.

b. Other Sources

Mr. Hanner and Mrs. Kiker reviewed the revenue sources of the County. (See exhibits)

2. Major Expenditures

a. Schools

1. Schedule

The Board discussed the schedule of school construction, the number of years involved, and the expectations of the citizens.

2. Cost

The Board then discussed the cost of the proposed school construction and the current economic status of the County.

3. Financing

Commissioner Walser noted that other sources of revenue need to be considered for the construction of schools and noted that bonds are a major risk.

County Manager Hyatt stated that it would take three months fast track to do General Obligation Bonds.

Vice Chairman Watford recommended putting the bond referendum on the ballot for November 2004.

Discussion continued on the bond issue and the raising of taxes to pay for schools.

Chairman Sink noted that staff could contact the school superintendents for their needs.

Commissioner Walser stated that the Board needs to decide whether to do COPS or a bond referendum.

Chairman Sink stated that the commitment made was to purchase the land.

Commissioner Walser stated that the citizens of Davidson County believe that the Board is going to have West Davidson and Southwood schools built.

Commissioner Walser stated that you have to raise taxes one way or the other.

The Board requested that the County Manager contact the school superintendents.

b. 911 Center

1. Options

911 Communications Director Lisa Martin advised that the building, land, and radio equipment are not allowable expenditures from the surcharge. Mrs. Martin stated that the surcharge could be raised to allow more charges. She advised that more stations are needed. She stated that with the requests, the 911 Center would be in good shape for 10 to 15 years and presented costs for relocation of lines and equipment costs.

2. Schedule

Robert Hyatt noted that the cost could be spread out if construction is done on site; he asked for direction.

SEWER- OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF COUNTY SYSTEM

Public Works Director Bill Clutter asked what the Board wants to do with the waste-water treatment and collection relevant to general policy and extension policy?

Robert Hyatt asked if the County is to take on a bigger role in operation and maintenance?

Mr. Clutter noted that the County already owns 70,000 lineal feet of sewer line. He noted that there are many sewage septic systems and that they will fail.

Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman stated the need for a uniform policy to prevent discrimination as private entities request to tap into the system.

Commissioner Hege suggested having Mr. Cornman, Mr. Clutter and Mr. Hyatt work together to draft a policy.

Mr. Hyatt brought up the idea of impact fees.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Senior Services Director Kathryn Gentry presented statistics of seniors in the County and noted that there are 27,143 seniors that are 60 years of age or older and 13,000 that are 70 years of age or older. She acknowledged the increase from Transportation (\$4.50 to \$4.80 per trip).

Health Director Diane Crouse stated that salaries are a critical point with the Health Department budget. Mrs. Crouse further stated a plea to continue the 1/5th and 1/10th salary increase policy and consideration of an increase to the gas reimbursement rate for employees who have to use their personal cars on the job.

MIS Director Joel Hartley stated that the aerial photography project is on target.

Social Services Director Catherine Lambeth requested three positions due to the increase in Medicaid recipients as a result of the economic status of the County.

JTEC Director Pat Everhart advised that there is a 20% job lay-off and 40% job transition situation in Davidson County.

Finance Director Jane Kiker stated that she is considering accepting credit cards for payments. She further stated her concerns for County salaries.

Board of Elections Director Ruth Huneycutt noted that handicapped voting equipment is required by 2006. She further noted the upcoming elections and stated that she has funds from lapsed salaries.

Interim Human Resources Director Carol Black advised that the retirement insurance for the year is \$106,000. She further discussed the need for computers.

Assistant Director of Libraries Ruth Ann Copley apprised the Board of the addition of a security position.

Tax Administrator Joe Silver stated that the addition of Social Services accepting tax collections in Thomasville has been a great help to the Tax Department.

Purchasing Director Dwayne Childress noted his support of the performance-based budget project.

Public Works Director Bill Clutter delivered a request for three or four positions as the department moves beyond the scope of building and maintenance.

Inspections Director Ron Triplette advised that the Inspections Department has been self-sufficient for the year.

Register of Deeds Ron Callicutt noted that the Register of Deeds Office is self-sufficient. He apprised the Board of the increase in recordings due to the interest rate and noted a need for and an increase to the department supply budget. He stated that he is monitoring the cost of record display on the internet to determine the best selection for future display of Davidson County records.

Planning and Zoning Director Guy Cornman noted an increase in membership fee for the High Point MPO.

Transportation Director Zeb F. Hanner requested permission to have the remaining older windows in the Davidson County Public Works Building replaced, an increase in mileage from \$.38 to \$.45 or \$9.00 per hour, and replacement of some older buses. He then requested an increase in the vehicle maintenance charge from \$.25 to \$.29 for the departments and \$.50 to \$.53 for the ambulances. He noted that they are sharing a stall with the Sheriff's Department for installation of lights and other equipment. He stated that the Medicaid Transportation Coordinator in the Transportation office is working out very well.

Veterans Director Bob Leonard apprised the Board that the patient load to the Veterans' Hospital is 2,517.

Cooperative Extension Director Robert Lopp noted the addition of a Horticulture Specialist position.

Integrated Solid Waste Director Charlie Brushwood stated that he would recommend no increase in the tipping fee.

Soil and Water Director Bruce Wilson requested an increase for mileage reimbursement due to the federal government cutting out one of the two federal vehicles.

Emergency Services Director Doug Lowe apprised the Board that there have been 15,000 calls due to the disasters and an aging population, which also increased operations and increased mileage.

Fire Marshal Perry Tyler noted an increase in public safety materials.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Dallas Hedrick advocated training, upgraded security in the jail and the Courthouse. He stated that he had decreased the budget from last year by cutting out the Nextel re-negotiated contract, using more drug-seized money for allowable items, and cut out some medical expenses.

Day Reporting Director Wayne Oppel advised that he is having a security system installed at the Day Reporting Center.

CLOSED SESSION - Personnel

The Board agreed by consensus to go into Closed Session.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to Open Session.

County Attorney/Clerk to the Board Robert Hedrick reported discussion of a personnel matter with no action taken.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Sink declared the retreat meeting adjourned.

Fred C. Sink, Chairman

Davidson County Board of Commissioners

Robert C. Hedrick, Clerk to the Board

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