

BOARD MINUTES FOR 04/19/04

APRIL 19, 2004

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, FINCH, COPE, HALL AND CORBIN PRESENT. ADMINISTRATOR PETER HERBERT, CLERK LINDA COOK AND DEPUTY CLERK DIANNE CARTER WERE ALSO IN ATTENDANCE.

CHAIRMAN HALL CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER. ROGER HAGAN OFFERED PRAYER WITH COMMISSIONER COPE LEADING IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

ROGER HAGAN, REPRESENTING THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, BRIEFED THE BOARD ON WHAT THE COMMITTEE HAD DONE:

1. MET TO TRY AND INTERPRET WHAT THE BOARD'S DESIRE WAS WHEN THEY APPOINTED THE COMMITTEE
2. THROUGH THE BOARD'S REQUEST AND THROUGH ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT'S EFFORTS, BUDGETS HAVE BEEN TURNED IN EARLY WITH THE COMMITTEE FOCUSING MAINLY ON THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET THUS FAR
3. THE COMMITTEE HAS MET WITH THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS TO GATHER INFORMATION THEY WILL NEED WHEN ADDRESSING THEIR REQUESTS AND THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

HAGAN GAVE AN OVERVIEW OF THE BUDGET PROCESS STATING THIS YEAR AND THE NEXT TWO BUDGETING YEARS WILL PROBABLY BE THE MOST CRUCIAL DECISION MAKING THE BOARD HAS EVER HAD.

HE ADDRESSED THE BOARD HAVING RECEIVED FEMA MONIES FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS; HOWEVER, THE PROBABILITY OF THEM GETTING ANY MORE FUNDING FOR REPAIRS TO DIRT ROADS DAMAGED BY A DISASTER WAS SLIM.

HE UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE AGENDA PACKET THEY HAD BEEN PROVIDED AND EXPLAINED IT WAS THE BOARD'S RESPONSIBILITY TO BALANCE THE BUDGET. HE ALSO EXPLAINED THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE IN A BUDGET AND WHAT RESOURCES THERE ACTUALLY ARE; A DEPARTMENT MAY STAY WITHIN THEIR BUDGET AND STILL OVER EXPEND THEIR RESOURCES. HE RECOMMENDED, WHEN PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR'S BUDGET, THE BOARD MANAGE THIS YEAR'S BUDGET WISELY, LOOK AT THEIR BUDGET CONSTANTLY TO MAKE SURE THE MONEY ISN'T OVERSPENT, LOOK AT PROPER COST ALLOCATIONS WITH DEPARTMENTS AND MAKE SURE IT GOES TO THE RIGHT COST CENTER.

WHEN THE COMMITTEE STARTED WORKING ON THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET, HAGAN EXPLAINED IT WAS \$1,000,000 OUT OF BALANCE; THEY MET WITH THE SUPERVISORS OF PUBLIC WORKS AND LOOKED AT WHAT COULD BE DONE TO CUT THE COST OF OPERATIONS FOR PUBLIC WORKS. SOME ISSUES THEY FELT HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET WERE:

1. PROVIDING FREE SERVICES TO AGENCIES AND MUNICIPALITIES; THE SUPERVISORS ESTIMATED 50% OF THEIR TIME WAS SPENT DOING SPECIAL PROJECTS. BY DOING THIS, IT MAY NOT MAKE THE BUDGET ANY LESS; HOWEVER, PUBLIC WORKS COULD INCREASE THE SERVICEABILITY OF ROADS AND BRIDGES.
2. INMATE CREW EXPENSES HAVE GOTTEN TO BE EXTREMELY HIGH; DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS MAY NEED TO BEGIN FUNDING THEIR CREWS' EQUIPMENT AND EXPENSES.
3. COLLECTION OF DRIVEWAY PERMITS; THE BOARD SHOULD BE ABLE TO COLLECT WHEN THEY PUT IN A DRIVEWAY.

HE ADDRESSED THE INFORMATION THAT DEBBIE RILEY HAD PROVIDED ON THE COST FOR PIPE INSTALLATIONS; IT WAS ESTIMATED TO COST THE COUNTY AN AVERAGE OF \$1,000 TO INSTALL A DRIVEWAY PIPE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN VOICED HIS OPPOSITION IN IMPOSING ALL THE REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS THE COMMITTEE HAD REQUESTED THE BOARD CONSIDER IMPLEMENTING. IN BALANCING THE BUDGET, HE SUGGESTED WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET

LOOKED LIKE BEFORE FINALIZING THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET. HE STATED, IN THE PAST, THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS HAVE PRETTY MUCH RECEIVED WHAT THEY ASKED FOR AND TOOK IT OUT OF ROAD AND BRIDGE.

HAGAN ADVISED THERE WAS VERY LITTLE MONIES IN PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET THAT COULD BE USED FOR ANY PURPOSE OTHER THAN ROAD AND BRIDGE. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER POINTED OUT THE BUDGET CRISIS WAS DUE TO PRIOR BUDGETS BEING BALANCED ON CASH RESERVES AND THESE HAVE ALMOST BEEN DEPLETED; THE BOARD NEEDS TO START PLANNING AND MAKING CUTS TO THEIR BUDGETS.

COMMISSIONER COPE SUGGESTED THE BOARD ALLOW HAGAN TO GO THROUGH HIS WHOLE PRESENTATION AND THEN ENTER INTO DISCUSSION.

HAGAN CONTINUED WITH PROPOSED REVENUE ENHANCEMENTS WHICH THE BOARD IS CURRENTLY PROVIDING SERVICEABILITY FOR AT LITTLE OR NO COST:

- A. DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION
- B. BURYING DEAD ANIMALS
- C. CLEAN UP OF TREES AND DEBRIS
- D. UTILITY COMPANIES CABLE LOCATIONS ON COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY
- E. ELMS NICKEL-\$.05 GAS TAX IS AVAILABLE
- F. GIVING AWAY OF DIRT (CHARGE FOR ALL OVER ONE LOAD OF DIRT FOR DRIVEWAY)

HE ADDRESSED INFORMATION GIVEN TO THE BOARD ON HOW MUCH IT COST PUBLIC WORKS TO INSTALL A DRIVEWAY AND THE MONIES THEY COULD HAVE GENERATED LAST YEAR IF THE RECOMMENDED FEE SCHEDULE HAD BEEN IN PLACE.

HE MADE THE BOARD AWARE OF THE BUDGET CRISIS THEY ARE IN AND EVEN THOUGH THEY HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET THIS YEAR, THEY WON'T HAVE SOME OF THE SOURCES USED TO BALANCE IT NEXT YEAR; HE WAS REFERENCING THE \$100,000 FROM EACH COMMISSIONER'S DISTRICT MONIES. HE EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF BUDGETING FOR MULTIPLE YEARS AT A TIME AND NOT ON A YEAR BY YEAR BASIS.

HE THEN BRIEFED THE BOARD ON THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, MALCOLM GAINNEY AND JOHNNIE ODOM HAVING GONE TO BAY COUNTY TO LOOK AT SOFTWARE THEY HAD USED TO SET UP MULTIPLE YEAR BUDGETING. HE SUGGESTED THIS MAY BE A GOOD TOOL FOR THE COUNTY TO USE.

HE APPLAUDED THE BOARD FOR IMPLEMENTING THE POLICY REQUIRING THE DEVELOPER OF SUBDIVISIONS TO BRING ROADS UP TO BETTER STANDARDS THAN PREVIOUSLY REQUIRED AND APPLAUDED SUNNY HILLS FOR IMPLEMENTING THE MSBU TO MAKE NEEDED IMPROVEMENTS.

HE REFERENCED PAVING PROJECTS THE COUNTY HAS DONE WHICH DID NOT MEET THE STANDARDS THEY REQUIRE THE DEVELOPERS TO COMPLY WITH; THE MUD HILL ROAD PAVING PROJECT WAS THE PROJECT HE REFERENCED. HE ADDRESSED PERSONNEL DECISIONS THE BOARD HAD MADE WHICH WERE NOT CONSISTENT WITH POLICY AND STATED THE EMPLOYEES MORAL IS LOWERED WHEN THIS HAPPENS.

DISCUSSION BEGAN WITH COMMISSIONER FINCH VOICING HIS OPPOSITION IN USING \$100,000 FROM DISTRICT LOAN MONIES TO HELP BALANCE THE BUDGET DUE TO HIM HAVING OBLIGATIONS AND COMMITMENTS TO FULFILL. HE THEN ADDRESSED THEM CONTRIBUTING \$80,000 EACH FROM THEIR LOAN MONIES TO BALANCE THE BUDGET LAST YEAR AND THEN TOOK ACTION TO TAKE IT BACK WHEN THERE WAS MORE CASH CARRY FORWARD THAN ORIGINALLY BUDGETED.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER EXPLAINED THIS WAS TRUE; HOWEVER, SHE HAD RECOMMENDED THEY LEAVE THOSE FUNDS IN CONTINGENCY.

COMMISSIONER FINCH AGREED THE FEES FOR DRIVEWAY INSTALLATIONS WAS A GOOD IDEA; HOWEVER, HE DIDN'T SEE HOW THE COUNTY COULD JUMP FROM \$25 TO WHAT THE COMMITTEE WAS RECOMMENDING IN ONE YEAR, EVEN THOUGH THE COUNTY WAS LOSING MONIES ON DRIVEWAY INSTALLATIONS. HE ADDRESSED THE BOARD NEEDING TO TAKE CARE OF THINGS THEY ARE DOING THAT IS NOT LEGITIMATE BEFORE THEY CONSIDER INCREASING FEES FOR DRIVEWAYS, ETC. HE AGREED TO GIVE WHATEVER EFFORTS AND TIME HE COULD TO BALANCE THE BUDGET; HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT VOTE TO GIVE \$100,000 OF HIS DISTRICT MONIES.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON IMPACT FEES WITH HAGAN ADVISING THE INFRASTRUCTURE WAS IN PLACE TO IMPLEMENT AN IMPACT FEE. HE THEN UPDATED THE BOARD ON FL-DOT'S

PROCESS FOR A DRIVEWAY CONNECTION TO A STATE ROAD IN COMPARISON TO WASHINGTON COUNTY'S PROCESS. HE POINTED OUT THE STATE PROVIDES AN ENGINEERING PLAN TO SOMEONE WANTING A DRIVEWAY PERMIT SHOWING HOW THEY ARE TO INSTALL THE PIPE; WASHINGTON COUNTY PROVIDES THE DIRT, CONCRETE AND LABOR TO INSTALL THE PIPE. HE SAID IF SOMEONE WANTS TO CONNECT TO THE COUNTY'S INFRASTRUCTURE, IT SHOULD BE THAT INDIVIDUAL'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MEET THE COUNTY'S GUIDELINES TO DO SO.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID HE AGREED WITH THE THEORY; HOWEVER, WHEN HE PAYS HIS TAXES EACH YEAR HE WOULD LIKE TO BE PROVIDED WITH A BUDGET ON HOW HIS TAXES WERE USED.

HAGAN POINTED OUT THE AD VALOREM TAXES ARE USED TO FUND THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS, AMBULANCE SERVICE, CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS, ETC.; NONE OF THE AD VALOREM TAXES FUND THE PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED THE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE CITY PAY COUNTY TAXES PLUS MORE TAXES AND RECEIVE VERY LITTLE OF THE COUNTY TAXES.

HAGAN ADDRESSED DIFFERENT SCENARIOS WHERE CHILDREN IN THE RURAL AREAS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY ARE CHARGED MORE TO PARTICIPATE IN CITY RECREATION PROGRAMS AND THE COUNTY PAVING A CITY STREET. HE POINTED OUT IN WAUSAU, WHERE HE IS A COUNCILMAN, THEY DON'T CHARGE ANYTHING FOR ANYONE WANTING TO PARTICIPATE IN THEIR RECREATIONAL PROGRAM EXCEPT A SIGN UP FEE FOR LEAGUE PURPOSES.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN REFERENCED JACKSON AND HOLMES COUNTY NOT EVEN CHARGING A DRIVEWAY CONNECTION FEE AND QUESTIONED HOW THEY BALANCED THEIR BUDGET. HE SAID THE BOARD NEEDS TO TALK ABOUT SOME- THING CONCRETE AND IF THEY NEEDED TO TAKE ACTION DO SO; IF NOT, TAKE THE INFORMATION THEY HAVE BEEN PROVIDED BY THE COMMITTEE AND REVIEW IT.

HAGAN REQUESTED THE BOARD NOT LET BEING RE-ELECTED AND CONTINUING TO SERVE MORE IMPORTANT THAN TRYING TO KEEP THE COUNTY FROM HAVING TO GO BACK AND START BORROWING MONEY TO START EACH BUDGET YEAR.

COMMISSIONER COPE SAID THE FEES THAT WOULD BE GENERATED, IF THE BOARD WERE TO IMPLEMENT THOSE RECOMMENDED BY THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, WOULD BE A BEGINNING TO GENERATING ADDITIONAL REVENUES; HOWEVER, THIS WOULD ONLY SCRATCH THE SURFACE FOR THE BUDGET DEFICIT SHOULD THE BOARD NOT CONTRIBUTE SOME OF THEIR DISTRICT MONIES TOWARD BALANCING IT. HE REITERATED IF THE BOARD DID CONTRIBUTE THEIR DISTRICT MONIES, THEY COULD BALANCE THE BUDGET THIS YEAR BUT ADDRESSED FUTURE BUDGETS WHEN THESE MONIES WOULDN'T BE AVAILABLE.

COPE THEN ADDRESSED THE SHORTAGE IN THE FUEL LINE ITEM AT PUBLIC WORKS AND QUESTIONED WHERE THESE MONIES WOULD COME FROM IN THIS YEARS BUDGET; HE INFORMED THE BOARD IT COST \$1600 PER HOUR TO OPERATE ROAD AND BRIDGE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID HE HAD ALREADY COMMITTED HIS FUNDS, GOT THE PROJECT APPROVED BY THE BOARD AND THE MATERIALS HAVE BEEN ORDERED FOR THE ORANGE HILL PROJECT; HE STATED HE WAS NOT GOING TO AGREE TO GIVE UP HIS FUNDING.

COMMISSIONER COPE REMINDED THE BOARD IT WAS UP TO THEM TO BALANCE THE BUDGET AND QUESTIONED WHERE THEY WERE GOING TO FIND THE FUNDING.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN QUESTIONED HOW MUCH THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET WAS OUT OF BALANCE; COMMISSIONER COPE SAID THE COMMITTEE HAD NOT BEGUN WORKING ON THE GENERAL FUND YET. COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID HE WAS NOT IN AGREEMENT TO TAKE EVERYTHING OUT OF ROAD AND BRIDGE AND NOT CUT IN OTHER AREAS.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER TOLD THE BOARD THEY COULD NOT BLAME THE BUDGET SHORTFALL IN TRANSPORTATION ON THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS; THEY ARE NOT FUNDED WITH TRANSPORTATION FUNDS.

HAGAN REMINDED THE BOARD THE CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS TWO ISSUES WHEN THEY MET WITH THE BUDGET COMMITTEE WERE SALARIES AND HEALTH INSURANCE. HE REFERENCED THE POSSIBILITY OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES HAVING TO CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE COST; SOME OF THEM WILL BE UNABLE TO DO SO AND WILL BECOME UNINSURED IF THIS HAPPENS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN REFERENCED HE AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER HAD BALANCED THE BUDGET IN PREVIOUS YEARS AND FELT LIKE THEY COULD DO IT AGAIN. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER RESPONDED THAT WOULDN'T BE POSSIBLE DUE TO THE RESOURCES NOT BEING

AVAILABLE; THE BOARD MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER LOOKING AT WAYS TO REDUCE EXPENSES BY HAVING THE EMPLOYEES CONTRIBUTE TOWARD THEIR HEALTH INSURANCE AND REDUCING THEIR WORKFORCE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID THERE WERE ABOUT A HALF DOZEN EMPLOYEES AT PUBLIC WORKS THAT WERE NOT VERY PRODUCTIVE THAT HE THOUGHT THEY COULD GET BY WITHOUT.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED WITH COMMISSIONER COPE ADDRESSING CUTTING SIX EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT BALANCE THE BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID THEY COULD PARK THE EQUIPMENT AND HOPEFULLY THE BUDGET WOULD CHANGE SOMETIME AND THE BOARD COULD AFFORD TO PUT SOMEONE ON THE EQUIPMENT THAT WAS PRODUCTIVE.

COMMISSIONER FINCH REMINDED THE BOARD THEY HAD IMPLEMENTED A HIRING FREEZE LAST YEAR AND DID NOT ADHERE TO IT.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER POINTED OUT THE COMMITTEE WAS RECOMMENDING A HIRING FREEZE BE IMPLEMENTED TO HELP WITH THE BUDGET CRISIS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN QUESTIONED IF THE HIRING FREEZE RECOMMENDATION WAS A UNANIMOUS DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE AND SAID IF IT WAS, THE ADMINISTRATOR, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR, ETC. SHOULD NOT COME BACK AND RECOMMEND AN EMPLOYEE BE HIRED.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED WITH THE BOARD BEING ADVISED BY DEPUTY CLERK CARTER, THE ESTIMATED REVENUES COULD BE MORE OR LESS WHEN THEY GET THE ESTIMATED FIGURES FROM THE STATE; THESE FIGURES ARE PROJECTIONS BASED ON PREVIOUS YEARS COLLECTIONS.

CLERK LINDA COOK REFERENCED A STATEMENT MADE EARLIER BY ROGER HAGAN PERTAINING TO DEPUTY CLERK CARTER BEING ONE OF THEIR BEST RESOURCES ON THEIR FINANCING; SHE AGREED TO THIS STATEMENT BUT TOLD THE BOARD THEY DIDN'T LISTEN TO CARTER.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID THEY DON'T TOTALLY IGNORE DEPUTY CLERK CARTER'S RECOMMENDATIONS BUT DON'T ALWAYS FOLLOW HER ADVICE.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED WITH COMMISSIONER COPE ADVISING THE BOARD IF THEY DO NOT WANT TO USE THEIR DISTRICT MONIES TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, THEY WILL HAVE TO FIND IT ELSEWHERE. COMMISSIONER CORBIN AGREED TO DO HIS BEST BUT HE WAS GOING TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIS COMMITMENTS.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER BROCK AND CARRIED TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS FOR THE ORANGE HILL PARK PROJECT ACCORDING TO PLANS TO SEE IF IT WILL COME WITHIN THE GRANT BUDGET. HE POINTED OUT IF THE BIDS COME WITHIN THE GRANT BUDGET, IT WOULD SAVE MONIES DUE TO NOT HAVING TO USE COUNTY EQUIPMENT OR MANPOWER.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER ADVISED THE BOARD THE COMMITTEE DID NOT BRING THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THEM FOR ACTION TODAY; THEY WANTED TO MAKE THEM AWARE OF THE SERIOUS BUDGET CRISIS THEY ARE FACING. SHE EXPLAINED THEIR CASH RESERVES HAVE DEPLETED DUE TO THEM BEING USED IN THE PAST TO BALANCE THE BUDGET.

WHEN GOING OVER THE ITEMS THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED THE BOARD APPROVE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET, DEPUTY CLERK CARTER POINTED OUT IF THE BOARD SPENT ALL OF THEIR BUDGET THIS YEAR, THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY CASH CARRY FORWARD AND THEY STILL WOULDN'T HAVE A BALANCED BUDGET.

HAGAN ADDRESSED FEMA FUNDING BEING GONE, THE BOARD HAS ADDED NEW EMPLOYEES, ETC.; EVEN THOUGH THEIR BUDGETS MAY NOT HAVE INCREASED BUT 2%, THEIR REVENUES HAVE DROPPED DUE TO THEIR RESOURCES DECREASING.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER READDRESSSED THE MEETING THE COMMITTEE HAD WITH BAY COUNTY PERSONNEL ON BUDGET PROJECTIONS; IN THEIR FIVE YEAR BUDGET PROJECTION, THEY TOO WERE SHOWING A DEFICIT IN 2007 DUE TO THEIR CASH RESERVES DEPLETING. SHE POINTED OUT THE ONLY DIFFERENCE WAS THAT BAY COUNTY HAD NOT CAPPED OUT THEIR MILLAGE RATE LIKE WASHINGTON COUNTY HAS.

COMMISSIONER COPE QUESTIONED IF THE BOARD WOULD AGREE TO ANY OF THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS PRESENTED BY THE COMMITTEE:

- A. TAKE \$40,000 FROM LAND PURCHASE LINE ITEM-COMMISSIONER CORBIN REFERENCED THERE BEING A NEED FOR BARROW PIT

MATERIAL AND AN EXCAVATOR TO DIG OUT MATERIALS REMAINING IN GILBERT PIT. DALLAS CARTER, PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISOR, STATED HE WAS PRESENT WHEN THE GILBERT PIT WAS BORED; THERE WAS SAND AND CLAY FOR 8' TO 10' AND THEN IT TURNED INTO REAL COURSE SAND. COMMISSIONER CORBIN SUGGESTED GETTING THE LOADER AT GILBERT PIT AND USE EVERYTHING THEY HAVE ON THE FRONT SIDE; THEN MOVE TO THE BACK SIDE TO SEE WHAT MATERIALS ARE AVAILABLE.

- B. TAKE \$5,000 PER DISTRICT FROM ROAD MATERIALS (\$25,000) THE BOARD CONSENTED.
- C. TAKE \$20,000 OUT OF BUILDINGS THIS YEAR AND INCREASE CASH CARRY FORWARD.

AFTER GETTING NO RESPONSE ON THE OTHER LINE ITEMS, COMMISSIONER COPE RECOMMENDED PUBLIC WORKS TAKE THE BUDGET AND CUT IT \$500,000.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE SALARY AND BENEFITS LINE ITEM BEING THE BIGGEST EXPENSE IN THE PUBLIC WORKS BUDGET AND CUTTING OUT A FEW EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT TAKE CARE OF THE DEFICIT. THE COMMITTEE ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR GOAL HAD BEEN TO TRY AND GENERATE ADDITIONAL REVENUES AND DO EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO BALANCE THE BUDGET WITHOUT HAVING TO CUT EMPLOYEES.

DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WANTED TO MAKE THE BOARD AWARE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WERE NOT INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET:

- A. NO COUNTY MATCH FOR CDBG
- B. NO ELMS NICKEL GAS TAX
- C. NO MSBU COUNTY MATCH
- D. NO INCREASE FOR COUNTY HEALTH INSURANCE

COMMISSIONER CORBIN AGREED, AND SAID IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE BOARD, TO START CUTTING THEIR DISTRICT WORK ALL THEY CAN TO ASSIST WITH THE BUDGET CRISIS.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE NUMBER OF INMATE CREWS HAVING INCREASED AND EVEN THOUGH THEY DO A GOOD JOB, THIS HAS BEEN AN ADDED EXPENSE TO THE COUNTY'S BUDGET. DEPUTY CLERK CARTER REQUESTED THE BOARD TAKE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED TO THEM, EVALUATE IT AND COME BACK WITH A RECOMMENDATION ON BALANCING THE BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED FEMA COMING IN 1994 AND SINCE THAT TIME THEY HAVE PUT IN OVERTIME HAULING DIRT AND PUTTING 5" OF DIRT ON 700 MILES OF DIRT ROADS; NEW EQUIPMENT, ADDITIONAL CREWS, MORE RECREATION, INSURANCE INCREASES, ETC.; THIS IS PARTIALLY THE REASON THE COUNTY BUDGET IS SUFFERING.

IN ADDRESSING DRIVEWAY COST, COMMISSIONER BROCK SAID THE FIGURE USED BY THE COUNTY IS THE FEMA RATE AND INCLUDES LABOR, MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT; IF PURCHASED FROM A CONTRACTOR, HE WILL CHARGE \$80,000 PER LOAD. HE EXPRESSED THE COUNTY IS STILL STUCK ON FEMA WHEN DEALING WITH COSTS.

COMMISSIONER HALL SUGGESTED IT MIGHT BE BETTER IF THE COUNTY WAS NOT INVOLVED WITH DRIVEWAYS; PROVIDE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR A DRIVEWAY INSTALLATION AND LET THE PERSON REQUESTING THE DRIVEWAY HAVE A PRIVATE CONTRACTOR INSTALL IT.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON INSTANCES WHERE AN INDIVIDUAL KEPT REQUESTING ADDITIONAL LOADS OF DIRT AFTER THEIR DRIVEWAY HAD BEEN INSTALLED. COMMISSIONER CORBIN SUGGESTED THE PUBLIC WORKS SUPERVISORS SHOULD MAKE SURE THIS DOESN'T HAPPEN. IT WAS ALSO DISCUSSED THE COUNTY NOT ONLY INSTALLING DRIVEWAYS BUT MAINTAINS THEM INDEFINITELY.

HAGAN ADVISED, IN THEORY, THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE COULD NOT BALANCE THE BUDGET; HOWEVER, THEY COULD ASSIST WITH PURCHASING BETTER TRUCKS, PROVIDING A BETTER ROAD SYSTEM, ALLOW MORE PRODUCTIVITY IN ROAD SERVICES AND MAKE SURE MONEY IS SPENT WHERE IT OUGHT TO BE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN AND FINCH REITERATED THEY HAD ALREADY COMMITTED THEIR FUNDS AND THE BOARD WILL HAVE TO LOOK AT OTHER MEANS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN AGAIN SUGGESTED THE BOARD TAKE THE INFORMATION PROVIDED AND SEE WHERE CUTS CAN BE MADE. HE AGREED TO CUT HIS EXPENSES AT ROAD AND BRIDGE ALL HE CAN, STARTING TODAY.

HAGAN REFERENCED THE BOARD MAKING DECISIONS AT ONE MEETING AND TAKING ACTION TO RESCIND IT LATER; HE SUGGESTED THEY NOT TAKE ACTION ON REQUESTS AT THE MEETING THE REQUESTS ARE MADE.

ON THE DISTRICT MONIES, COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED COMMISSIONER BROCK HAVING TOLD THE BOARD WHEN THESE MONIES WERE DIVIDED AMONG THE DISTRICTS, THEY WERE MAKING A HISTORICAL MARKER AS IT WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO DO ROAD WORK AND NOT HAVE TO BORROW THE MONEY. HE REITERATED THE DISTRICT MONIES HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY AND GIVEN BACK AND HIS MONIES ARE ALREADY COMMITTED.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON WHERE THE MONIES WOULD COME FROM FOR THE FUEL BUDGET AS IT IS GOING TO RUN OUT BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR. IT WAS ADDRESSED SOME MONIES WOULD BE REIMBURSED TO THE FUEL LINE ITEM DUE TO THE FL-DOT COUNTY INCENTIVE GRANT.

THE BOARD THEN BEGAN TO DISCUSS WHAT WAS LEFT ON THE JOHNSON/ GORE RETENTION PONDS, COLEMAN AVENUE, ETC.

THE BUDGET WORKSHOP ADJOURNED. ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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DEPUTY CLERK

CHAIRMAN

\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 04/19/04