

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
July 23, 2014 Budget Workshop - Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

DISTRICT 1	DISTRICT 2	DISTRICT 3	DISTRICT 4	DISTRICT 5
Alan Bush Chairman	Joel Pate Vice-Chairman	Charles Brock	Todd Abbott	Lynn Gothard

Chairman Bush, Commissioner Pate, Commissioner Brock, Commissioner Abbott, and Commissioner Gothard were present at the meeting. Also attending were County Attorney Goodman, County Coordinator Corbin, Ad Interim Clerk Bazzel, Deputy Clerk Brantley, and Deputy Clerk Odom.

- I. PROCLAMATION - Deputy Woollover
 - A. Call to Order - Chairman Bush
 - B. Invocation/Pledge - County Coordinator Corbin/Chairman Bush

Ad Interim Clerk Bazzel spoke on Constitutional Officers working together.

Commissioner Gothard clarified the location of repair and maintenance for the Library.

Ad Interim Clerk Bazzel spoke on a true picture not being reflected for annex utilities because of so many different departments located in the building.

Ad Interim Clerk Bazzel advised that he would provide the Board quotes for flooring.

9:20 - Bill Bogan, Bogan Public Management spoke to the Board in reference to uniformity in the way things are done among elected officials.

II. AGENDA ITEMS

- Sheriff Bobby Haddock - Bill Bogan advised the Board the Sheriff has asked for \$1,200.00 + an additional 3% for his employees.

It was funded at the level, which would allow the Sheriff to give his employees \$1,000.00.

Sheriff Haddock advised the Board the 3% is to match what the county has given employees over the last six years in step raises.

The Board discussed the Sheriff's budget.

Bill Bogan suggested the funding be put in contingency for Sheriff's raises with the agreement to fund a salary survey of the Sheriff, Supervisor of Elections, and Clerk employees.

After the survey, discussion can be held on systematically funding the request.

E-911 - Commissioner Gothard requested E-911 funds be listed in the 2014-2015 budget.

- Supervisor of Elections

Carol Rudd, SOE and the Board discussed her reasoning for including the cost for temporary help in her budget as well as discussion about another voting precinct.

Carol Rudd advised the Board the reason she continued to use temporary help was because it was less expensive to her as well as the county because benefits were not being paid.

Commissioner Gothard referenced during the previous year budget process Carol Rudd advised that she planned to hire two full time employees.

Bill Bogan clarified with Carol Rudd that the temporary position is used during staff transition.

Carol Rudd advised the position was used during a transition period during the last budget when there was an opening. The position is normally used during election time only and a day or two per week to stay abreast of any changes.

Voting Precinct

Chairman Bush asked Carol Rudd what happened to the early voting precinct in Vernon because he thought that was something she committed to last year.

Commissioner Brock agreed.

Carol Rudd advised that it was not fully funded, and reminded the Board that her budget did not increase. She is low on staff and having to train individuals to have them ready in forty days or so is something she does not feel can happen.

Carol Rudd advised she has spoken to the public and there is only a certain community that wants it as well as they do not feel Vernon is a central location. She has looked at those that vote by mail and absentee and if you figure the cost of what it is to be open just like the office is, she does not feel is cost efficient.

Chairman Bush advised he knew there was discussion about the early voting area last year. He advised Carol Rudd he remembers her saying if the Board does not fund it, it is on the Board if her office fails during election.

Carol Rudd advised that was in reference to voting equipment.

Chairman Bush advised the Board took care of that but they also discussed early voting in Vernon. It was very important to Commissioner Brock.

Commissioner Brock addressed the Board that he has mentioned the issue to Carol Rudd several times.

Carol Rudd advised it is not cost efficient. The feedback she is receiving from the public is if you put it, there why not make the location central.

Commissioner Brock advised Vernon is a central location.

Carol Rudd advised she would get the cost figures, which she has done before. There would have to be four to five people at the location seven days per week from 7:00 - 6:00, which is defined by law.

Sheriff Haddock asked how the place would be secured.

Carol Rudd advised there would have to be a deputy.

Commissioner Brock advised the location would be at the City Hall, and everything has been worked out.

Commissioner Brock advised that he has tried several times and he does not know what input she is receiving from the public.

Carol Rudd advised the additional input she is receiving from the citizens is why the county has not used the \$71,000.00 and built a voting house.

Commissioner Brock advised he has tried and has provided

locations but they have not met the Supervisor of Elections requirements.

Carol Rudd advised it is not about meeting her requirements but the ones that Commissioner Brock asked about were located on a four-lane road with no turning lane. She felt there could be a better location but it is not her call to make. It is the Board's decision.

Citizens are asking why Gilley's is being used at a cost of \$100.00 every time he drives over and unlocks the door.

Commissioner Brock advised that he has talked to land owners and received cost for land.

Carol Rudd advised they should present it to the Board.

Commissioner Brock advised that he is trying to increase voting.

Carol Rudd advised they have a 70-75% voter turnout. They are voting by mail and early voting at the Supervisor of Elections Office. The cost has to be known that it is efficient before it is done.

Commissioner Brock asked if the cost was included in the Supervisor of Elections budget.

Carol Rudd advised that it is not included in her budget because she was not asked. The site at the office is run by the staff in the office.

Commissioner Brock asked if she had polling people that have worked the county.

Carol Rudd advised she does.

Commissioner Brock advised they are qualified, no matter the location they work.

Carol Rudd advised they are not qualified to run an early voting site by working at a polling place on a single day.

Bill Bogan advised there is a budget issue at hand and Carol Rudd is a constitutional officer that has asked for a certain amount of money to fund her budget in a manner that she feels she needs as an elected official.

Mr. Bogan encouraged everyone to keep the meeting on a financial needs level. Healthy discussion will make the constitutionals want to come back to the table.

Commissioner Brock advised that he is very concerned about the early voting site and in order to do that the Supervisor of Elections has to include it in her budget for funding by the Board.

Mr. Bogan recommended asking Carol Rudd to put together the numbers.

The Board advised Mr. Bogan that is what Commissioner Brock requested earlier in the meeting.

County Coordinator Corbin advised he has gone to Carol Rudd twice.

Carol Rudd clarified that County Coordinator Corbin had contacted her asking if she was going to put an early voting site at that location.

She advised him that she did not see it.

County Coordinator Corbin advised Carol Rudd that he had advised Commissioner Brock that the funds were not in her budget.

Bill Bogan suggested to allow Carol Rudd adequate time if the Board is requesting additional information.

Vice-Chairman Pate called a recess.

Carol Rudd advised the Board she could make a reduction in her budget because after December the temporary help will be minimal. The position would be used a couple of days a week to keep abreast of any updates.

The Board discussed funds that have been turned back in past years from the Supervisor of Elections.

Commissioner Gothard asked Carol Rudd if funds would be turned back this year from when there was not a full time person.

Carol Rudd advised that it is very likely she would be turning back money this year.

Deputy Clerk Odom advised the last three years reflect an average of \$11,670.00.

Commissioner Abbott advised the money Carol Rudd is asking for is almost the amount of the money that is turned back in.

Chairman Bush clarified with Carol Rudd if she turns back \$11,000.00 and the cost of the early voting in Vernon would be \$10,000.00 - \$15,000.00, the funding was already there.

Carol Rudd advised she never knows when certain things may arise. That is not good padding in the election world. There are unfunded mandates that occur every year.

Chairman Bush advised the Supervisor of Elections budget would not have to be increased that much, because some of the funds are already there.

Chairman Bush addressed Carol Rudd on the different needs that are heard per her and the needs that are heard per Commissioner Brock.

Carol Rudd advised it is not that she is hearing that it is not a need. They need to ensure the need is adequate to offset the cost.

She advised she could show the Board how citizens are voting in that area in reference to early voting and absentee compared to other areas.

The early voting site in Vernon is not preventing voters from voting. Voting by mail is very easy and cheap for citizens.

Carol Rudd advised she does not think there will be the increase that Commissioner Brock thinks.

Voting by mail is always an option as well as early voting.

Carol Rudd advised the Board, with the cost that will be incurred she does not feel it is cost efficient.

Commissioner Brock advised that he disagrees and they have to start somewhere.

Carol Rudd advised early voting in her office is required and she is not offering it to a certain group of individuals. It is insane to suggest. Counties the size of Washington County do not have multiple sites.

Bill Bogan spoke on the budget process with the elected officials and the Board should want to send a positive message that would encourage the other elected officials to join the meeting during budget.

Chairman Bush addressed Bill Bogan that he feels the conversation is good because he has learned from Carol Rudd that they do not necessarily need another early voting precinct. If there is going to be one it would have to be budgeted for.

Interim Clerk Bazzel spoke on the budget process with the purpose being transparency.

Commissioner Brock advised Carol Rudd that he had been led to believe by her, if he could get the Board to put funding in that line item.

Carol Rudd, Supervisor of Election advised Commissioner Brock her position is it is not cost efficient.

The consensus of the Board is to increase the Supervisor of Elections budget by \$10,000.00. If any overages were left at the end of the year in the budget that amount would roll over to the Board.

Clerk - Ad Interim Clerk Harold Bazzel went over changes in the Clerk's budget, which includes an increase of \$25,000.00 in professional services (address audit issues), and \$20,478.00 was moved from one line item to another.

Bill Bogan suggested to the Board to go with the roll back rate. If the Board stays with the current millage, the citizens are receiving a tax break, which has been the last 3 years history. Approving the roll back rate actually means citizens will pay the same.

- Property Appraiser - Not Present
- Tax Collector - Not Present

The Board discussed millage.

The Board discussed different revenue options, current revenue, and the county road matrix.

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Board Approval Date