

BOARD MINUTES FOR 07/19/04

JULY 19, 2004

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, IN AND FOR WASHINGTON COUNTY, MET ON THE ABOVE DATE AT 8:30 A.M. AT THE WASHINGTON COUNTY ANNEX, BOARD MEETING ROOM, 1331 SOUTH BOULEVARD, CHIPLEY, FLORIDA WITH COMMISSIONERS BROCK, COPE, CORBIN, HALL AND FINCH PRESENT. COM- MISSIONER FINCH ARRIVED AT THE MEETING AT 8:55 A.M. AND COMMISSIONER HALL ARRIVED AT 9:30 A.M. ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT AND DEPUTY CLERK CARTER WERE ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COPE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER WITH ROGER HAGAN OFFERING PRAYER. COMMISSIONER COPE LED IN THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG.

VICE-CHAIRMAN COPE AND COMMISSIONER CORBIN THANKED THE BUDGET COMMITTEE FOR THEIR TIME AND EFFORTS IN WORKING ON THE BUDGET.

COMMISSIONER COPE REFERENCED THERE BEING AREAS IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET WHERE THERE WAS NO ACCOUNTABILITY; WHEN FUNDING IS PROVIDED TO DIFFERENT AGENCIES, HE RECOMMENDED ACCOUNTABILITY BE PROVIDED ON HOW THE MONIES WERE SPENT.

ROGER HAGAN, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BUDGET COMMITTEE, STATED THE FINAL RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE WOULD BE FOR THE BOARD TO TAKE THE BUDGET NOTES, THE YELLOW BINDER WITH ALL THE PROPOSED BUDGETS AND THE BUDGET PRINTOUT AND REVIEW THEM. HE POINTED OUT THE COMMITTEE MADE NO PROPOSED CUTS WITHOUT INVOLVEMENT OF THE DEPARTMENT HEAD IT WOULD HAVE AFFECTED.

HAGAN REVIEWED THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET NOTES STATING IT WAS BALANCED AT \$2,956,073 WITH A \$51,000 CONTINGENCY; THIS WAS TRUE ONLY IF THE PROPOSED CUTS LISTED IN THE BUDGET NOTES TOOK PLACE. HE UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE COMMITTEE HAVING GONE BACK AFTER THEIR FIRST BUDGET WORKSHOP ON TRANSPORTATION, WHEN THE BOARD DID NOT AGREE WITH SOME OF THE BUDGET CHANGES THE COMMITTEE HAD RECOMMENDED, AND BALANCED THE BUDGET USING DEBT SERVICE RESERVES AND MAKING CUTS NOTED IN THE BUDGET INFORMATION PROVIDED.

HE SUGGESTED THE BOARD TAKE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMITTEE AND LOOK AT THE PROPOSED BUDGET, AS THEY MAY BE MORE CUTS THEY FEEL COULD BE DONE OR ADDITIONS THEY WANT TO BE INCLUDED IN IT.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON POSITIONS THAT NEEDED TO BE FILLED AT PUBLIC WORKS; A MOTRIM OPERATOR, A GRADER OPERATOR FOR COMMISSIONER BROCK AND A WELDER FOR THE SHOP.

HAGAN RECOMMENDED THE BOARD CONSIDER GETTING A GOOD AGGRESSIVE RIGHT OF WAY ACQUISITION PROGRAM UNDERWAY; THIS WOULD DO AWAY WITH THE NEED FOR A MO-TRIM POSITION. HE ALSO ADDRESSED THE POSSIBILITY OF THE BOARD PIGGY BACKING OFF OF THE STATE CONTRACT TO GET MOWING DONE; THE BOARD COULD USE THE EMPLOYEES CURRENTLY MOWING IN OTHER POSITIONS WHICH WOULD FREE UP THE NEED FOR SOME OF THE EQUIPMENT AT PUBLIC WORKS.

COMMISSIONER BROCK ADDRESSED THE PROBLEM WAS THE NEED FOR A MO- TRIM FOR MOWING ON THE DIRT ROADS. HAGAN EMPHASIZED THE RIGHT OF ACQUISITION PROGRAM, WHETHER ON GRADED OR DIRT ROADS, WOULD STILL BE IMPORTANT; THE COUNTY COULD WIDEN THEIR DIRT ROADS AND THIS WOULD LENGTHEN THE LIFE OF THEM.

HAGAN POINTED OUT THE \$150,000 IN THE MSBU BUDGET FOR COUNTY MATCH WAS NOT FUNDED IN THE PROPOSED BUDGET. COMMISSIONER FINCH ADDRESSED GENERAL MAINTENANCE WOULD STILL NEED TO BE DONE IN THE MSBU AREAS THE SAME AS IN OTHER DISTRICTS.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON HIRING TEMPORARY EMPLOYEES, RETIREES OR CONTRACTING WITH PERSONS TO FILL IN AT PUBLIC WORKS WHEN A NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES ARE OUT ON SICK LEAVE, ANNUAL LEAVE, WORKERS COMP AND EQUIPMENT IS HAVING TO SET IDLE.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN ADDRESSED THE NEED FOR THE BOARD TO PURCHASE LAND FOR A BARROW PIT. HE SAID THERE WAS DIRT IN GILBERTS PIT BUT IT NEEDED TO BE DUG OUT AND MIXED WITH SUITABLE MATERIAL TO MAKE A GOOD BASE.

DISCUSSION CONTINUED ON EMPLOYEES AT PUBLIC WORKS. EDDIE RILEY, SHOP FOREMAN, POINTED OUT HE HAD FIVE EMPLOYEES; NOW, HE HAS ONLY THREE. COMMISSIONER COPE EXPLAINED IF THE BOARD FILLED TWO POSITIONS, THE TRANSPORTATION BUDGET WOULD BE BALANCED WITH ZERO CONTINGENCY.

CHERYL KUECHLER, WASHINGTON COUNTY NEWS REPORTER, QUESTIONED THE IMPACT THE EXCLUDING OF GAS TAX COLLECTIONS DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST WOULD HAVE ON THE BUDGET.

HAGAN ADDRESSED THE BOARD ON THE GENERAL FUND NOTES THEY HAD BEEN PROVIDED; THE BUDGET WAS BALANCED AT \$8,942,053 WITH A \$87,315 CONTINGENCY.

HE ADDRESSED 3% SALARY INCREASES, PER BOARD POLICY, WERE INCLUDED IN ALL THE PROPOSED BUDGETS AND NO MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT WAS FUNDED IN ANY OF THE BOARD DEPARTMENT BUDGETS.

HAGAN SUGGESTED THE BOARD LOOK AT EVERY PROGRAM THEY FUND TO SEE IF IT IS WORTHWHILE; IF SO, ACCOUNTABILITY SHOULD BE PROVIDED AS THE BOARD NEEDS TO GET A RETURN ON THEIR DOLLARS.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON ACCOUNTABILITY. COMMISSIONER COPE EXPLAINED THE COUNCIL ON AGING EMPLOYEES WERE NOT GOING TO GET A SALARY INCREASE AND HE FELT THE BOARD SHOULD GIVE MONIES TO AGENICES PROVIDING ACCOUNTABILITY RATHER THAN THOSE WHO DO NOT.

COMMISSIONER CORBIN OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER COPE TO REQUEST ACCOUNTABILITY FROM CRA, SOIL CONSERVATION AND THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HAGAN SUGGESTED THEY BE CAREFUL WHEN PUTTING ADS IN THE PAPER SAYING THEY ARE SUPPORTING THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND THEN QUESTION THEM ON ACCOUNTABILITY. THE BOARD POINTED OUT THEY WERE NOT SAYING THEY WERE GOING TO CUT THEIR FUNDING; THEY WERE ONLY WANTING ACCOUNTABILITY. HAGAN AGREED WITH THE ASPECT OF ACCOUNTABILITY.

CORBIN CALLED FOR THE QUESTION ON THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

HAGAN THEN CONTINUED GOING OVER THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET NOTES; HE ADDRESSED THE \$276,134, HALF MILL, BUDGETED FOR THE AMBULANCE SERVICE MAY NOT BE ENOUGH TO COVER THEIR EXPENSES.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON THE CHIPLEY REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WITH THE BOARD REQUESTING ADMINISTRATOR HERBERT RESEARCH TO SEE WHEN THE ORDINANCE CREATING THE CRA MIGHT EXPIRE AND IF IT WAS MANDATORY IT BE FUNDED.

CHAIRMAN HALL CALLED FOR A FIVE MINUTE RECESS.

PURSUANT TO A RECESS, HAGAN CONTINUED GOING OVER THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET NOTES ADDRESSING THE REQUEST FOR SALARY INCREASES FOR CONNIE ANDERSON, HE AND LYNN WHITE AND ONE THAT WAS NOT ON THE BUDGET NOTES, JAMES PETERSON.

HAGAN EXPRESSED ALL GRANTS WITH ADMINISTRATION FEES SHOULD BE PUT UNDER THE GRANTS ADMINISTRATION BUDGET WITH STACY WEBB ADMINISTERING THEM. HE ADDRESSED THE NEED, SHOULD THE BOARD BEGIN ACTIVELY PURSUING GRANT FUNDING, TO POSSIBLY HIRE A CLERICAL PERSON TO ASSIST WEBB.

HAGAN ALSO SUGGESTED THE BOARD REVIEW ALL THEIR DEPARTMENTS TO SEE IF THERE MAY BE A NEED TO CONSOLIDATE SOME OF THEM.

DISCUSSION WAS HELD ON WEBB WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES TO TRY AND OBTAIN GRANT FUNDING FOR THEM. COMMISSIONER CORBIN SAID HE HAD NO PROBLEM WITH WEBB WORKING WITH OTHER AGENCIES ON HER OFF TIME; HOWEVER, HE DIDN'T WANT HER WORKING WITH THEM ON COUNTY TIME AT THE COUNTY'S EXPENSE IF IT INTERFERED WITH ANY COUNTY GRANT FUNDING. HE WAS IN AGREEMENT FOR ALL GRANTS TO BE PUT UNDER WEBB.

HAGAN EXPLAINED THE TOWN OF WAUSAU HAD ENTERED INTO AN INTER-LOCAL AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY FOR WEBB TO APPLY FOR GRANT FUNDING WITH WAUSAU PAYING THE COUNTY FOR WEBB'S SERVICE.

COMMISSIONER BROCK FELT LIKE PARKS AND RECREATION SHOULD BE OVER ALL THE FRDAP GRANTS AS THEY HAVE IN THE PAST. DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH HAGAN EXPLAINING THAT PARK AND RECREATION COULD STILL BE OVER THE GRANTS; WEBB WOULD

BE RESPONSIBLE FOR APPLYING FOR GRANT FUNDING AND FULFILLING THE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS, ETC.

COMMISSIONER BROCK QUESTIONED WHAT THE BOARD WAS GOING TO DO ABOUT HIRING A GRADER OPERATOR. DISCUSSION WAS HELD WITH EDDIE RILEY RE-ADDRESSING HIS NEED FOR A WELDER/TIRE CHANGER POSITION.

COMMISSIONER FINCH SAID HE DIDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH HIRING THESE TWO POSITIONS AS LONG AS IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THEY WERE HIRED ACCORDING TO COUNTY POLICY.

COMMISSIONER BROCK OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CORBIN AND CARRIED TO REPLACE THE GRADER OPERATOR POSITION AND SHOP POSITION AS FULL TIME PERMANENT POSITIONS.

COMMISSIONER COPE OFFERED A MOTION, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER FINCH AND CARRIED TO ADJOURN. ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

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DEPUTY CLERK  
\*END OF MINUTES\* FOR 07/19/04

CHAIRMAN