

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
September 13, 2016 Final Budget Hearing - Commission Board Room
1331 South Blvd., Chipley, FL 32428

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

I. PROCLAMATION

- A. Call to Order – Chairman Bush
- B. Invocation/Pledge – Mr. Roger Hagan/Chairman Bush

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners met on the above referenced date with the following members present: Chairman Bush, Commissioners Kent, Abbott, and Gothard.

Commissioner Brock was present via polycom.

Also attending the meeting are as follows:

Jeff Goodman, County Attorney

Lora C. Bell, Clerk of Court

Hank Hamilton, County Administrator

Risha Brantley, Deputy Clerk

Johnnie Odom, Deputy Clerk

Chairman Bush – The purpose of this meeting is to hold the final budget hearing to adopt the millage rate, Washington County Board of Commissioners budget, and MSBU budget for fiscal year 2016 – 2017. The public hearing was advertised via the Washington County News on September 10th.

The Washington County Board of County Commissioners publicly announces the following:

- The rolled-back rate is 9.3320
- The percentage over the rolled-back rate is -.86%

- The millage rate to be levied is 9.2520

Commissioner Brock addressed the Board on a previous change to the budget to cover a position by transferring funds from the contingency fund.

He does not feel the position is needed, as he has voiced the last 3 to 4 years. The situation is known that comes up every year.

For record purposes, the original budget did not include the position and here at the end of the budget someone must have put it in there. He asked if there was a vote to include the position in the last budget.

Chairman Bush addressed Commissioner Brock, the Board representative on the budget committee was Commissioner Kent, who had planned on giving up that position, which is located in the Supervisor of Election's office.

After the budget had been discussed at several workshops, etc., Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, elected to fill the position. The position was cut in the current budget.

Commissioner Kent was unaware that Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections had filled the position and was reluctant to not fund it because the person in the position was good and qualified, and he didn't want to see an employee lose their job.

Chairman Bush asked Commissioner Kent if that is correct.

There was no opposition from Commissioner Kent on Chairman Bush's

summary of events.

Chairman Bush addressed Commissioner Brock, the Board as a whole by consensus agreed to allow the funds to be in there to fund that position.

Commissioner Brock asked Chairman Bush why she would hire someone before the funds were approved in the budget.

Commissioner Brock advised the Board it was his intent to find out how the change happened.

Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, she would like to speak on the same subject but did not know the correct time to do so.

II. ADOPT THE AGENDA –

Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and unanimously carried to adopt the agenda.

III. NON-AGENDA AUDIENCE - Effective October 1, 2013, Florida Statute 286.0114 mandates that “members of the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to be heard on a proposition before a Board or Commission.” Each individual shall have three (3) minutes to speak on the proposition before the board.

Jacob Kriser requested to be included on the next meeting agenda.

IV. AGENDA ITEMS –

- Approve the Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2016-2017 by resolution 16-10
Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner

Kent and unanimously carried to approve the millage rate for fiscal year 2016 - 2017 of 9.2520.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board, the millage rate would mean approximately \$47,000.00 less income than the prior year.

Roll Call – Commissioner Gothard -	Yes
Commissioner Abbott -	Yes
Commissioner Kent -	Yes
Commissioner Brock -	Yes
Commissioner Bush -	Yes

- Approve the Budget for Fiscal Year 2016 – 2017 by resolution 16-11

Commissioner Gothard advised the Board that she would like to discuss moving the \$35,000.00 from contingency to the Supervisor of Elections budget.

She advised there had been multiple hearings and the budget hearing prior to the last one this was brought up and she disagrees with the request to move the funds.

A large primary election just occurred and they were able to do it with the staff on hand. The year prior, funds were not given for an extra position but she was able to find the funds.

She expressed discern for the change and advised the Board they can see what she will turn back at the end of the year and a budget amendment can be done in order to try and match some of the funds if that is an

option the Board would like to make.

Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, her recollection of the last meeting was that they decided to move forward without a resolution. Once she received the budget documents that is when she noticed that the funds had been moved. It was not her understanding that there was an agreement among the Board.

She advised that she is against it. There will not be another election for two years and does not see adding a \$35,000.00 annual employee.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board, the staff that is in place is the same staff that she had. She has not added any employees since the primary election.

Commissioner Gothard advised the Board, Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections found the funds to cover the expense without them increasing her budget from last year.

Commissioner Abbott addressed Commissioner Kent, it was presented at the beginning of her budget request.

Commissioner Gothard addressed Commissioner Abbott, the committee removed it.

Commissioner Kent agreed.

Deputy Clerk Odom, addressed the Board the position was removed because the position was not filled.

Commissioner Brock addressed the Board, it does not need to be filled. It is not logical to hire an employee toward the end of the election.

There is only around \$80,000.00 in the contingency fund.

Chairman Bush addressed Commissioner Brock, the funds in contingency are currently \$77,000.00, because \$35,000.00 was removed. Deputy Clerk Odom advised there is \$44,000.00 in contingency.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board, there is the additional insurance cost to consider for the courthouse.

Commissioner Brock addressed the Board, the funds were beneficial where they were at.

Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, she is maintaining the stance that she voiced at the last meeting. The budget has been worked on since July and nothing has been said until a week prior.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board, the reason Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections had not said anything was because she was not made aware that her budget was changed.

Deputy Clerk Odom addressed the Board, Commissioner Kent advised Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections of the change.

Commissioner Kent agreed but noted that Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections commented that she thought it was a joke. She was never formally notified.

Commissioner Brock addressed the Board, he cannot support the addition of the employee.

Chairman Bush asked Clerk Bell if the \$35,000.00 was put back in contingency and as time went on Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections was not able to carry through, could those funds be moved back.

Clerk Bell advised that is correct.

Commissioner Abbott addressed the Board, a position is being unfunded.

Clerk Bell asked if the prior agreement was to transfer the funds from contingency at the tentative hearing.

Chairman Bush agreed. The Board could elect to leave it in contingency and move it if needed.

Clerk Bell addressed Chairman Bush, she thought there was an agreement to do that.

Deputy Clerk Odom, advised not by everybody.

Chairman Bush addressed the Board, he does not know of a time where she did not have enough in her budget; not in the last three years.

Commissioner Abbott asked if a budget amendment had to be done this year and add some to it.

Deputy Clerk Odom addressed the Board, it will have to be done because she added an employee that was not budgeted.

Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, she added an employee last year that the Board didn't give additional funds for.

Deputy Clerk Odom addressed the Board, a contractual employee was used that was not budgeted for the year prior.

Chairman Bush and Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, the \$30,000.00 for the contractual employee is still included in the budget.

Chairman Bush suggested the simplest way would be for the funds to be available in contingency if she needed it moving forward.

There was discussion about the pending insurance cost of the courthouse coming from the contingency funds by Clerk Bell, Commissioner Gothard, and Bush.

Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, it has been repeatedly said that Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections did not know.

To her knowledge, since her term they have not went to each person stating the funds that they are due to receive. There have been three budget workshops.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, joined the meeting.

Chairman Bush briefed her on what had been discussed.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed the Board, this occurs during every budget, advising she is not a department head and does not need to be watched and always turns any unused money back.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections suggested that last year, two Commissioners came to her staff after a meeting and suggested if you will do this as we have asked you to, we will give you this money. That is very inappropriate.

She advised that she does not try to micromanage anybody else's office.

Commissioner Gothard advised there is \$30,000.00 in the budget for contractual and there is not an election for two years.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, advised if the funds are not used they will be turned back.

Commissioner Gothard suggested to use those funds.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, addressed Commissioner Gothard there are a lot of other things that they do, but she can use part of that money. She will be accountable for every dollar that is used.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed the Board, she is the only one that this happens to every budget year. She is not required to give a line item budget but she does with the intent of being transparent. It has become obvious that it is personal.

Commissioner Gothard addressed Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, it has been thrown at the Board at the very last minute.

In reference to the statement about having to be watched, it is not the Board's responsibility to go around to every person advising this is what your budget is. That is why there are budget meetings.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed the Board, she has been very busy. If notification had been received someone would have been there.

Commissioner Gothard addressed Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, the Board did not fund the position last year but the money was found to fund it.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed Commissioner Gothard, it was from July to September 30th that it was funded.

Commissioner Gothard addressed Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections a budget amendment can be done if it is needed. There is \$30,000.00 in the contractual line item and there is not an election.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, addressed Commissioner Brock in reference to the comment he made prior about her not turning back \$10,000.00.

Commissioner Brock addressed Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections, it is the \$10,000.00 that is estimated that usually comes back from her office.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed Commissioner Brock, if there are remaining funds it obviously comes back.

Deputy Clerk Odom confirmed that any funds remaining in the Supervisor of Election's budget goes back to the general fund.

Commissioner Brock suggested that the Supervisor of Elections Office does a good job. There will not be an election for two years; what will the employees do during that time.

Chairman Bush addressed the Board, the resolution approves a budget amount, whereas what is being discussed is adjusting line items within the budgets.

County Attorney Goodman suggested for clarification purposes to address the line items.

Commissioner Abbott asked if the line item is removed from her budget, would that be un-funding the position.

Chairman Bush advised, no.

Commissioner Gothard addressed the Board, they never funded the position.

County Attorney Goodman addressed the Board, he does not see it as un-funding the position. It is cutting her budget. She has the authority to do what she wants with the personnel that is included in her budget. From a technical standpoint the Board is not un-funding the position.

Commissioner Gothard offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner

Brock and carried to move the \$35,000.00 back in to the contingency line item and if at some point during the next fiscal year Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections is in need of the funds she can come before the Board and ask for an adjustment.

Commissioner Brock and Bush suggested that sounds fair.

Chairman Bush expressed that Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections has a great employee and would like to support that employee.

Mrs. Rudd, Supervisor of Elections addressed the Board, she may lose the employee.

Chairman Bush clarified the motion.

Roll Call Vote -	Commissioner Gothard -	Yes
	Commissioner Abbott -	No
	Commissioner Bush -	Yes
	Commissioner Kent -	No
	Commissioner Brock -	Yes

The motion carried 3 to 2.

- Approve the Budget for Fiscal year 2016 – 2017 by resolution 16 -11
Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Bush and unanimously carried to approve the budget for 2016 - 2017 by resolution 16-11.
- Approve the MSBU budget for Fiscal year 2016- 2017 by resolution 16 – 12
Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and unanimously carried to approve the MSBU budget for fiscal

year 2016 – 2017 by resolution 16 – 12.

- V. ADJOURN – Commissioner Abbott offered a motion, seconded by Commissioner Kent and carried to adjourn.**

Deputy Clerk Brantley

Date Board Approved