

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

July 10, 2009

A meeting was held at the Murdock Administration Complex in Room 119, Port Charlotte, Florida.

Members present were: Chairman Duffy, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Starr, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Skidmore, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Manley. The following members were absent: None

The meeting was called to order at **10:00 AM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Sandrock gave opening statements, indicated what would be covered at the meeting, advised what actions would be expected, and paralleled visual slides throughout the meeting.

1. PRESENTATION OF FY09/10 TENTATIVE BUDGET

A. Certified Countywide Valuations

Mr. Sandrock said they received the Certified Property Valuations from the Property Appraiser on June 30, 2009, noted a 16.4% decline, defined the shortfalls and proposed strategy, explained the next steps, and provided recommendations. Mr. Baltz commented further on the recommendations.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO FULLY IMPLEMENT ALL REDUCTION RECOMMENDATIONS PROVIDED AT ALL OF THE BUDGET WORKSHOPS, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE

Commissioner Cummings clarified that the motion represented all items on the expense side and not the millage rates. **Chairman Duffy** confirmed the motion is to approve the previous reduction recommendations made.

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS OPPOSING.

B. Review of General Fund and Public Safety Fund

Mr. Sandrock identified the best recommendations for use of the \$9 Million, provided an approach summary, pointed out Ad Valorem Revenues-Variance fund by fund, discussed the General Fund and Public Safety Funds, Revenues, and Expenditures in great detail. Ms. Shoemaker reviewed the Countywide Personnel Count Chart on the overhead, explained the process, and gave its layoff history to date.

C. Reserves

Mr. Sandrock reviewed General Fund and Public Safety Fund Reserves and responded to Board inquiries.

D. Discussion on Roll-Back Rate

Mr. Sandrock defined the Roll-back Rate, advised the current countywide millage rate is 5.7096, announced Legislative Rights to Local Governments to keep Revenues Constant, provided FY10/11 Financial Forecast of Major Issues-\$20 Million, and answered Board questions.

E. Proposed FY09/10 Total County-wide Budget

Mr. Sandrock announced he is required to provide the Proposed FY09/10 Total County-wide Budget, explained the topic in detail, pointed out Net Amended Budgets (in millions), provided the Millage Options and Considerations for Setting Tentative Millage Rates, and answered related questions.

F. FY10/11 - Shortfall Forecast

This Agenda Item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

G. Millage Options

This Agenda Item was discussed earlier in the meeting.

H. Set Tentative Millage Rates

Mr. Sandrock explained the Set Tentative Millage Rates slide and asked for Board direction related to setting the Millage Rates for Truth In Millage (TRIM) advertising.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO SET THE COUNTYWIDE GENERAL FUND MILLAGE RATES AT THE 5.7096 LESS 1/20 OF A MILL. THE MOTION DID NOT RECEIVE A SECOND AND WAS LOST.

Commissioner Loftus moved to set the millage rate at 5.7096 less 1/20 of a mill and asked for confirmation that it would generate about \$1 Million. Mr. Sandrock responded 1/10 of a mill would generate approximately \$1.2 Million. **Commissioner Loftus** commented he would rather move for less 1/10 of a mill.

Commissioner Starr suggested the Board wait until all budget reductions are received and then vote on millage in September. **Commissioner Cummings** provided a detailed presentation which gave several visual scenarios that included Projected Revenues, Expenses, Reserves, Revenue Caps, and Historical trends. There was extensive Board discussion. Mr. Baltz clarified the motion. Mr. Sandrock commented that direction would need to state which Countywide funds would be reduced.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO SET THE COUNTYWIDE GENERAL FUND MILLAGE RATES AT THE 5.7096 LESS 1/10 OF A MILL, SECONDED BY CHAIRMAN DUFFY

MOTION FAILED 2:3.

COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE MOVED TO LEAVE THE MILLAGE RATE AS IT IS CURRENTLY (5.7096), SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS OPPOSING.

Chairman Duffy read additional measures taken by the Sheriff's Department to reduce their budget into the record. **Commissioner Starr** responded in detail.

COMMISSIONER STARR MOVED TO DIRECT THE SHERIFF TO FIND AN ADDITIONAL 13% REDUCTION IN HIS BUDGET BY THE SEPTEMBER 2009 MEETING, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER LOFTUS

Commissioner Loftus commended the Sheriff and announced he was unable to support the motion for an additional 13%. Board discussion continued.

MOTION FAILED 1:4.

Mr. Baltz explained the budget approval and appeal process and gave its timeline.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO REQUEST THE SHERIFF REDUCE HIS BUDGET TO \$54 MILLION WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY 10%, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

Mr. Baltz requested staff put the Sheriff's Budget information on the overhead for the Board to review. Mr. Sandrock clarified if the Board decided not to accept the Sheriff's budget, they would then need to provide guidance as to the areas where reductions should be made. Attorney Knowlton explained further and did not recommend taking the reductions from the reserves. There was Board discussion. Mr. Sandrock said the first step is to reject the Sheriff's budget and then identify the categories for reduction. The Board discussed the subject further.

Commissioner Loftus withdrew his motion. Commissioner Starr withdrew his second.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO REJECT THE SHERIFF'S PROPOSED BUDGET, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

MOTION CARRIED 3:2. CHAIRMAN DUFFY, COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS OPPOSING.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE A \$54 MILLION BUDGET FOR THE SHERIFF DEPARTMENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER STARR

MOTION FAILED 2:3.

Commissioner Skidmore was in favor of revisiting the topic and clarified the Sheriff's Budget has officially been rejected. Mr. Sandrock pointed out he still required Board direction related to the millage rates on other areas and provided recommendations related to the lighting districts. Mr. Sandrock responded to Board questions.

COMMISSIONER LOFTUS MOVED TO APPROVE STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS AS DISCUSSED ON THE RECORD, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CUMMINGS

MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER SKIDMORE OPPOSING.

I. Funding For School Crossing Guards

Mr. Sandrock explained the School Crossing Guard program and its funding, reviewed four visual slides, and announced he would require direction after the presentation. Mr. Sandrock responded to Board questions. Jerry Levo, Assistant Superintendent provided additional background information. Colonel Bosnall also presented additional related detail and timelines. There was Board discussion and questions. County Attorney Knowlton announced Public Works is still working with the School Board to determine if the additional five (5) positions are necessary, confirmed there is no statutory requirement to have the program, and mentioned funding alternatives. Mr. Sandrock explained what the taxpayer benefits would be if the millage rate remained the same. There was **Board Consensus** to direct County Administrator Baltz to discuss funding options with the School Board. Mr. Baltz indicated the School Board was requesting the Board of County Commissioners fund five additional crossing guards, summarized past practices, explained his understanding, indicated his conversations to date, and commented that any direction from the Board would be helpful in future negotiations. The Commissioners clearly expressed opposition to raising parking fines. Mr. Baltz announced he will aggressively pursue the issue.

Commissioner Cummings thanked Mr. D'Aprile and Mr. Moore for making the courageous decision to raise the millage rate knowing that decision could cost them their seat. Mr. Sandrock said the tentative July 17th meeting has been cancelled. **Chairman Duffy** commended Mr. Sandrock and his staff for their hard work and support.

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ADJOURNED: 12:40 PM

Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Chairman

ATTEST:

BARBARA T. SCOTT, CLERK
OF THE CIRCUIT COURT AND
EX-OFFICIO TO THE BOARD
OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

By: Signature on file in Commission Minutes
Deputy Clerk

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