

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

January 7, 2010

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

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Loftus, Commissioner Skidmore, Commissioner Cummings, Commissioner Duffy, County Administrator Baltz, County Attorney Knowlton, Minutes Supervisor Manley, Finance Director Larrivee, Minutes Secretary Cournoyer. The following members were absent: None

The meeting was called to order at **2:00 PM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Opening Comments - Roger Baltz

Mr. Baltz gave opening comments for the Budget Workshop regarding the upcoming budget process and welcomed any comments from the Board.

2. Overview of Financial Trends - Ray Sandrock

Budget Director Gordon Burger gave an explanation of the budget process. Ray Sandrock reviewed trends referenced in the packet material and indicated he would speak on a continued maintenance effort.

Mr. Sandrock pointed out that a significant payment on Murdock Village had affected revenue and commented on fiscal stabilization reserve that was created.

Commissioner Cummings clarified the process of borrowing funds before projects are started and the effect on the fund balance. Mr. Sandrock responded in detail.

Commissioner Skidmore inquired about comparables of like-size counties. **Chairman Starr** commented on numbers mitigated by population counts. Mr. Sandrock commented on the County providing services for a larger area due to the fact that there is only one city within the county.

Mr. Sandrock responded to questions from **Commissioner Cummings** regarding Employees per 1000 Population for 2004.

Mr. Sandrock commented on the Board making maintenance a priority in upcoming years. **Commissioner Skidmore** inquired about the supervisor ratio for employees per 1000 population.

Mr. Sandrock opined there is a need to review if the changes made over the years are warranted. **Chairman Starr** commented on core service and level of service, suggested each department outline its org chart to determine the role of each supervisor and understand the level of service provided. **Commissioner Loftus** responded to **Chairman Starr's** suggestions that the process has already begun.

Commissioner Cummings commented on capital equipment expenditures as referenced in the presentation and the revenue stream.

Commissioner Loftus commented on the issue of the ambulances and the plan previously presented by Fire/EMS. **Commissioner Duffy** commented on 2008 General Fund expenditures, the Murdock Village payment, and explained there was a large opening balance from the previous year. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the short term ambulance plan and opined there should be a long-term plan.

3. 2009/10 Budget Process Recap - Ray Sandrock

Mr. Sandrock reviewed the FY09/10 Budget Process and Reductions. **Commissioner Cummings** inquired about the \$10M one-time revenue and what portion of \$43M was one-time and reducing recurring expenditures. Mr. Sandrock responded in detail. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the need for continued maintenance and clarified the types of costs needed to stay even with the level of service.

Mr. Sandrock continued review of department reductions and examples of impacts. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on changes in costs at a staff level, trend lines, and inflationary costs.

Mr. Sandrock reviewed accomplishments during the 2009/2010 budget process. **Commissioner Cummings** commented on the policy for not filling vacant positions.

There was brief Board discussion.

Mr. Sandrock continued his review on Budget Process Accomplishments. **Commissioner Loftus** clarified the amount saved in energy conservation. Mr. Baltz commented on the established goal of reducing energy use by 15% over the next three years.

4. 2010/11 Preliminary Projection - Ray Sandrock

Mr. Sandrock reviewed 2010/2011 Financial Impacts Forecasting and slides contained in the packet material, commented on Jail Expansion costs, and Portability.

Mr. Sandrock fielded questions from **Commissioner Cummings** regarding shared revenues, gas tax, and length of time since Staff received raises. **Commissioner Cummings** requested a list of jobs chosen to keep versus jobs that were cut. **Commissioner Skidmore** reminded that recommendations came from staff of those to cut and commented on other ways employees have been compensated. **Commissioner Cummings** disagreed.

Commissioner Loftus commented on the status of the state budget hearings.

5. Recommended 2010/11 Budget Process and Calendar - Gordon Burger

6. Key Areas of Focus - Gordon Burger

Mr. Burger discussed recommended process for performance based budgeting and extending strategic focus of the BCC's goals.

Mr. Burger fielded Board questions regarding strategic planning related to goal setting, performance based budgeting and setting a plan; departmental budget process; expanding time horizon, and actuals versus anticipated.

Mr. Burger commented on stabilization related to recommended process, the proposed calendar and agenda, and Key Areas of Focus.

7. Commission Discussion and Recommendations

Commissioner Loftus commented on stabilization, expressed the need for Mr. Baltz and staff to continue daily focus on efficiencies, and spoke in support of the proposed schedule.

Commissioner Duffy commented on budget cuts, increased efficiencies, expense reductions, agreed with staff recommendations, commented on emphasis of services, the millage rate, salary increases, and health insurance rates.

Commissioner Cummings spoke in support of holding five to six workshops structured on key issues, performance based budgeting, spoke in opposition of not raising the millage rate, commented on stabilization reserve, future revenues and expenditures, opined keeping the millage rate the same would give a negative stabilization, and commented on CIP projects being delayed and not eliminated.

Commissioner Duffy stated she would like to add an element of focus in economic development.

Commissioner Loftus expressed need for jobs in the community and to address incentives of economic development.

Commissioner Cummings commented on economic development funding and expressed concern that basic community needs and services are met.

Chairman Starr expressed the need to include constitutional officers in the process as full partners, commented on CCSO budget, and management of the jail.

Mr. Baltz stated that no one on the county staff has authority to direct constitutional officers or Sheriff to get involved but the request can be made.

Commissioner Duffy reminded the Board that the constitutional officers were involved last year when cuts were made and commented on the management of the jail.

ADJOURNED: 3:40 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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