

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**July 14, 2011**

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

Members present were: Chairman Starr, Commissioner Constance, Commissioner Deutsch, Commissioner Duffy, Commissioner Skidmore, County Administrator Sandrock, County Attorney Knowlton, and Deputy Clerk Lansing. The following members were absent: None. The meeting was called to Order at **1:30 PM** followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Opening Comments:**

Ray Sandrock commented on the number of budget related meetings held since January, gave statistics related to property values and indicated property valuations came in much higher than anticipated, remarked on budget reduction efforts already made and commented on the need to continue make reductions, confirmed once the rate is set today, it cannot be increased, and thanked the Board, staff and citizens for their input and support. **Commissioner Skidmore** questioned early estimates. Mr. Sandrock responded in detail related to the percentages, mentioned the use of reserves, outlined additional strategy information, and discussed State estimates. Gordon Burger noted the primary purpose of the meeting is to present the Charlotte County FY12/FY13 Proposed Budget, set the Tentative Millage Rates, and to secure Board direction on various issues. Mr. Burger followed the Agenda and packet materials, described each item in detail, paralleled visual slides, and responded to Board inquiries.

**1. Certified County-wide valuations:**

Forecasting the Financial Impacts FY12/FY13 - Mar 7, 2011 BCC Workshop  
Certified Property Valuations  
Defining the Shortfall  
The Shortfall Strategy

Mr. Burger clarified the \$13.2 Million Shortfall for **Commissioner Skidmore**.

**2. Review of Ad Valorem Budgets:**

General Fund Five Year Financial Plan - Revenues / Expenditures (Initial Projection - March 7, 2011)  
General Fund Five Year Financial Plan - Revenues / Expenditures (Revised Projection - July 14, 2011)  
Proposed Ad Valorem Revenues – Variance  
The General Fund - More Detail  
Other General Funds Revenues  
General Fund Expenditures  
BCC Countywide Full Time Personnel Count  
General Fund Expenditures (Constitutional Officers)  
Public Safety Fund  
Public Safety Proposed Budget  
Public Safety Proposed Budget  
Public Safety Fund - Five Year Projection  
Options

Mr. Burger explained why the General Fund Report within the backup materials could be confusing. **Commissioner Constance** asked how FY12 compared with FY08. **Commissioner Skidmore** opined there was a signification variance. Mr. Burger indicated he would provide that comparison at a later date. Mr. Sandrock responded to inquiries associated with the use of County Reserves, noted flexibility within the Reserve Policy, and pointed out the importance of maintaining reserves. Mr. Burger explained the use of General Fund Reserves and expenditure reductions further.

Sheriff Cameron indicated his support of the millage roll back for the Public Safety Fund and any General Funds in order make up for the shortfalls, mentioned his budget deadline and indicated there are many unknowns at this time that could be adjusted later, said the three Public Safety budgets (Courts, Law Enforcement, and Jail) currently amount to approximately \$57 Million, and agreed the roll back would help the County get by over the next two to three years.

**3. Reserve Levels:**

Mr. Burger noted Reserve Levels had been discussed in April.

**4. Reserve Policy:**

Cash Reserve Needs  
Ad Valorem Reserves  
Reserve Policy

Mr. Burger summarized the proposed changes to the Reserve Policy, clarified the three purposes for the Reserve Policy, and explained with Board Consensus, proposed changes to the Reserve Policy would return as a Resolution for final approval. (There was **Board Consensus** to bring back a Resolution with proposed Reserve Policy changes) **Commissioner Skidmore** mentioned a promise made to citizens related to the Stadium debt. Mr. Sandrock responded.

**5. Proposed FY11/12 total County-wide budget and planned FY12/13 County-wide budget:**

Proposed FY11/12 total County-wide budget  
Net Amended Budgets

**6. Millage Options:**

Roll-back Rate  
Legislative Rights to Local Governments - Revenue Constant  
Millage Options (New Item to the Back-up Materials)  
Set Tentative Millage Rates  
Millage Rate Impact on Tax Bill (Charlotte County Millage Only)

Mr. Burger summarized the roll-back concept. **Commissioner Deutsch** commented on the options presented. **Chairman Starr** requested they revisit the options. **Commissioner Constance** opined the citizens want the same level of service and explained why he is in favor of the millage roll back. **Commissioner Deutsch** pointed out how county government has streamlined its budget. Mr. Sandrock noted his recommendation for approval of Option 4. **Commissioner Duffy** remarked that the property devaluation situation is difficult, commented that the County has made deep cuts, and spoke in favor Option 4. Mr. Burger advised Environmental Sensitive Lands will be excluded. **Chairman Starr** noted reductions already made, indicated his preference is Option 4, opined the Sheriff's budget should be reduced, suggested the Board of County Commissioners run the jail for one year, and expressed his opposition to raising taxes. **Commissioner Duffy** disagreed, said the Sheriff has made \$6 Million in cuts, indicated the Law Enforcement budget is down and the Jail's budget is up, and commented on the importance of Law Enforcement. **Chairman Starr** said the Sheriff did not need \$1.5 Million last year, suggested it not be part of his budget this year, and also commented further on additional FRS funds.

**7. Set Tentative Millage Rates:**

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE TENTATIVE MILLAGE RATES OPTION #4, EXCLUDING THE ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND PROGRAM, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY**

**Commissioner Constance** clarified Option #4 could be found on page 35 and confirmed this option would roll-back all operations to provide the maximum available revenue. **Commissioner Deutsch** commended the Sheriff, read staffing statistics into the record, and expressed support of this motion now, but indicated he would not vote for it in September without additional anticipated budget cuts. **Commissioner Duffy** agreed and recommended educating citizens concerning TRIM notices.

**MOTION CARRIED 4:1. CHAIRMAN STARR OPPOSING.**

**8. Vehicle Replacement:**

Fleet Management  
Fleet Management - Direct Purchase vs. Lease Annualized Costs  
Vehicle Life Cycle (Example)  
Cash Flow Analysis - Based on 5 Year Replacement  
Purchase Recommendations

Mr. Burger explained the items, commented on the aging fleet, proposed replacing 76 vehicles that are nine years or older, and mentioned the need for Board direction. **Chairman Starr** questioned the number of vehicles versus the number of employees. Mr. Burger mentioned issues with Building and Construction Services vehicles. **Commissioner Duffy** indicated the vehicle policy had been revised several years before and noted its improvement.

**COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE MOVED TO APPROVE PURCHASING COUNTY VEHICLES INSTEAD OF LEASING THEM, ONLY REPLACE VEHICLES THAT NEED TO BE REPLACED, AND HAVE BUDGET THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER DUFFY**

**MOTION CARRIED 5:0.**

Mr. Burger explained any adjustments made to the budget between now and the final budget in September must be clearly documented and brought back to the Board.

#### **9. Mining Regulations**

Mr. Burger described the Mining Regulation issue, explained Options to be considered, responded to Board inquiries, and clarified his request for direction.

**COMMISSIONER DEUTSCH MOVED TO DIRECT STAFF TO EXPLORE AND RETURN WITH OPTIONS TO ALLOW MINING OPERATIONS TO BE SELF-SUFFICIENT, SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER CONSTANCE**

Board discussion and comments ensued.

**MOTION CARRIED 4:1. COMMISSIONER DUFFY OPPOSING.**

Mr. Burger clarified Board direction and announced future meeting dates for the record.

**ADJOURNED: 3:03 PM**

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Chairman

ATTEST:

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

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy Clerk

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