

**MEETING OPENED**

The Board of County Commissioners met in Commission Chambers on the First Floor, Orange County Administration Center, on Friday, July 28, 1995. County Chairman Linda Chapin, Commissioners Tom Staley, Clarence Hoenstine, Bill Donegan, and Mable Butler were present. Commissioners Bob Freeman and Mary Johnson were absent. County Comptroller as Clerk Martha Haynie entered where indicated. Also present were County Administrator Jean Bennett and Deputy Clerk Rosilyn Stapleton. There being a quorum, the County Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

**BUDGET REVIEW WORKSESSION****Outside Agencies' Budget Requests****Library**

## Agency Report

Dorothy Field, director of the Orange County Public Library, addressed the Board and reported that the library is proposing a lower budget than that of the current fiscal year and is coming in at roll-back. Ms. Field explained that the decrease in operating expenses is due to an 11 percent decrease in debt service. She reported that the biggest concern is the law collection, explaining that the cost of maintaining this collection is escalating while the income generated from court filing fees has decreased.

**Lynx**

## Agency Report

Paul Skoutelas, Lynx executive director, reviewed the highlights of Fiscal Year 1995-96 and reported a 13 percent growth over Fiscal Year 1994, translating to an estimated 14 million people currently being served. Mr. Skoutelas noted that nearly 40,000 disabled passengers per month utilize the A+ Link. He stated that the proposed budget increase is 20 percent due to an increase in service demands.

## Discussion

The Board discussed the degree of the County's past support, ridership and shelter advertising, the function of commuter vans, the possibility of a five-cent gasoline tax and the ramifications of a bill currently before the Congress which would result in a 44 percent decrease in federal funds for public transit.

County Comptroller Martha Haynie entered the meeting.

Constitutional Officers

**Court Administrator**

Chief Judge Belvin Perry reported that the Court Administrator's office has operated inside its budgetary parameters. Chief Judge Perry stated that the biggest challenges are items which they do not have control over, such as court reporting and attorney fees. He explained that the most significant savings has been in leasing court reporting equipment from the court reporters for one dollar per year. He further stated that the Court Administrator's office is investigating new technology to prevent further increase in court reporting costs.

Discussion

The Board discussed the State of Florida failing to fund Article V, as promised, and the mandated increase in the cost of court reporters as a result of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

**County Comptroller**

County Comptroller Martha Haynie addressed the Board and overviewed recent changes to her operation as a result of the Court's determination of the Charter challenge. She reported on the temporary relocation of the Official Records office to the Barnett Bank Building from Pine Street and its recent reorganization.

Regarding the proposed budget, County Comptroller Haynie stated that in the past recording fees had offset her budget request. However, she explained that recording fees are down 15 percent. Additionally, she noted that the workload indicators for the operation reveal there has been a 60 percent increase, which accounts for the request for four additional positions in the budget. County Comptroller Haynie pointed out that this is the first time in several years that her budget has experienced an increase.

Additionally, County Comptroller Haynie updated the Board on the new payroll system which is to be implemented soon and the status of the Public Service Tax and Tourist Development Tax audits.

**NONAGENDA - COMMISSIONERS' STAFF**

Commissioner Donegan stated that the commissioners could assist in cutting the budget by eliminating one of their staff positions. He pointed out that since the commissioners now have secretaries, as well as aides, that the Executive Director of Aides position in the Board office could be eliminated.

**NONAGENDA - DISTRICT DAYS**

County Administrator Jean Bennett stated that staff needs direction from the Board regarding District Days, which cost an average of \$20,000 to \$21,000.

**Discussion**

The Board discussed the availability of locations and the feasibility of rotating the District Days in each district.

**Action**

**By consensus, the Board agreed to stage one District Day event per year.**

**GENERAL BUDGET DISCUSSION**

The Board reviewed the proposed budget and discussed possible staffing and areas of funding to eliminate from the budget. OMB Manager Sharon Donoghue made a list of the FY 95-96 Budget Issues detailing the items, needs/increases, decreases, and balances which she presented to the Board later in the meeting for further inspection and discussion (see page 564).

**County Chairman Chapin adjourned the morning session.**

**MEETING RECONVENED**

**County Chairman Chapin adjourned the morning session.**

**MEETING RECONVENED**

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened in Commission Chambers on the First Floor, Orange County Administration Center, with County Chairman Linda Chapin, Tom Staley, Clarence Hoenstine, and Bill Donegan present. Commissioner Mary Johnson was absent. Commissioners Bob Freeman and Mable Butler entered where indicated. Also present were County Comptroller as Clerk Martha Haynie, County Administrator Jean Bennett, Deputy County Attorney John Gehrig, and

Deputy Clerk Rosilyn Stapleton.

**Policy Issues - Fire and Rescue Services**

Acting Fire Rescue Services Division Director John Warbington stated that the Fire Rescue Services Division is divided into three primary departments with corresponding budgets: Emergency Management, the 911 system, and Fire Rescue. Mr. Warbington informed the Board that the Emergency Management budget will decrease by 30 percent for Fiscal Year 1995-96 and that, as a result of Hurricane Andrew, all health care facilities in the state of Florida must have comprehensive emergency management plans.

Secondly, he proposed that the 911 system be funded by a 911 fee of 50 cents per person per phone line, noting that Orange County is the only county in Florida that does not charge this fee.

In conclusion, Mr. Warbington requested an increase in the Municipal Service Taxing Unit millage rate for the Fire Rescue Department. He explained that cost containment efforts are under way and reported a 40 percent decrease in capital expenditures.

**Commissioner Butler joined the meeting.**

Discussion

The Board discussed the requested millage increase and the \$1.2 million that is in reserve. The Board also addressed the vehicle replacement program, the locations of new fire stations, and the possibility of merging fire services with the City of Orlando.

**Commissioner Freeman joined the meeting.**

**Policy Issues - Administrative Support Division**

Administrative Support Division Director James K. Hartmann explained that the demand for the division's services has increased, requiring a corresponding increase in capacity. He stated that the division's first priority is the maintenance of facilities which are already in place. Mr. Hartman detailed three ways in which his division can increase capacity without an increase in the number of positions: reorganization, computerization, and the use of contract services in operations.

Discussion

The Board discussed the availability of adequate funds to address

air quality issues, construction administration regarding the new court house currently being erected, and staffing. The Board also noted that the disposition of surplus real estate needs to be accelerated in order to get the property onto the tax rolls.

**Action**

**By consensus, the Board directed Real Estate Management Department staff to report to the Board in 30 days on the total value of surplus real estate and the viability of hiring a private real estate firm to handle the sale of the property.**

**Policy Issues - Health and Community Services**

Health and Human Services Division Director Larry Jones reviewed Federal and State policies which could impact the County's Human Services. Mr. Jones noted that Federal Medicaid is being cut significantly, which will likely result in a significant increase in the number of people being added to the County health care rolls. He pointed out that the partnership between public and private entities is very beneficial.

**Policy Issues - Health and Community Services**

**Parks and Recreation Department**

Parks and Recreation Department Manager Lynn Sordel reported that nine park facilities have been developed since 1993; and five additional park sites, along with six undeveloped community park sites, have been acquired. Mr. Sordel further explained that the focus has been shifted from large district parks to more accessible neighborhood and community parks, noting that there are 22 unfunded park projects.

**Discussion**

The Board discussed the fact that Orange County taxpayers are unable to replace Federal revenue losses and that the utility tax was originally intended for parks and related projects. The Board also discussed regional park concerns such as the Moss Park water treatment.

**Commissioner Freeman left the meeting.**

**Policy Issues - Public Works Division**

Public Works Division Director Ajit Lalchandani reviewed both the operating budget and the Capital Improvements Projects (CIP)

budget. Mr. Lalchandani pointed out that the total status quo operating budgets for fiscal year 1995 and fiscal year 1996 are essentially the same. He detailed the reorganization of the Engineering Department which resulted in two separate departments, Development Engineering and Public Works Engineering, explaining that each department is better able to focus on the type of customers they serve. Mr. Lalchandani related that the Development Engineering Department serves primarily developers, while Public Works Engineering serves primarily residents.

In response to a question from Commissioner Butler regarding seemingly higher demands for the division's services in the summer than in the winter months, Mr. Lalchandani explained that the summer workload is heavier because of increased demand for stormwater drainage work and mowing services.

In response to a question from Commissioner Donegan regarding the status of the stormwater utility fee, he informed the Board that he is expecting a ruling in a related Sarasota County court case toward the end of this year, which is the reason that the Public Works Division is completing a needs assessment.

**Commissioner Freeman entered the meeting.**

#### Discussion

The Board discussed drainage master plans and a needed policy to determine who receives free roads and sidewalks.

#### GENERAL BUDGET WRAP UP DISCUSSION

#### Staff Report

OMB Manager Sharon Donoghue presented a list of the FY 95-96 Budget Issues detailing the items, needs/increases, decreases, and balances from the morning session to the Board for consideration.

(FY 95-96 Budget Issues list is on file in the office of the Comptroller Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.)

#### Discussion

After discussion of increases and/or decreases to the funding and the possibility of applying the millage for the Sheriff countywide without exemption for city residents, the Board made the following motions:

**Motion**

A motion by Commissioner Hoenstine, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, with Commissioners Freeman and Hoenstine voting AYE by voice vote; County Chairman Chapin and Commissioners Staley, Donegan, and Butler voting NO by voice vote; Commissioner Johnson was absent; for a countywide millage for Sheriff services failed.

**Motion**

A motion by Commissioner Donegan, seconded by County Chairman Chapin, with County Chairman Chapin and Commissioner Donegan voting AYE by voice vote; Commissioners Freeman, Staley, Hoenstine, and Butler voting NO by voice vote; Commissioner Johnson was absent; to raise the Fire and Rescue MSTU/BU 1/4 mil failed.

**Motion**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner Staley, and carried with County Chairman Chapin and all present commissioners voting AYE by voice vote; Commissioner Johnson was absent; the Board approved a 911 fee of 50 cents per phone line per month with a maximum charge for 25 phone lines.

**Motion**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Freeman, seconded by Commissioner Staley, and carried with County Chairman Chapin and Commissioners Freeman, Staley, Hoenstine, and Butler voting AYE by voice vote; Commissioner Donegan voting NO by voice vote; Commissioner Johnson was absent; the Board determined that the Fire millage will remain at the current rate.

Commissioner Freeman left the meeting.

**Motion**

A motion by Commissioner Butler and seconded by County Chairman Chapin to allocate \$700,000 for the Orangescape Program died without a vote.

Commissioner Staley left the meeting.

**Approval of Millages****Motion**

Upon a motion by Commissioner Donegan, seconded by Commissioner Butler, and carried with County Chairman Chapin and all present commissioners voting AYE by voice vote; Commissioners Staley,

Johnson, and Freeman were absent; the Board approved the tentative FY 1995-96 millages, as amended, with the exception of Fire, which will remain at the current rate.

(Proposed Millage and Property Value Detail is on file in the office of the Comptroller Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.)

**MEETING ADJOURNED**

There being no further business, the County Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5 p.m.