

MEETING OPENED

The Board of County Commissioners met in Commission Chambers on the First Floor, Orange County Administration Center, on Thursday, September 25, 1997. The following were present:

- County Chairman Linda Chapin
- Commissioners Tom Staley, Mary Johnson, Clarence Hoenstine, Ted Edwards, and Mable Butler
- County Administrator Jean Bennett
- County Attorney Tom Wilkes
- Deputy Clerk Rosilyn Stapleton

Commissioner Bob Freeman joined the meeting where indicated.

There being a quorum, the County Chairman convened the second budget public hearing for fiscal year 1997-98 at 6:30 p.m.

Staff Report

County Administrator Jean Bennett announced that the purpose of the public hearing is to consider and adopt final millages and budgets for the fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997, and ending September 30, 1998.

Ms. Bennett stated that the items to be considered include: countywide base millage, municipal service taxing units for law enforcement, fire protection, and lake weed cleaning and navigation; flat rate assessments for street lighting, fire hydrants, street paving, or retention pond maintenance; and all other County budgets.

Ms. Bennett explained that the millages and budgets that are being considered for final adoption are the end product of a process begun in January of this year with a review of economic conditions, continued with the development of goals and priorities, departmental budget requests, and staff review, and culminating in worksession review by the Board of County Commissioners in July and September. She stated that this year's focus has been on minimizing increases and maintaining the status quo for a balanced budget at the same countywide millage level as last year.

Ms. Bennett stated that public notice of the public hearing was by a legal advertisement in the Orlando Sentinel on Sunday, September 21, 1997. Further, she noted the order of the public hearing.

Ms. Bennett announced that this budget reflects Orange County's first two-year budget effort. She stated that the Board is officially adopting only fiscal year 1997-98. Continuing, Ms. Bennett noted that the countywide millage has been held at 5.2889 mils for the ninth consecutive year. Further, she pointed out millage changes for the following lake districts:

- Bass Lake MSTU established at 0.5000 mil at the request of the homeowners to provide funds for aquatic weed control;
- Lake Holden MSTU reduced from 3 mils to 1 mil because of action taken by the Lake Holden Advisory Board;
- Lake Pickett MSTU reduced from 3 mils to 2 mils because of action taken by area homeowners;
- Lake Price MSTU established at 1.2900 mils at the request of area homeowners to provide funds for aquatic weed removal.

Ms. Bennett stated the budget is based on the County's strategic plan and provides funding to maintain countywide service levels for programs which are linked to the ten strategic planning goals. She explained that major construction projects included in the budget are the Regional History Center (conversion of the 1927 courthouse), \$10 million in stormwater improvements, sidewalks, road paving projects, and road construction projects; and \$22 million in parks capital projects.

PUBLIC HEARING - OTHER MILLAGES AND FUNDS

Staff Report

Assistant County Administrator Sharon Donoghue announced the millage information for all taxing units under the Board of County Commissioners, the aggregate millage, and the total recommended budget for fiscal year 1997-98.

Appearances

The following person addressed the Board relating to the budget:

- Robert Poston (no address given).

Commissioner Freeman joined the meeting.

Discussion

County Chairman Chapin closed the public hearing and opened the matter for Board discussion.

Motion

Upon a motion by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Hoenstine, and carried with all members present and voting AYE by voice vote, the Board adopted the resolution setting the countywide millage rate.

(Resolution 97-M-42 is on file in the office of the Comptroller Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners.)

Ms. Donoghue announced that the fiscal year 1997-98 budget is \$1,717,484,904; a 6.5 percent decrease from the fiscal year 1996-97 revised budget.

Motion

Upon a motion by Commissioner Butler, seconded by Commissioner Freeman, and carried with County Chairman Chapin and Commissioners Freeman, Staley, Johnson, Hoenstine, and Butler voting AYE by voice vote; Commissioner Edwards voting NO by voice vote; the Board adopted the Budget Resolution.

(Resolution 97-M-43 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 7 p.m.

ATTEST:

Martha O. Haynie
County Comptroller as Clerk

County Chairman

Deputy Clerk

Senior Minutes Coordinator

