

MEETING OPENED

The Board of County Commissioners met in Commission Chambers on the First Floor, Orange County Administration Center, on Wednesday, July 21, 1999. The following were present:

- County Chairman Mel Martinez
- Commissioners Bob Sindler, Mary Johnson, Clarence Hoenstine, and Ted Edwards
- County Administrator Ajit Lalchandani
- County Attorney Tom Wilkes
- Chief Deputy Comptroller as Clerk Jim Moyer
- Assistant Deputy Clerk Jeanene Wells

Commissioners Bob Freeman and Homer Hartage joined the meeting where indicated.

There being a quorum, the County Chairman called the meeting to order at 9 a.m.

INTRODUCTION/PRESENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDED BUDGET

County Chairman Martinez announced that this is the first budget worksession for the fiscal years 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 budgets and highlighted the public budget address that he gave on July 7, 1999.

Staff Report

County Administrator Ajit Lalchandani stated that the purpose of the worksessions is to finalize the County's spending plan and tentative millage rates. Mr. Lalchandani reviewed the budget timeline and reported that the budget philosophy is to cut taxes and spending, contain costs, increase efficiency, and increase infrastructure and public safety spending. He also overviewed the operating guidelines and worksession schedule and noted that the public hearings to consider final adoption of the millage rates will be held on September 8 and 23, 1999.

CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Staff Report

Director of Public Safety Tom Hurlburt stated that the budget request for the Corrections Department is primarily driven by jail overcrowding. Mr. Hurlburt further stated that additional budget factors include a change in jail security philosophy and the department's minimal success in reducing the inmate population through moving inmates to other jurisdictions, getting more inmates into jail programs, and in working with County judges to sentence more prisoners to the State penitentiary. He noted that the department will be returning to the Board to discuss suggestions to reduce jail overcrowding, mental health issues, and expansion of the jail facilities.

Commissioner Hartage joined the meeting.

Corrections Department Chief Fiscal Officer Chris Crane overviewed

the operating budget and the proposed increases over the next two years. Mr. Crane reported on the department's recent reorganization and historical and projected staff-to-inmate population figures. He explained that the overall County population growth, the Truth-in-Sentencing Act, changes in sentencing guidelines, additional law enforcement officers, and law enforcement initiatives are all contributing to the rise in inmate population.

Mr. Crane reported on the consequences of jail overcrowding, inmate supervision ratios, and the department's general fund budget by category. He noted that the budget request includes funding for 185 new positions over two years and explained that staffing a new post requires five new positions. Mr. Crane also reviewed the historic and anticipated average cost per day to house an inmate.

Corrections Operations and Support Division Manager Don Bjoring reviewed the identified capital improvement projects planned through fiscal year 2005 and those included in the proposed two-year budget. Mr. Bjoring noted that construction of the parking garage included in this budget proposal is under reconsideration and that the department will be returning to the Board with alternative suggestions to cost and construction.

Discussion

The Board discussed increased inmate population, the need to have historical data regarding inmate population by offender type, staff training requirements, and whether there are statistics of crimes reported by type available. The Board also discussed staffing new posts, perimeter security, utilizing jails in other counties to help reduce inmate population, monitoring air quality within the jail, and whether the average cost of maintaining an inmate includes medical care.

The Board further discussed Osceola County's concerns about jail overcrowding even with a new facility and the possible benefit of relocating the jail facilities to allow more effective utilization of the prime property at the current location. The Board also discussed the cost of the proposed parking garage and the possibility of operating jail programs at off-peak parking times to more effectively utilize the existing parking area.

Commissioner Freeman joined the meeting.

FIRE/RESCUE DEPARTMENT

Staff Report

Fire Rescue Department Director Mike Iacona stated that the department's proposed budget addresses public safety needs, response times, service delivery, and employee safety. Mr. Iacona highlighted the budget and reported that it is within the recommended guidelines and that it allows for a millage reduction. He overviewed the proposed new emergency response equipment purchases, new stations, and proposed land acquisitions for future stations.

Mr. Iacona explained that the computer-aided dispatch system will be completed within the next two years. He noted that the budget allows for the establishment of a MedComm position, the purchase of a reverse 911 system, enhancement of the Station Alerting System, and creation of a recruitment scholarship program. Mr. Iacona also reported on proposed salary increases, municipal contracts for fire/rescue protection, and new personnel requirements.

Discussion

The Board discussed proposed capital construction, converting temporary stations to permanent ones, municipal fire/rescue protection contracts, and alternatives to the proposed scholarship program. The Board also discussed average response times; permanent fire station construction costs; the Children's Safety Village; the EMS False Alarm Ordinance; land acquisitions; and joint training and operational facilities and emergency response call monitoring reciprocity with the City of Apopka.

CONVENTION CENTER

Staff Report

Convention Center Business Manager Jan Addison stated that the mission of the Convention Center is economic development and that staff's mission is to provide outstanding service to clients and users. Ms. Addison reviewed the center's organizational design and primary budget guidelines. She explained that more than one-half of the requested new staffing positions are directly related to the expansion project. Ms. Addison also identified major events scheduled for fiscal year 2000-2001 and noted that 532 events have been scheduled through fiscal year 2025 and an additional 74 events have been scheduled for Phase V.

Convention Center Executive Director Tom Ackert reviewed capital improvement projects underway. Mr. Ackert also reported on the initiatives that the Chicago convention center has undertaken in response to the expansion project here in Orange County. He concluded the presentation by noting the center's Inner Circle Awards recognition, partnerships with area educational institutions, processing improvement initiatives, and the savings recognized by bond restructuring.

Discussion

The Board discussed additional staffing requirements resulting from the expansion project and whether construction-related staffing positions are duplications of contracted responsibilities.

County Chairman Martinez adjourned the morning session.

MEETING RECONVENED

The Board of County Commissioners reconvened in Commission Chambers on the First Floor, Orange County Administration Center. The following were present:

- County Chairman Mel Martinez
- Commissioners Bob Freeman, Bob Sindler, Mary Johnson, Clarence

- Hoenstine, Ted Edwards, and Homer Hartage
- County Administrator Ajit Lalchandani
 - County Attorney Tom Wilkes
 - Chief Deputy Comptroller as Clerk Jim Moye
 - Assistant Deputy Clerk Jeanene Wells

CODE ENFORCEMENT

Staff Report

Deputy Growth Management and Environmental Resources Department Director Sherell Cockrell stated that the Zoning Division is proposing that a new Code Enforcement Division be established. Ms. Cockrell explained that code enforcement responsibilities are currently spread throughout different County departments and divisions and that the new division will consolidate functions and personnel resources. She reported on the goals and objectives of the proposed division and partnering ventures with entities such as other municipalities, the Sheriff's Department, the Metropolitan Bureau of Investigation, and the Orlando Police Department.

Ms. Cockrell said that the new comprehensive approach to code enforcement includes crime prevention, education, redevelopment, complaint tracking, and new technology. She also overviewed how each issue will be addressed and how it will impact the community. Ms. Cockrell concluded the presentation by reviewing the staffing requests, the operating budget, and funding resources.

Discussion

The Board discussed the need to approach older communities with care and concern, not limiting redevelopment of vacant lots to affordable housing, whether commissioners will have a list of unsafe buildings available for review, and distribution of inspectors.

AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS

Staff Report

Health and Family Services Department Director Larry Jones, reported that the budget request for the pilot After School and Summer Program will allow for expansion of the program. Mr. Jones stated that the compelling reason for continuing the program is that more than 40 percent of middle school age children have nothing to do in the hours immediately following school. He noted, however, that most students surveyed indicated that they would like the opportunity to participate in recreational or sports activities during those hours. Mr. Jones said after school and summer programs provide these students with a safe, protected environment for positive activities.

Mr. Jones reviewed the program's goals, partnership opportunities, and program highlights. He reported that the outcome of this program is decreased juvenile justice involvement, increased academic achievement, increased school attendance, and a decrease in the number of disciplinary referrals. Mr. Jones concluded the presentation by overviewing the program sites, the County's contribution, the average cost per day per child, the contribution

of each partner, and the proposed partnership locations.

Discussion

The Board discussed whether students' input is being considered regarding the types of opportunities available, the lack of programs in the Apopka area, and stretching resources to include all middle schools in this year's program. The Board also discussed the shift in responsibility from the County to the YMCA and the Boys and Girls' Club, open competition for all organizations that would like to partner with the County, and the need to maintain an academic factor in the program.

The Board further discussed cost comparisons between last year's and this year's partnership program and requesting that the Citizen's Commission for Children monitor the program to help guide the Board in the future.

MEDICAL BENEFITS

Staff Report

Human Resources Division and Office of Labor Law Manager Ricardo Daye reported that the cost of health care is expected to continue rising. Mr. Daye stated that the County has taken precautions over the last four years to minimize the impact of higher costs. He reviewed the health care program's history, the current contract and its status, and industry trends. Mr. Daye concluded the presentation by overviewing the projected costs and funding strategy for the County.

Discussion

The Board discussed the funding difficulties experienced by the County during fiscal year 1995-1996, the rate stabilization fund, comparison of rates with the private sector, and the County's employee retirement contribution.

UTILITIES DEPARTMENT

Staff Report

Utilities Department Director Mike Chandler reviewed the department's mission statement and organizational design. Mr. Chandler overviewed the growth of water and wastewater systems and the mandatory refuse program and the overall decrease in staffing for the last three years. He noted that no additional positions are requested for the next two years. Mr. Chandler summarized the five-year capital improvement programs for the water and wastewater systems and the solid waste system. He also explained the annual indirect cost allocation and annual interfund transfer payments to the general fund.

Mr. Chandler also reviewed the history of the mandatory refuse program rate. He noted the annual cost per household, the annual payment received by the hauler per household, and explained that the rate is set by agreement, it can be adjusted under certain conditions, and that it is adjusted by a methodology. Mr. Chandler said that the adjusted rate of \$160.49 set by the Board on July 13, 1999, for the Notice of Proposed Taxes represents approximately a

\$1 million increase in taxes. He highlighted the profit percentages realized by the haulers last year and stated that staff recommends maintaining the current rate of \$154.02.

Discussion

The Board discussed auditing annual hauler financial reports, the varying rates of return, bidding contract versus contract by agreement, and the need for the Board to take action regarding the rate adjustment.

Appearances

The following person addressed the Board:

- Ray Rivera, general manager with DisposAll, Inc., and Sure Sanitation (no address given.)

Action

Upon a motion by County Chairman Martinez, seconded by Commissioner Sindler, and carried with County Chairman Martinez, and Commissioners Freeman, Sindler, Johnson, Edwards, and Hartage voting AYE by voice vote; Commissioner Hoenstine voting NO by voice vote; the Board adjusted the Mandatory Refuse Collection Program MSTU rate of \$160.49 set on July 13, 1999, to \$154.02 for the 2000 Notice of Proposed Taxes; and further, directed staff to return to the Board with recommendations for utilizing the bid process when the current hauler agreements expire and conducting audits of the annual reports.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Interim Parks and Recreation Department Manager Vanetta Valdengo-Blevins overviewed the capital improvement budget and identified the three components as park improvements, land acquisitions and partnerships, and park specific projects. Ms. Valdengo-Blevins also highlighted specific projects for each of the three components and noted that during the fiscal year 2000-2001 the Parks and Recreation Department will develop 250 acres of active park land.

Discussion

The Board discussed the location of the Apopka Station, the need to maintain similar types of activities together to protect children, and the need for community meetings prior to development of the Econ Soccer Complex and Arcadia Acres. The Board also discussed coordinating Big Sand Lake Park through expansion of the retention pond, the controversy surrounding the road realignment project near the proposed Silver Star Park, incorporating practice golf courses into parks, and the Long Branch Park soccer field fund dedication.

The Board further discussed the ongoing use of park residences, the deficiency in park space in south east Orange County, funding for Cheney Heights Park, and the timetable for continuing the Little Econ Trail to join with Caddy Way Trail. The Board also discussed the proposed overpass for S.R. 441 in Apopka, the Kelly Park Educational Center, the need for a sports based park in the Ponkan Road area, and the possibility of partnering with Apopka High

School for a community pool.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the County Chairman adjourned the meeting at 5:20 p.m.

ATTEST:

Martha O. Haynie
County Comptroller as Clerk County Chairman

Deputy Clerk

Minutes Coordinator