

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.
County Administration Building
Jack Durrance Auditorium
12 Southeast First Street
Gainesville, Florida

The Alachua County Commission met in special session.

PRESENT: Chair Hutch Hutchinson, Vice Chair Ken Cornell; Commissioners Chuck Chestnut, Mike Byerly, and Lee Pinkoson

ALSO PRESENT: County Manager Lee Niblock, Assistant County Manager Jim Harriot, County Attorney Michele Lieberman, Clerk of Court J.K. Irby, and Deputy Clerk Steve Donahey

The meeting was televised live on Cox Cable Channel 12.

Call to Order (10:00AM)

Adoption of Agenda

Commissioner Pinkoson moved adoption of the agenda as amended. The motion carried 5-0.

Items for Possible Discussion

Fiscal Update

1. FY17 Budget Development Meeting - Outstanding Budget Issues

Amount: N/A

Recommended Action: Provide direction to staff for any adjustment to the tentative budget or proposed millage rates.

OMB Director Crosby presented the above item.

Overview of Outstanding Budget Issues

Mr. Crosby advised the Board that on July 12, 2016 the Board will set the tentative millage rates. He stated that the last budget meeting schedule before then is June 23, 2016. Should the Board need additional time before the July 12, 2016 meeting

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

they will need to give direction to staff to schedule an additional meeting. Mr. Crosby further advised that the Property Appraiser is expecting a 4% increase in property values.

Commissioner Cornell inquired regarding the scheduling of the Tower Road discussion and expressed that he would like the meeting sooner rather than later.

Deputy County Manager Jim Harriott stated that a date has not been set for the Tower Road discussion he anticipated late July or early August.

By consensus the Board directed that the Tower Road discussion be scheduled for the first meeting in July or an Informal Policy Meeting.

OMB Director Crosby stated that Commissioner Pinkoson had a request for information regarding percentage change of property taxes that the Board of County Commissioners is responsible for on the citizens' tax bill. He stated that staff was not sure what the request was trying to obtain and would like clarification.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated that what he is looking for is that there is a component that is based on the increase in property values and then there is a component that is based on growth and new construction. He is looking for a breakout of what is new construction and what is increase in value.

RTS Sunday & Holiday Service

OMB Director Crosby advised the Board that adding the Holiday and Sunday Service to RTS will require a supermajority of the Board. The original motion to add the Service only received three votes which are not sufficient to approve the funding during the budget process which is something the Board needs to be aware of.

Commissioner Byerly moved to add Sunday and Holiday Service for RTS to the Budget for the MSTU Unincorporated. The motion carried 5-0.

Station #19 and Rescue #9

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

County Manager Niblock stated that Station #9 is his highest priority and recommendation and Station #19 is his highest priority for the MSTU Fire. He stated that pursuing a rescue station and two fire stations in this budget year. He would not recommend funding Station #19 at this time.

Commissioner Pinkoson, stated that there is a suggestion to add another day time ambulance. He stated that the County recently added three units and he would like to allow that to play out for a while prior to adding an additional unit.

Commissioner Cornell stated that he thinks the new unit is being driven by the new North Florida Regional Emergency Room off of Parker Road. He would like to hear the details of when they plan to open the new Emergency Room prior to making a decision.

OMB Director Crosby advised the Board that it takes 3 to 5 months to obtain the vehicle. So there is some lead time needed in order to have the unit ready to operate.

County Manager Niblock stated that he believes there will be the upfront cost of obtaining the vehicle. After that initial expense he believes the revenue will cover the operating cost.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated that is overall goal is to achieve more of an overall millage rate reduction in the budget year. He stated that the County is experiencing increased revenue due to increasing property values and new development.

Commissioner Byerly stated that the millage rate is not the matter the Board should focus on. It is the overall taxes brought in that the Board should focus on. He believes the millage rate is irrelevant and the focus should be on the taxes that the citizen pays.

Commissioner Pinkoson stated that the new growth is adding additional revenue for the County which he feels should help reduce some of the burden of the existing tax base.

E911County Radio System Failure

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Chair Hutchinson stated that he received a call from the Sheriff stating that there have been a couple of failures of the County radio system and that she feels that the System is no longer safe and needs to be addressed.

Alachua County Chief Northcutt stated that there is not a final estimate of the cost to replace the system. He stated that the cost will be split between the City of Gainesville and the County. He stated the County's portion of the expense is estimated to be about \$5,000,000.00.

Solar Panel Project

Commissioner Byerly inquired if the Solar Panels in the parking lot for the Josiah T. Walls building are in the budget and funded.

OMB Director Crosby stated that the project is in the budget and funded. He advised that staff is working on the final details for the project.

Commissioner Byerly requested that if the Board gave direction on the cogon grass presentation that the matter is brought up at the next budget meeting.

By consensus the Board directed that staff schedule the items listed that say pending future policy discussions be scheduled for next week.

Millage Chart

OMB Director Crosby reviewed the millage rate chart to reflect the current changes made by the Board.

2. FY17 Budget Development Meeting - Public Administrative Services Workgroup

Amount: N/A

Recommended Action: Provide direction to staff for any adjustment to the tentative budget or proposed millage rates.

Assistant County Manager Gina Peebles presented comments.

UF IFAS Extension Center

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Dr. Cindy Sanders presented the above item.

Dr. Sanders stated that the requested budget enhancement is for a part time FTE for a 4H Club Coordinator. She advised the Board that the demand for school enrichment with the 4H Club is very high.

Commissioner Cornell moved approval of the 4H staff enhancement. The motion carried 5-0.

Parks and Recreation

Parks Superintendent Vernest LeGree presented the above item.

Parks Superintendent LeGree stated that one enhancement is a Work Management Software Program which will allow staff to track work being done and address the needs of the Park System. The second enhancement requested is to bring the sports field maintenance in house which will require 2 FTEs. There will also need to be a purchase of \$50,000.00 in equipment.

Commissioner Pinkoson, Commissioner Cornell, and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

Land Conservation Support Building

Land Conservation Manager Ramesh Buch stated that staff is recommending that the County purchase a parcel and construct a building to house the equipment used to maintain the County's conservation lands and some condition space for staff to work in.

County Manager Niblock stated that ideally he would like to make use of the abandoned RTS facility which the County owns. However, with no immediate resolution to the RTS property staff is recommending to proceed with the purchase of a parcel and construction of a facility.

Commissioner Pinkoson, Assistant County Attorney Harlan, County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Byerly, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

Commissioner Cornell moved the staff recommendation for CAS17005.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Hutchinson, Commissioner Chestnut, and County Manager Niblock presented comments.

The motion carried 5-0.

Chair Hutchinson exited at 11:41 a.m.

Tourist Development

Tourist Development Director John Pricher presented the above item.

TDC Director Pricher stated that the three enhancements being sought in the budget are 1 FTE for the Grant Program, 1 FTE for a Fairgrounds Manager, and renovations of the first floor of the County Administration Building for the new TDC Office.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved staff recommended action for the 1 FTE for Grant Program, 1 FTE for a Fairgrounds Manager, and renovation of the Communications Office to serve as the new Tourist Development Office.

Commissioner Byerly, County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Niblock, and Commissioner Chestnut presented comments.

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Cornell voting “Nay” and Commissioner Hutchinson out.

By consensus the Board directed that the County Manager to review the numbers for the renovation of the first floor of the County Administration Building and return to the Board with an update.

ADDED ITEM:

Utility Reinvestment Program

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Strategic Initiatives Manager Sean McLendon presented the above item.

Strategic Initiatives Manager Sean McLendon stated that

Commissioner Byerly and Commissioner Pinkoson presented comments.

Commissioner Byerly moved to adopt the proposed language as the revision to the Utility Reinvestment Program Administrative Procedure:

UTILITY SAVINGS REINVESTMENT PROGRAM (USRP)

Purpose: To promote sustainable government through capital investments which conserve resources and save money.

Policy: The Utility Savings Reinvestment Account will be used to fund capital projects that reduce utility consumption, and that would not otherwise be funded from other sources as a part of routine maintenance and capital replacement. It is intended to supplement, not supplant, those default capital investments that would occur in the absence of the USRP.

Procedure:

1. A list of USRP-eligible projects will be developed, prioritized, and adopted annually as part of the Master Capital Improvement Program (CIP), along with the list of USRP projects to be funded that year. USRP projects will be prioritized on the basis of their Return on Investment
2. The Sustainability Council will be the primary functional group and venue for USRP review, recommendations, and reporting.
3. Sources of funding for the USRP shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:
 - a. All utility savings from prior USRP investments, calculated annually, using staff's best estimate of the life-cycle cost difference between each USRP project and the non-USRP default
 - b. Rebate checks from utility providers and vendors
 - c. Sale of renewable energy
 - d. Sale of environmental attributes, such as renewable energy certificates or carbon offsets
4. The USRP is not intended to be the exclusive source of funding for capital investments that have utility and cost savings.
5. Any USRP funds not expended at the end of each fiscal year shall return to the account the following year.

Commissioner Pinkoson and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

The motion carried 4-0 with Commissioner Hutchinson out.

Commissioner Byerly, Deputy County Manager Harriot, and Commissioner Cornell presented comments.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

Commissioner Byerly moved to direct that the County Manager is to have a review conducted of the Utility Reinvestment Program to determine the level of funding that should have been in the fund this year had the policy been applied correctly within 60 days.

Commissioner Pinkoson, County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Cornell, , Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Chestnut , County Manager Niblock, and Commissioner Byerly, OMB Director Crosby , and Facilities Director Jackson, County Manager Niblock, and Commissioner Byerly presented comments.

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Pinkoson voting “Nay” and Commissioner Hutchinson out.

Commissioner Pinkoson moved to reconsider the proposed language as the revision to the Utility Reinvestment Program Administrative Procedure motion. The motion carried 4-0.

Commissioner Byerly moved to adopt the proposed language as the revision to the Utility Reinvestment Program Administrative Procedure:

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5. Any USRP funds not expended at the end of each fiscal year shall return to the account the following year.

The motion carried 3-1 with Commissioner Pinkoson voting "Nay".

Commissioner Byerly inquired what is in the budget for the Utility Reinvestment Program this year.

OMB Director Crosby stated that there have been no projects scheduled for this year. He stated that his Office did not agree with the numbers presented today. His office has a much smaller savings and until the reconciliation takes place projects will not be scheduled. Mr. Crosby stated that he projects for this current year are electric motor replacement at the Wilson Annex and transfer stations of \$150,000.00, Solar at the facilities building at \$40,000.00, water conservation zero tech treat at \$35,000.00, jail electric motor replacement at \$50,000.00, design energy efficient HVAC Replacement at the I Pod at the Jail at \$30,000.00, electric motor replacement Sheriff department and Health Department at \$126,000.00 on page 166 and 167

Facilities Director Jackson stated that the motor replacement at the Sheriff Office is completed at about \$20,000.00. The Health Department has another motor replacement project at \$56,000.00 but the department is waiting on Clarification of the 210 Fund to pay for the project.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

By consensus the Board directed that the Quartile Analysis provided by Chief Northcutt be provided as a hard copy as part of the budget backup when the Fire Assessment Matter is considered.

Facilities Director Charlie Jackson presented the above item.

By consensus the Board directed that staff provide a summary of the projects in the current fiscal year that were budgeted for and the status of those projects. Also an accounting of the money that will should be in the fund after those projects are done. Provide what is proposed to be done with the money for next year's budget at the next budget meeting.

OMB Director Crosby and Facilities Director Charlie Jackson presented comments.

ADDED ITEM:

Expenditure of the Unanticipated 1% Growth in Property Value

Commissioner Cornell, County Manager Niblock, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Chestnut, County Manager Niblock , and Commissioner Pinkoson presented comments.

By consensus the Board directed the Office of Management and Budget to provide a chart that demonstrates how much tax revenue would be generated at 8.9, 8.91, and 8.92 mills. Also show what that would mean to a taxpayer on their property.

OMB Director Crosby, Commissioner Byerly, Commissioner Cornell, Commissioner Pinkoson

Public Comments

Vice Chair Cornell recognized Mable Blake who presented comments to the Board.

Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

OMB Director Crosby presented the Master Proposal Sheet which shows the status of proposals and it has been updated with today's changes. The changes total approximately is about 7.2 million in all funds budget wide.

There being no further business before the Board the meeting was adjourned at 1:19 P.M.