

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SARASOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
1660 RINGLING BOULEVARD
THINK TANK, THIRD FLOOR
SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

9:00 a.m.

David R. Mills, Chair, District 2
Nora Patterson, Vice Chair, District 4
Paul H. Mercier, District 1
Shannon Staub, District 3
Jon Thaxton, District 5

Also present were:

James Ley, County Administrator
David Bullock, Deputy County Administrator
Susan Scott, Deputy County Administrator
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney
Paula Clintsman, Deputy Clerk
Spring Dickson, Deputy Clerk
Claudia Goodson, Deputy Clerk
Latressa Preston, Deputy Clerk

BUDGET WORKSHOP

14. OTHER BUSINESS

A. BCC/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

Following opening comments regarding the Budget Workshop schedule, Chief Financial Planning Officer Gail Miller introduced Musa Bello from Nigeria, Africa, who commented on the Budget process.

County Administrator James Ley commented on proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 - FY 2011 Financial Plan Building Blocks. Discussions were held with County Administrator Ley, Deputy County Administrator David Bullock, and Ms. Miller on the following topics/issues:

- implementation of Board initiatives
- increased cost of service
- Financial Reserves Policy
- continuity of community building efforts
- review/options/list of available reserves/funds to reduce the millage/increase in services/Administration Building maintenance issues (elevators)/SCAT (Sarasota County Area Transit) Budget/current versus FY 2007 operating and reserve funds
- request for a report on a further reduction of the .25 millage (one-half) to include total funds committed in the Community Reinvestment and the Waterfront Acquisition Funds, the total accounting for the Rails to Trails Reserve, and the total spent in the Recruitment and Retention Reserve with available specific plans, without objection;
- request for information on the location/placement of funding for the 4-H Program, without objection
- request for a discussion on the SCAT Sunday service, without objection/Fruitville Corridor Reserve/Facilities Initiative Reserve (fund from impact fees)

14. OTHER BUSINESS - Continued**A. BCC/COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR** - Continued

- continued focus on the cost of Government as a performance measure.

County Administrator Ley gave a Budget Overview/Summary for the Millage Rate Reduction, Net Operating Budget Per Capita, and Full-Time Employee (FTE) Per Capita.
(9:49:51)

1. COURTS ADMINISTRATION

Court Administrator Walt Smith presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget outlined in Chapter 3, Page 3-5. Discussions were held with Court Administrator Smith on the following topics/issues:

- financial impacts/Legislature/funding two new Judges
- request for an e-mail of the FY 2006 versus the FY 2007 Budget (million dollar difference), without objection
- the Guardian Ad Litem Program.

(9:55:05)

2. STATE ATTORNEY

State Attorney Earl Moreland commented on accomplishments of the Court system and presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget in Chapter 3, Page 3-9.

Discussions were held with State Attorney Moreland and State Attorney's Office Executive Director Barbara Dittmann on the decrease in the FY 2008 projected Budget.

Chair Mills commended Mr. Moreland and his Staff on their service to the County.
(9:58:27)

3. PUBLIC DEFENDER

Chief Assistant Public Defender Toby Hockett and Public Defender Budget Director Maryanne Conlan presented an overview of Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget in Chapter 3, Page 3-10.

- Budget decrease/computer equipment
- Article V/affects
- new Judgeship
- request for information on the Guardian Ad Litem Program/personnel, without objection.

Chair Mills commended Mr. Hockett and his Staff on their service to the County.
(10:02:04)

4. SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS

Supervisor of Elections Kathy Dent presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget outlined in Chapter 3, Page 3-7. Discussions were held with Ms. Dent and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- offset/original cost of voting equipment
- special elections/mail out of sample ballots/new procedure

4. SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS - Continued

- new information/status/update on paper ballot/trail/recommendation to retain current System
- percentage of early voters/primary election/non-partisan election
- qualifying dates/new Judgeships/races
- explanation of the reimbursement funds for the voting machines.

Chair Mills commended Ms. Dent and her Staff on their service to the County.
(10:14:55)

5. MEDICAL EXAMINER

Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Russell Vega presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget in Chapter 4, Page 4-4. Discussions were held with Dr. Vega and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- amount of Budget increase due to legal fees
- Budget increase issues/Sarasota County percentage/Sarasota Memorial Hospital
- total Budget expenditures/reimbursement factor
- status of the new Medical Examiner's facility
- contingency plan relating to disasters/bird flu/epidemics/threat to public health/available resources.

Chair Mills commended Dr. Vega and his Staff on their service to the County.
(10:26:25)

6. PROPERTY APPRAISER

Property Appraiser Jim Todora presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget outlined in Chapter 3, Page 3-6. Discussions were held with Mr. Todora on the previous year versus current year's Budget.

Chair Mills commended Mr. Todora and his Staff on their service to the County.
(10:33:29)

7. TAX COLLECTOR

Tax Collector Barbara Ford-Coates introduced Tax Collector Finance Director Joseph Garofalo and submitted a copy of revised Budget information, and gave an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget in Chapter 3, Page 3-8.

Discussions were held with Ms. Ford-Coates and Mr. Garofalo on the following topics/issues:

- intake office/efficient space
- operating Budget increases
- web page/use of the internet/percentages of increased use.

Chair Mills commended Ms. Ford-Coates and her Staff on their service to the County.
(10:39:49)

RECESS: 10:40 a.m. - 10:50 a.m.

14. OTHER BUSINESS - Continued**B. GUARDIAN AD LITEM**

Guardian Ad Litem Program Circuit Director Charles Orchowski noted funds received from the State and gave an overview of the Program. Discussions were held regarding the number of Guardians, monthly minimum hours spent on cases, the County's contribution, other jurisdictions' participation/contributions, partnership with the Child Advocacy Center, and office relocation.

Chair Mills commended Mr. Orchowski and his Staff on their service to the County.

(10:58:22)

8. COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**9. COUNTY ADMINISTRATION**

County Administrator James Ley presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Proposed Operating Budget for County Administration outlined in Chapter 4, Page 4-2, and for the Board of County Commissioners outlined in Chapter 3, Page 3-2. Discussions were held with County Administrator Ley on personnel costs.

(10:59:26)

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Environmental Services Executive Director Rob Patten, Environmental Services Solid Waste General Manager Gary Bennett, Environmental Services Program Management General Manager Roger Rasbury, Environmental Services Coastal Resources Manager Laird Wreford, Environmental Services Resource Protection Manager Amy Meese, Environmental Services Solid Waste Manager Lois Rose and Environmental Services Operations General Manager George MacFarlane presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Environmental Resource Management Core Services Proposed Operating Budget outlined in Chapter 7, Pages 7-1 through 7-11.

Discussions were held with Mr. Patten, Mr. Bennett, Ms. Meese, Mr. Rasbury, and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- energy/cost/savings plan/conservation efforts/re-evaluation/request for a report, without objection
- number of positions designated to public information/education programs
- marketing clause in Contracts/aluminum cans/process for reimbursement
- construction site/request to revisit the concept of incentives for developing "green," without objection.

Commr. Staub moved to direct Staff to revisit the issue of separating recyclable material on development sites and evaluating an incentive-based program for Developers. The motion, seconded by Commr. Mercier, carried by a 5-0 vote.

(11:14:48)

Discussion ensued on the following topics/issues:

- Reforestation Fund/penalties (illegal impacts to trees)/enforcement
- composting/yard waste/organic materials/separation process
- Jackson Road facility/future plans for the area/Transfer Station for major storm use/time frame for maintenance care
- recycled versus bio-degradable material
- referendum proceeds/use/priority setting

10. ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT - Continued

- decrease in Staff/Staff realignment/efficiencies.
- beach re-nourishment/increased funding/Budget amendment
- Fisherman's Haven Beach Improvement/fines received/source of revenue
- waterway/reimbursement time frame
- Siesta Key Beach re-nourishment/funding
- use of the State General Fund
- West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) funding options relative to built in to beach nourishment
- request for the estimated proceeds from the TDC (Tourist Development Council) over the next ten years, without objection
- key accomplishments for Natural Resources/parkland/Community Services
- key accomplishments for Solid Waste/methane gas status/establishment of a program
- "green" building certification.

Ms. Meese, Mr. Rasbury and Mr. Wreford discussed the FY 2007 Key Actions and Emerging issues, Pass Management, funding, Coastal and Inlet Management, dredging, sediment budget, WCIND funding, and parkland acquisition.

Chair Mills commended Staff on their efforts and service to the County.

RECESS: 12:01 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

14. OTHER BUSINESS**C. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES**

Following comments by County Administrator James Ley on a technical discrepancy in the adopted EAR (Evaluation and Appraisal Report), Planning and Development Services Planning Director Anne McClung commented on concerns by the Florida Department of Community Affairs (FDCA) with the EAR's income percentage for the definition of affordable housing (35 percent) and the inconsistency with the Florida Statute percentage (30 percent).

Commr. Patterson moved to send correspondence to the FDCA, signed by the Chair, advising that the income percentage for the definition of affordable housing would be revised from 35 to 30 percent and to direct Staff to include the revisions in the next EAR-based Comprehensive Plan Amendment Cycle. The motion was seconded by Commr. Thaxton. Following discussion with Ms. McClung on the FDCA's comments relative to the County's response to prior comments/objections and revisions to the existing percentage in the Florida Administrative Code, the motion carried by a 5-0 vote.

(1:34:50)

11. INTEGRATED WATER

Following an introduction of Staff members present by Environmental Services Executive Director Rob Patten, Environmental Services Water Operations Manager David Cash, Environmental Services Operations General Manager George MacFarlane, Environmental Services Utilities Water Resource General Manager Theresa Connor, and Environmental Services Program Management General Manager Roger Rasbury presented an overview of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Environmental Resource Management Core Services Proposed Operating Budget outlined in Chapter 9, Pages 9-1 through 9-34.

11. INTEGRATED WATER - Continued

Discussions were held with Mr. Cash, Mr. McFarlane, Ms. Connor, Mr. Patten, Mr. Rasbury, and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- acquisition of Siesta Key Utility Authority (SKUA)/Budget impacts/revenues
- funding of the waterline installation for the Phillippi Creek Septic System Replacement Program (PCSSRP)
- local sales tax options
- Beach Road drainage improvements/assessments for Siesta Key
- basis for PCSSRP increased costs
- suggestion to warehouse construction materials/PVC pipes/copper pipe costs
- request for a Board discussion on long term funding/water rates/comparison, without objection
- Venice Gardens Water Plant expansion/improvements/reverse osmosis/water capacity/future negotiations with Charlotte County/water reserves
- recent Sustainability Conference/request for a future Board presentation by the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) Watershed Management Bureau Chief Eric Livingston regarding low impact designs/developments relative stormwater issues and/or a broadcast on Access 19, without objection
- Wastewater Treatment facility/regional consolidation of water reclamation facilities/offline/online conversions
- stormwater conversion to a reuse system/requirements for a reuse system/barriers
- agriculture fees/increased rates/expenditures/funding for the existing infrastructure/service cost
- water quality/pollution concerns/flood control/preventions
- request that Staff develop a plan to educate the public on probable rate increases and to provide a report on cost estimates for utility rate increases, without objection
- rates per residence/smaller versus larger lots
- stormwater concerns in the eastern part of the County/impacts from developments.

Chair Mills commended Staff on their efforts and service to the County.

(2:21:30)

12. MOBILITY

Public Works Executive Director James Harriott introduced Staff members present and presented an overview of the Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 as outlined in Chapter 10, Pages 10-1 through 10-14. Public Works Road Program Manager Gary Downing presented an overview of the key accomplishments for FY 2006 relative to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Projects.

Discussions were held with Mr. Harriott, Mr. Downing, Public Works Mobility Infrastructure Road and Bridge Interim Division Manager Thai Tran, Public Works Mobility Road Design Section Manager Ha Kurz, and County Administrator James Ley on the following topics/issues:

- asphalt price increases
- status of the Webber Street Improvement Project
- cost of the Siesta Key Bridge Project/use of structure designs on other bridges

12. MOBILITY - Continued

- status of the Center Road Intersection Improvement Project
- completion dates for the Swift Road/Bee Ridge Road and the University Parkway/Longwood Run Boulevard Intersection Improvement Projects
- time frame for completion/bid process of the Pinecraft Neighborhood Project
- Casa del Sol entrance/Wal-Mart traffic concerns
- status of the Warm Mineral Springs PID (Public Improvement District) Project/assessments/fund balance
- status of the CSX Railroad Corridor, Phase 2, Project/priorities for the completion of the trail/connections/locations/asphalt versus shell surface/request for a Staff report on the total Project costs, without objection
- Bicycle Coordinator Position/future bicycle lanes on County roadways/funding options/retrofitting existing roadways/alternate routes/connections to existing bicycle trails/request for a copy of the City of Sarasota's Trail/Bicycle Lane Plan, without objection
- Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) number of positions/personnel costs/options for shared funding
- status/funding of the Bee Ridge Road Extension Improvement Project/right-of-way acquisitions/design costs
- funding for the Honore Avenue Improvement Project
- additional funding for existing CIP Projects, page 5-2 of Staff's report/priority of projects
- engineering design/study costs in relation to the commencement of projects
- location of the new Village/Developers' share of the costs for the road extension/Level of Service (LOS)/east of Bee Ridge Road.

RECESS: 3:23 p.m. - 3:32 p.m.

Mr. Harriott reviewed the Public Works Mobility Transit FY 2007 proposed Budget. Discussion ensued with Mr. Harriott, Public Works Mobility Transit Operations Manager Brenda Miller, Public Works Transportation Planning Senior Planner Sarah Blanchard, County Administrator Ley, Public Works Mobility Transit Maintenance Manager Chad Engle, Financial Planning Fiscal Planning General Manager Jeffrey Seward, and Chief Financial Planning Officer Gail Miller on the following topics/issues:

- South County transit services/City of North Port needs/costs
- number of buses/Drivers for transit routes
- cost for Sunday/evening service
- hours of operation/priority relative to public needs
- coordination efforts/partnership with the business community/shared funding
- hybrid bus purchases/delivery
- South Venice area transit routes/connections
- County safety record comparisons
- consideration for a Regional Transit System
- number Full-Time Employees (FTE) on the Staffing chart/page 2-29 of Staff's report
- number of dedicated Communications Staff.

(4:02:02)

13. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Following an introduction of Staff members present, Planning and Development Services Executive Director Rob Lewis presented an overview of the Planning and Community Development Initiatives and Core Services Proposed Operating Budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, as outlined in Chapter 12, Pages 12-1 through 12-13.

13. PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT SERVICES - Continued

Planning and Development Services Planning Director Anne McClung, Planning and Development Services Community Housing Manager Wendy Thomas, Planning and Development Services Land Development General Manager Terry Boswell, Planning and Development Services Chief Building Official Paul Radauskas, Planning and Development Services Zoning Administrator MaryBeth Humphreys, Planning and Development Services Housing and Community Development Deputy Director Daniel Schmelzinger, and Planning and Development Services Geographic Information Systems Operations Manager David Crosby gave an overview of the FY 2007 key actions and events, and emerging issues regarding planning, neighborhood services, development review and approval, permits and inspections, Zoning and Code compliance, community development, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS).

Discussions were held with Mr. Lewis, Mr. Boswell, Ms. McClung, Ms. Humphreys, Ms. Thomas, Mr. Schmelzinger, County Administrator James Ley, and Mr. Crosby on the following topics/issues:

- review process
- number of Code Enforcement Officers
- funding for the Down Payment Assistance Program
- tax credits/acreage needed to develop affordable housing/State credits
- accessibility to the GIS
- staffing/personnel needs
- request for a Staff report regarding the number of Communications positions for each Business Center, without objection
- process to "fast track" permits, affordable housing, and rezone petitions/"green" building.

Chair Mills commended Staff on their efforts and service to the County.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:28 p.m.