

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**

**SARASOTA COUNTY ADMINISTRATION CENTER
1660 RINGLING BOULEVARD
A/B CONFERENCE ROOM, SECOND FLOOR
SARASOTA, FLORIDA**

9:00 a.m.

Nora Patterson, Chair, District 4
Shannon Staub, Vice Chair, District 3
Paul H. Mercier, District 1
Joseph A. Barbetta, District 2
Jon Thaxton, District 5

Also present were:

James Ley, County Administrator
David Bullock, Deputy County Administrator
Stephen DeMarsh, County Attorney
Paula Clintsman, Deputy Clerk
Latresea Preston, Deputy Clerk

BUDGET WORKSHOP

(9:02:33)

1. FINANCIAL PLANNING

The Board considered the development of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2008 Budget.

Staff Presenters: County Administrator James Ley, Deputy County Administrator David Bullock, Chief Financial Planning Officer Jeffrey Seward, Health and Human Services Social Services General Manager Charles Taylor, Emergency Services Fire Chief Brian Gorski, Public Works Executive Director Jim Harriott, and Community Services Libraries General Manager Sarabeth Kalajian

Public Presenter: Sheriff's Office Administrative Division Major Richard Rossi

Items submitted: Copies of documents entitled "Revenue Related Policy ~~Decisions~~ Guidance from June 19, 2007," "Scale Back Services," and a copy of the proposed Budget for the Sheriff's Office

9:30:40 Board Action: Requested that the County Administrator develop two plans that facilitate a public discussion (in September and December) with the community to involve/educate/request input/financial structure regarding the Budget cuts. Requested by Staub, without objection.

9:39:42 Board Action: Requested additional information/review of the Constitutional Bill (Tax Reform Legislation) relative to the value of new construction. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

9:51:30 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson for the Tourist Development Tax allocation of the new fourth penny for one-half cent distributed to promotions with the other half cent distribution to be determined at a later date for the stadium with the possibility of redistribution to beach maintenance and/or renourishment.

9:59:20 Board Action: Requested that the words "not consider" be changed to the words "will consider" for the Levy of Municipal/Public Service Tax category on the "Revenue Related Policy ~~Decisions~~ Guidance from June 19, 2007" document. Requested by Mercier, without objection.

1. FINANCIAL PLANNING - Continued

10:00:15 Board Action: Moved to allocate half of the escheated lot funds for tax relief over the next five years. Moved by Mercier; died for lack of a second.

10:00:38 Board Action: Requested that the County Administrator provide additional information on who pays the Municipal/Public Service Tax, including how other counties utilize the Tax and their rates. Requested by Mercier and Staub, without objection.

10:15:10 Board Action: Noted consensus by Patterson to leave the funding as is for Drug Court, Teen Court, and Mental Health Court.

10:24:52 Board Action: Requested reviews of the Animal Control Services for possible outsourcing of the service (Humane Society) and of the privatization of the Jail for possible Budget cuts. Requested by Staub, without objection.

10:30:20 Board Action: Requested a review of the overtime payments for the Sheriff's Office for a possible Budget cut. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

10:34:19 Board Action: Requested that the Sheriff's Office begin the Budget cuts by a repeat of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 Budget. Requested by Thaxton and Patterson, without objection.

10:39:08 Board Action: Requested a review of the PAL (Police Athletic League) Circus for a possible Budget cut. Requested by Staub, without objection.

10:46:32 Board Action: Requested a review of areas that do not lay off Deputies. Requested by Staub, without objection.

10:48:08 Board Action: Requested a review of possible fee increases. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

RECESS: 10:50 a.m. - 11:10 a.m.

11:15:18 Board Action: Noted consensus by Patterson to reduce the EMS (Emergency Medical Services) Budget from zero to three percent with the least impact on service and to provide recommendations.

11:18:25 Board Action: Noted consensus by Patterson for no less than seven percent reduction for the Grants-In-Aid funding, keeping the SIO (Strategic Initiative and Opportunities) Fund "whole" with no new commitments, and no matching funds for the Quality Child Care Initiative (new Program).

11:45:41 Board Action: Noted consensus by Patterson for the Building/Park Facility/Amenities (County building maintenance) with no more than a seven percent reduction, including a review of energy efficient buildings.

11:58:06 Board Action: Noted consensus by Patterson for a rollback plus five percent reduction for Libraries, a review of the hours of operation and days of the week, a review of energy efficient buildings, and a review of increased fees/rates for nonresidential library cards and use of meeting space.

11:57:55 Board Action: Requested to ask the Friends of the Libraries for additional assistance where possible. Requested by Staub, without objection.

11:59:09 Board Action: Requested an informational letter be distributed to library patrons and more use of the automated check-out. Requested by Staub, without objection.

12:04:14 Board Action: Approved that the correspondence be distributed at each library identifying the Legislative Delegation, including their e-mail addresses (web site link). Moved by Mercier, seconded by Staub, carried by a 4-1 vote; Thaxton voted "No."

RECESS: 12:04 p.m. - 12:45 p.m.

1. FINANCIAL PLANNING - Continued

Staff Presenters: Public Works Mobility Transit General Manager Anthony Beckford, Community Services Parks and Recreation General Manager John McCarthy, Planning and Development Services Executive Director Rob Lewis, Planning and Development Services Planning Director Anne McClung, County Attorney Stephen DeMarsh, Environmental Services Natural Resources Resource Management Manager Belinda Perry, Emergency Services Beach/Lifeguards Aquatic Safety Manager Eugene Ayers, Emergency Services Executive Director Michael Suarez, Environmental Services Coastal Resources Manager Laird Wreford, Community Services Cooperative Extension Family and Consumer Services General Manager Carolyn Gregov, Community Services Executive Director Larry Arnold, Emergency Services Public Safety Communications General Manager Robert Stuckey, Health and Human Services Social Services General Manager Charles Taylor, and Health and Human Services Executive Director William Little

Item submitted: A document entitled "Florida House of Representatives"

12:51:30 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson, with Thaxton not present, to consider a flat Budget without rollbacks for the Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) Budget.

1:00:34 Board Action: Requested to apply fees to non-County residents at the County Gun Range. Requested by Patterson and Staub, without objection.

1:19:10 Board Action: Requested a report on a proposed reduction of funding for the Parks and Recreation Services Budget to sustain the quality of services rendered and to establish a fee schedule to be brought back to the Board during the July 2007 Budget Workshops. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

1:21:54 Board Action: Noted a majority consensus by Patterson to consider no less than a seven percent reduction for the Parks and Recreation Services Budget.

1:22:04 Board Action: Requested a report via e-mail on driving under the influence relative to the consumption of beer on County beaches. Requested by Staub, without objection.

1:41:11 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider maintaining the current Planning and Development Services Budget without entering into new contractual obligations unless otherwise directed by the Board.

1:49:59 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider maintaining the current rollback amount for the Planning and Development Services Budget relative to land use planning, excluding the Land Acquisition Program until all other reductions have been made.

1:52:06 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider maintaining the current rollback amount for the Mosquito Management Budget.

2:04:09 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider maintaining a flat budget for Health and Human Services.

2:16:12 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider no less than a seven percent reduction for the Open Space Maintenance Budget and to bring back a Level Of Service (LOS) Plan for future Board discussion.

1. FINANCIAL PLANNING – Continued

2:18:42 Board Action: Requested to contact the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) expressing concern for the condition of stormwater drainage in areas along U.S. 41. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

2:19:14 Board Action: Requested to reduce mowing on State Road (S.R.) 776 and to install signage stating "Maintained by the State." Requested by Staub, without objection.

2:28:47 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider maintaining a flat budget for the Beach and Pool Safety Budget.

2:32:01 Board Action: Requested to increase admission fees at the County pools. Requested by Patterson, without objection.

2:43:51 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider no less than a seven percent reduction for the Coastal Planning and Beach Management Budget.

2:55:29 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider a reduction between seven and nine percent for the Cooperative Extension Budget.

RECESS: 2:55 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.

3:18:12 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to consider a flat budget for the Emergency Communications Budget.

3:37:01 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to remove Item 1, Waterfront Acquisition, from the General Fund Special Reserves and to transfer funding to the General Fund, in the amount of \$2,000,000.00.

3:38:30 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to remove Item 2, Fruitville Corridor, from the General Fund Special Reserves and to transfer funding to the General Fund, in the amount of \$3,200,000.00.

3:39:12 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to decrease the current balance of Item 3, Recruitment and Retention, of the General Fund Special Reserves and to transfer funding to the General Fund, in the amount of \$1,250,000.00.

3:41:18 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to remove Item 4, Project Initiation Working Capital, from the General Fund Special Reserves and to transfer funding to the General Fund, in the amount of \$3,000,000.00.

3:44:11 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to decrease the current balance of Item 5, Planning Resources, of the General Fund Special Reserves and to transfer funding to the General Fund, in the amount of \$200,000.00.

3:45:18 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to decrease the current balance of Item 6, Facilities Rehabilitative Maintenance and Infrastructure/Acquisition Reserve, of the General Fund Special Reserves and to transfer funding to the General Fund, in the amount of \$1,000,000.00.

3:53:03 Board Action: Moved to transfer \$10,000,000.00 of the Escheated Lots Housing Fund to the General Reserve Fund in increments of \$2,000,000.00 over the next five years. Moved by Mercier, died for lack of a second.

4:01:41 Board Action: Directed the County Administrator to meet with the Supervisor of Elections to review/discuss the proposed FY 2008 Budget and to provide a report at a future Board meeting. Moved by Patterson, without objection.

4:03:38 Board Action: Noted majority consensus by Patterson to direct the County Administrator to provide a report on the Municipal/Public Service Tax.

4:08:58 Board Action: Requested a report/study on the Arts Program funding relative to the Tourist Development Tax detailing how funds are utilized for the maintenance and support of tourism. Requested by Thaxton, without objection.

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(4:13:40)

2. OTHER BUSINESS - No items were presented.

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:13 p.m.

MINUTES APPROVED: _____

Chair