

**HARRIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
BUDGET WORK SESSION IV**

June 5, 2018

5:00 PM

Board Members Present: J. Harry Lange, Susan Andrews, Martha Chewning, Becky Langston, Jim Woods. Staff Present: Randy Dowling, County Manager; Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk.

Others Present: Chris Walden (Sheriff's Office), Ronnie Duke (Solid Waste), Monty Davis (911), Jimmy Carver (EMS), Robert Larson (Prison), Jennifer Webb (Magistrate Judge), Mike Jolley (Sheriff), Thomas Lakes (Probate Judge), Stacy Haralson (Clerk of Superior Court), Vickie Jamerson (Tax Commissioner), Stephen Waskey (Recreation), Cassie Bentley (Superior Court), Debra Gomez (Superior Court), Brian Williams (Community Development), Joe Weldon (Coroner), Jay Shuff (Tax Assessor), Kris Summerall (Administration), Clint Chastain (Finance Officer).

CALL TO ORDER. Chairman Lange called the meeting to order and said the purpose was to discuss the changes made thus far to the proposed FY 18/19 budget, SPLOST 2019, and compression proposal.

Summary of Changes. In response to a request from Chairman Lange, Clint Chastain, Finance Director, reviewed the changes made thus far to the proposed FY 18/19 budget to include: Community Center - reduce \$12,000 for patio furnishings; IT - eliminate \$25,000 for courthouse security camera upgrade but add \$5,000 for small equipment; Non-Departmental - eliminate \$33,000 for Valley Partnership Joint Development Authority dues; Probate Court - add \$200 to education and travel, \$700 to dues and fees, and \$3,050 to travel expenses; Public Works - add \$40,000 for a tractor/mower; Recreation - eliminate \$16,000 for portable mounds in small equipment, but add \$16,000 for backstop fencing repairs at Moultrie Park; and SPLOST 2019 - add \$600,100 for first year proceeds.

Community Center Fitness Center. Chairman Lange asked Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, about the fitness equipment, for which \$16,000 was requested. Mr. Waskey said that several pieces of equipment are damaged and need repair, and that he would like to purchase at least \$8,000 worth of equipment. There were no objections to reducing the \$16,000 for fitness equipment to \$8,000.

Community Center Patio Furniture. Chairman Lange asked Stephen Waskey, Recreation Director, about the commercial patio furniture, for which \$12,000 was requested but had been deleted by the Board. Mr. Waskey said that providing furniture for the patio will enable the area to be more usable and rentable for various functions. In response to questions, he said that picnic tables are \$800 each and he would like to purchase at least two tables for a total of \$1,600. Consensus was to add \$1,600 back to the commercial patio furniture line.

Solid Waste. Ronnie Duke, Solid Waste Director, appeared before the Board to request funding be added to the proposed budget for the replacement of the scales at the Scale House/Transfer Station; that the scales have been out of order for a while and are in constant need of repair, and that new scales will cost about \$54,000. He also asked about reclassifying his Sanitation Equipment Operator (aka Truck Driver) to the same grade as that of a Light Equipment Operator. Consensus was to add funding for the new scales at \$54,000.

SPLOST 2019. Randy Dowling, County Manager, said that during the Regular meeting, the Board will take action on a proposal to move forward with purchasing two ambulances, which are included in the first year of the new SPLOST that begins April 2019, to borrow the funds from General Fund or Solid Waste, and to reimburse the funds to the source once the SPLOST funds come in.

Compression Proposal. Discussion took place regarding the compression proposal, particularly the .25% per year for a max of 20 years, the cost of which would result in an increase of approximately \$300,000 to the proposed budget. Discussion included that the Board recognizes that something needs to be done to address the compression issue, but how to do it and where to find the funding remains to be determined, and funding could come from the General Fund, Solid Waste Fund, or an increase to the millage rate. There was no consensus other than that compression adjustments cannot be included in the proposed budget; that more discussion is needed to resolve the issue sooner than later; and should the Board decide to resolve the issue the budget could be amended at that time.

ADJOURNMENT