

On this 3rd day of August 2011 the Fannin County Commissioners Court met in a Special Meeting after public notice was posted on the 29th day of July 2011 at 11:17 a.m. with the following members being present:

Creta L. Carter II	County Judge
Gary Whitlock	Commissioner, Precinct 1
Stan Barker	Commissioner, Precinct 2
Dewayne Strickland	Commissioner, Precinct 3
Joe Strong	Commissioner, Precinct 4

The following business was transacted to-wit:

CALL TO ORDER

Judge Creta Carter II called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ITEM 2. ESTABLISH A QUORUM

Judge Carter stated all are present.

ITEM 3. Discussion regarding 2011/2012 Fiscal Year Budget

Judge Carter stated he met with Auditor, Scott Dyer several times, the Budget has been balanced; the Budget being \$9,679,209.41 with a 1.56% increase over last year's Budget; all 12 items previously discussed are included;

1. \$44,000 allocated to the Sheriff's Office for cars and computers;
2. \$6,000 for the County Clerk's office Voter Registration;
3. \$2,200 for the District Clerk for two new computers;
4. \$550 for Health Inspector's Measuring Wheel, \$150; and \$400 for Out of County Travel;
5. \$1,112 for a \$552 phone line for Tax Assessor/Collector's Office in Leonard and \$560 for a copier at the Bonham location;
6. \$500 to County Court at Law for a \$300 document shredder and \$200 for a refrigerator for jurors;
7. \$472.25 for a grant to Meals on Wheels;
8. 3% additional increase for Dustin Morrow for a total of \$942.25;
9. 3% additional increase for Rita Watts for a total of \$892.00;
10. 3% additional increase for Diane Wilson for a total of \$1,023.06;
11. \$2,250 total for the Criminal District Attorney's Office for \$1,250.00 of equipment, \$500 for postage and \$500 for Office Supplies; and
12. \$1,500 for additional Travel Allowance.

Judge Carter stated they were able to add one more item;

13. 3% additional increase for April Gibbs for a total of \$892.00.

Judge Carter stated he recommends the 13 items presented.

Mr. Dyer stated the budget includes an overall 3% increase for all employees. Judge Carter stated the budget also includes a 6% increase for Sheriff's deputies.

Tax Rate

Commissioner Strickland stated the numbers from the Appraisal District are lower than expected.

Judge Carter stated the County would be lowering the tax rate this year to .6081, last year's being .6110; the General Fund and Road and Bridge will stay the same, while lowering the interest on the Sinking Fund/Interest on Debt from .0138 to .0109.

Judge Carter stated taxes have been too high; my goal is to either lower the tax rate each year or at least not increase it; with a target rate of 60¢. Judge Carter stated an ideal rate would be .50¢ but that would require additional industry; a high tax rate making it difficult to attract new business when the tax rate is too high.

Commissioner Barker stated concern over reducing the Sinking Fund, stating if reduction continues eventually there will be problems with the Roll-back rate.

Commissioner Strickland stated concern about not being able to provide needed services if the tax rate does not maintain its current rate or increase since the cost of goods has continued to increase.

Sheriff's Department [15:08]

Judge Carter stated two cars have been purchased from a grant, the County will try to purchase one before the end of this fiscal year for jail transport; from next year's budget the County will purchase two vehicles out of the General Fund; there is a need for computers as well. Judge Carter stated an additional car will be considered based upon the status of the budget later into the fiscal year and with the anticipation there will be a reduction in accidents.

Sheriff Foster stated his intent to address the issue of accidents and the need to increase attendance in Safety Courses, further stating it has had a negative impact on the Maintenance budget as well.

Inmate Housing

Judge Carter stated the cost of Inmate Housing needs to be scrutinized with the intent on keeping the numbers low.

Flood Management Program

Judge Carter stated he spoke with Mary Bloodsworth and Darrel Brewer regarding the Flood Management Program, stating the program turns out to be much more involved than originally thought, no additional money had been allocated in the Budget.

Darrell Brewer, Emergency Services Coordinator stated FEMA has revised the flood plain boundaries which results in the County having to revise the flood plain coordinates; the County is required to implement a permit program for any structure to be built in compliance with the plan;

there would be an on-site inspection required before a permit can be issued; there is minimal building at this time, but with the lakes coming in, the potential for an increase in building is expected and if the County waits to implement the Flood Management Program the County will be at a disadvantage when the growth comes. Mr. Brewer stated the Plan is an unfunded mandate; the permits will help to mitigate the cost of operating the program.

Judge Carter stated Ms. Mary Bloodsworth, Health Inspector has agreed to take on the duty of inspection; the amount of the permit must also be considered, Hunt County charges \$20 but was considered inadequate by Hunt County after implementation had begun. Ms. Bloodsworth stated Hunt County had advised that more reasonable costs would be \$50 for the inspection and \$75 for the permit to cover costs.

Commissioner Barker stated public compliance will be an issue. Mr. Brewer cited reference to fines involved for non-compliance and potential litigation.

Ms. Bloodsworth stated the GIS software would be required at an approximate cost of \$1,600 in addition to FEMA software requirements as well.

Commissioner Barker asked if an Appeals Court would be required. Mr. Brewer stated the Board would be made up of Commissioners Court.

Ambulance Service

Judge Carter stated the Ambulance Service is Line Item No. 10-540-417. Judge Carter stated Chief Nichols sent a letter stating the Service would need an additional \$84,070 for the next year's budget. Judge Carter stated the County could only provide \$527,000 and he would put this on the next Commissioners Court Agenda.

Chief Nichols stated the request was due to the increased cost of doing business.

9-1-1 Budget

Judge Carter stated the 9-1-1 Service on Line Item 10-409-404 budgeted for \$8,917 is obsolete.

Chief Deputy James Woods stated calls are being routed either to cities or the Sheriff's Office depending on the nature of the call. Sheriff Foster stated cell phone calls are routed based upon which tower is transmitting that call.

Commissioner Court Meetings

Judge Carter stated a decision needed to be made regarding moving the Commissioner Court meetings from every two weeks one every week; this would be addressed on the next meeting.

ITEM 2. NO ACTION WAS TAKEN.

Commissioner Barker moved to adjourn.


Motion by: Commissioner Stan Barker
Second by: Commissioner Dewayne Strickland
Vote: 5-0 Passed

Adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

The above and foregoing represents true and correct minutes of the Fannin County Commissioner's Court meeting in Special Session the 3rd day of August 2011.

(LGC 81.003)

ATTEST:



Tammy Biggar, Fannin County Clerk

