

MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONER, BUDGET WORKSHOP

- I. **CALL TO ORDER:** May 30, 2002, at 9:30 a.m., in the Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

ROLL CALL

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Warren H. Newell
Vice-Chair Carol A. Roberts
Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Commissioner Addie L. Greene
Commissioner Mary McCarty
Commissioner Karen T. Marcus
Commissioner Tony Masilotti
County Administrator Robert Weisman
County Attorney Denise Dytrych
Deputy Clerk Judith Crosbie

OVERVIEW OF FY2003 BUDGET. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Commissioner Roberts proposed the board make a 5-cent reduction in the millage rate as had been done last year.

Commissioner Aaronson said he would like to review the budget before deciding on a reduction because he would like to put away some dollars toward a rainy-day fund and to prepare for the future.

Commissioner Masilotti said that it was premature to determine the direction to take in lowering taxes before obtaining public input and going through the entire hearing process. He commented that the property appraiser's comments to the media about a possible windfall to the county were inappropriate because the commission had not yet been informed of such an issue.

County Administrator Weisman remarked that about 20 percent of the budget was generated by ad valorem taxes versus grants and other sources of income. He said staff had a detailed budget ready for approval but since this was the first workshop, staff would note the board's direction until after the July session when the financially assisted agencies was discussed then staff would work at establishing the final tax rates. He said the community revitalization fund remained at last year's \$2.5 million.

Commissioner McCarty suggested staff bring forward all proposals that would require funding so that the board could prioritize them. She said she would consider reducing the millage if the county's reserves supported a continued triple A bond rating and if county needs were met. She cautioned the board about the residents' reaction if the board should lower the tax rate and later have to increase it. She said that Commissioner Roberts's suggestion was reasonable and that she was unopposed to the residents "sharing in the good times" if it was possible.

I. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Marcus suggested the board put extra monies into a reserve fund and wait for the state's cost shifts during the year. She said instead of the board giving back a minimal amount to taxpayers, residents would appreciate the funds being used to support various programs such as citrus canker, exotic removal, and state's cost shifts, including the Medicaid program. A refund should be realistic and meaningful, she said.

I.A.

MAJOR BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS AND FACTORS. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

County Administrator Weisman reviewed the major budget assumptions. During the review, it was brought out that:

- * Although property value revisions were received late yesterday from the property appraiser, staff had projected a \$5 billion increase.
- * Major revenues were estimated to be increased by 3 percent over the current year's estimated average.
- * The county "salary policy of 4 percent cost impact" for employees would be continued.
- * Other operating costs, such as fuel, were adjusted
- * A 5 percent increase was provided to the sheriff's 2002 adjusted budget. The increase included revenues he received.
- * Other constitutional officers' estimates were used on historical amounts.
- * The county funded \$22.9 million of ad valorem taxes for capital projects, similar to last year's amount. The proposed budget also included \$1.4 million for the Recreation Assistance Program and a \$600,000 transfer to beach improvements.
- * New funding of \$2 million was provided for economic development.
- * General fund contingency was maintained at \$8 million for reserves, and as of this morning the balance-forward column showed an increase of \$1.7 million in the general fund reserves.
- * No new bond issues were anticipated for the coming year. The revenue bond for the Vista Center, South County Courthouse, and the Old Courthouse was foreseen for fiscal year 2004.
- * There was a 3 percent general increase for financially assisted agencies.
- * The sheriff's increased budget was a combination of ad valorem and general revenues.

I.A. – CONTINUED

- * Non-capital project reserves were listed in the budget document. Unspent amounts for capital projects would be carried forward to the next year. The board had not been provided with a list of the rollovers from reserves; the quarterly reports gave accounts of how the contingencies were being used, however.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Provide a listing of the reserves, with explanation, at the next budget hearing.

I.B.

ROLL-BACK CALCULATION. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Discussion revealed that:

- * The property appraiser had not yet presented the property revaluation numbers in writing.
- * The countywide revaluation/change given was \$5.03 billion.
- * New construction was anticipated at \$2.9 billion.
- * The total new value of roll-back calculation was estimated at \$87.55 billion.
- * Some numbers in the backup document were incorrect because of the new valuations.
- * The budget called for maintaining tax rate at 4.55 percent.
- * The total countywide millage rate, which included voted debt, was being reduced from 4.93 to 4.87 percent because of a reduction in bond indebtedness.
- * Staff proposed to hold the Library and Fire-Rescue departments to last year's tax rates. The Jupiter Fire-Rescue Municipal Service Taxing Unit (MSTU) was the only unit that showed an increase because of additional services. Revenues in the Glades area exceeded the expense level.
- * The countywide property tax revenue for 2002 was \$362 million. Staff had anticipated revenues of \$385 million, an increase of \$23 million for 2003, under the rate of 4.55 percent using the previous valuation.
- * The actual net increase from the property tax revenue had changed to reflect \$11 million. The budget was balanced without consideration of that \$11 million provided the sheriff's office and the Fire-Rescue Department accepted the proposed budget.

I.C.

**INCREASES AND DECREASES IN REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS.
DISCUSSED 5-30-2002**

County Administrator Weisman explained that the revenues and appropriations stated in the backup document were summaries anticipated with potential changes from the current year. He further explained that the funds were from ad valorem taxes or equivalencies. He said some information might differ from that listed elsewhere in the document because other revenues were factored in.

II. REVENUES

II.A.

**MAJOR COUNTYWIDE TAX EQUIVALENT REVENUE TRENDS. DISCUSSED
5-30-2002**

During the discussion it was brought out that:

- * The tax equivalent revenues did not clearly show how successful the county would be and the impact on the budget.
- * These revenues brought the greatest fear of state diversion since the September 11, 2001, disaster.
- * Staff anticipated an increase in state-shared revenue in the next budget year although the actual estimate showed a reduction for the current year.
- * State-shared revenue now comes from the sales tax but previously came the intangible tax. The formula was different from that of the half-cent sales tax that comes back directly to the county, however. The Florida Department of Revenue advised of a shortfall this year in that category.
- * Staff took a more optimistic approach to the 2003 budget so as not to underestimate revenues.
- * The estimates were based on the Florida State Estimating Conference's most current estimations. In addition, numbers stated in the budget column were subject to a 5 percent statutory reserve.
- * A reduction was expected on electric/natural gas revenue. Florida Power & Light Company claimed the rate structure would be lower in the coming year.
- * A reduction in the latest gasoline tax numbers had been noticed. Staff was monitoring the trend.

II.B.

SOURCES OF FUNDS BY CATEGORY. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that the overall county budget was summarized under this heading. He said staff had been asked frequently how the total of \$2.8 billion was reached. The main parts were reflected in the capital outlay, which included pending projects that had to be budgeted before the money was being spent. These expenditures, which included road improvement programs, were done through budget transfers.

III. OPERATING BUDGET

III.A.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS' OVERVIEW. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Points brought out during this discussion were:

- * According to the Florida Statutes, constitutional officers were not required to submit their budget information for this hearing.
- * At Commissioner Greene's inquiry about the statutory requirement for the filing of constitutional officers' budgets, staff shared that the issue had been challenged unsuccessfully about two years ago by staff.
- * The filing date for the clerk, sheriff, and supervisor of elections was May 1, for the property appraiser was June 1, and for the tax collector was August. The property appraiser and tax collector submit their budgets to the Department of Revenue (DOR) with copies sent to county staff that may comment to the DOR.
- * The sheriff's, tax collector's, property appraiser's, and supervisor of elections' budget figures were estimates. Estimates were used because their amounts did not greatly affect the county's budget.
- * The clerk's budget of \$31,257,830 was her actual request.
- * The sheriff's request was about \$2.6 million over the county's estimate for his budget.
- * The tax collector's budget was figured by a formula based on taxes.
- * Staff had received the property appraiser's budget that had been reduced by about \$138,000 from the estimated amount of \$15,233,300.
- * The supervisor of elections had requested \$6.1 million instead of the \$5.3 million staff had estimated.
- * The supervisor of elections would be present at 2:00 p.m. to discuss her budget because her request included the purchase of new voting machines and cost increases in data processing and supplies.

III.B. OPERATING BUDGET COMPARISONS.

III.B.1.

COMPARISON OF GROSS BUDGET, TAX EQUIVALENT FUNDING AND POSITIONS BY DEPARTMENT. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

The ensuing discussion revealed that:

- * The backup explained departmental review of new positions, gross budgets, and ad valorem impact.
- * With certain exceptions tied to major growth areas, the departmental budgets were conservative requests.
- * Many departments, including Administration, County Attorney, and Employee Relations and Personnel, had no increases in personnel, and ad valorem equivalence was minimal.
- * Areas that showed increases were those associated with growth and required services.
- * The present Cooperative Extension Service position was 50 percent funded by Mounts Botanical Gardens and was approved by the board to match a state grant. The position was not requested for the next budget year.
- * The Environmental Resources Management (ERM) positions were misstated under the Public Outreach heading.
- * Regarding legislative affairs, the budget increase was the result of including \$60,000 for subcontract lobbying that had previously been supplemented.

Commissioner Aaronson stated that the subcontractor's fee was taken from contingencies when it was needed. He said since the service had not been used last year, money should not be budgeted. The board agreed.

- * No positions were added to the Code Enforcement Division in the Planning, Zoning and Building Department.
- * Six plan review positions were added to the budget.
- * Increased code enforcement was needed in the unincorporated areas in order to maintain property values.
- * The division anticipated hiring three additional inspectors this year.
- * Staff was expecting an increase in development next year. A staffing and efficiency audit was being done for the Code Enforcement and the Building divisions with reports to be filed later.
- * Additional positions were needed to handle the plan review backlog.
- * Commissioner Roberts expressed concern about the fate of the additional employees after the backlog was completed.

III.B.1. – CONTINUED

- * If the three code enforcement officers' positions were approved, the officers would probably serve in the west and north county; if not, an attempt to shift current staffing to the north county area would be made.
- * County Administrator Weisman noted that residents objected to "nitpicking" officers, especially in the municipalities.
- * Commissioner Aaronson suggested hiring two additional officers. Commissioner McCarty suggested hiring four additional officers for service in the north and west county.
- * Current code enforcement staffing was 28 officers with 5 assigned from Okeechobee Boulevard north to Martin County, 7 from Okeechobee Boulevard south to 10th Avenue and westward, 4 from 10th Avenue to Hypoluxo Road, and 4 from Hypoluxo Road south to Broward as well as a community support group of 4 for the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) and a special condition enforcement team of 4 officers.
- * Commissioner Greene asked if the 20 positions requested by Parks and Recreation Department were minimum-wage jobs and was answered that the positions were mainly part-time jobs.
- * Supplemental contractors to the state lobbyist were not recommended last year; therefore, monies put aside for that purpose were not spent.
- * Staff had been looking into interlocal agreements with the municipalities but the issue was complex.
- * Staff did not recommend combining the activities of Environmental Resources Management with Parks and Recreation because their goals were different.
- * The Value Adjustment Board had fine-tuned and reduced its costs of doing business.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Report back to the board on the ERM positions and lobbying issue.
- * Do an analysis as to the cost savings of combining the goals of ERM and Parks and Recreation.
- * Pursue the possibility of paying municipalities with enclaves to do code enforcement if they desire a higher level of service.
- * Look at the various philosophies to be certain costs savings were met.

(CLERK'S NOTE: See pages 9-13 and 15-19 for further discussion.)

(CLERK'S NOTE: Items III.C., III.D, and III.E, were discussed with item III.B.)

IV. See pages 19-20.

V. See pages 20-21.

VI. OTHER BUDGET ISSUES

VI.A. TIME CERTAIN - 10:30 A.M.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE REQUEST. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

Commissioner Newell commended the sheriff for the open communication expressed between the county and the sheriff's offices.

Sheriff Edward W. Bieluch and his staff said that:

- * He had amended the budget presented May 1 from \$258,258,699 to \$255,686,271. The county had recommended \$255,686,270.
- * Federal revenue sharing savings were removed from the budget this year.
- * Road patrols were not increased.
- * No new law enforcement positions were in the new budget.
- * The average annual number of inmates had declined while the annual jail booking had increased.
- * The sheriff and Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) hired a person to monitor where inmates should be housed.
- * There was a problem in qualifying people for the work release and the house arrest programs.
- * The courts now also mandate who gets qualified for those programs.
- * More emphasis should be put on hiring more road patrol at the level of service that the federal and state standards required.
- * Coverage had been doubled in the Jupiter Farms area over the past year for 24 hours at seven days a week.
- * The sheriff was looking at hiring alternatives.
- * Within the next year, the sheriff, in partnership with Florida Atlantic University, and with input from county staff, would develop phase 1 of a long-range plan to address level of service concerns.
- * Conversation between the sheriff and Commissioner Newell brought out that the sheriff's office would work more toward the diversion of the law enforcement trust fund to community policing programs in areas.
- * Commissioner Marcus may want to meet with the sheriff to discuss new programs for her area that trust fund monies could be used to support.
- * The narcotics boat was staffed with special staff members as needed.
- * The sheriff had been instrumental in the Homeless Coalition Assessment Program.

VI.A. – CONTINUED

- * The 37 municipalities also should be figured into the federal level of service for the county. The types of communities should be considered and the study should include the crime rate, where crime had been occurring and the amount of coverage for those areas. Shifts should be made to high crime areas that were not gated communities like in Jupiter Farms.
- * Before more deputies were hired, the resources should be deployed in the most effective ways possible.
- * Community policing had now become a problem-solving effort.
- * Fueling station and landing pad had been concerns in the Glades area.
- * The CJC studied the issue and reached a resolution.
- * Commissioner Newell will ask CJC Executive Director L. Diana Cunningham to copy the commission on the fueling station issue.
- * County staff should visit with the sheriff's staff that conducts onsite policing and coordinate the effort because monies for some issues were available through the community development block grant program.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Be certain the issue of housing for released inmates was being brought to the Jail Task Force.

III.B.1. – CONTINUED

(CLERK'S NOTE: For earlier discussion of item III.B.1., see pages 6-7.)

a.

PALM TRAN. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

During the presentation the following comments were made:

- * The budget priority for 2003 was to fully fund the para-transit services and improve the quality of all services.
- * Improvement had been made over the last year as shown by the decrease in the number of complaints for para-transit trips.
- * The marketing effort would also be increased.
- * The new service board had its first meeting in May 2002 and would begin to examine the fixed-route effectiveness.
- * There was a gross fixed revenue request of \$6,148,221. Previously, the board approved \$1,552,297. The net ad valorem increase for next year was for \$4,595,924. Major expense increases were broken down as \$1.7 million for additional para-transit trips, \$267,000 for new positions, and an additional \$2,486,000 in personnel services stemming from health insurance and union contracts.

III.B.1.a. – CONTINUED

- * Para-transit trips would reach about one-half million in 2003, a 17 percent increase from 2002.
- * Fixed-rate ridership declined when the 25-cent increase was instated in October 2000, but a 6 percent growth now was anticipated.
- * A slight increase was anticipated in fuel costs.
- * Palm Tran had its own pension fund.

Commissioner Masilotti stated that Palm Tran employees probably would be better served if they were informed through their bargaining agents of the Florida retirement program.

- * Staff was in the process of being able to provide about 3,000 trips a day.
- * Palm Tran had been funded by federal grant this year to do the transit development plan. This was a five-year plan and would fit within the Metropolitan Planning Organization's long-range 2025 Plan that showed the grid system expanding to the north and west county. The plan will be charted over the next year to determine what would be appropriate for services in conjunction with Tri-Rail or separately.

Commissioner Marcus said planning and budgeting should begin now so that when the system became engaged in the northern area in about four years, it would be able to meaningfully supply services.

- * There was no money to set aside for that purpose because the single biggest increase in the departmental budget was Palm Tran.
- * Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) would fully fund expansion of services for about three years, during which period, staff would evaluate the success of the program and ridership. If the program proved successful, staff would request additional funding.
- * Staff worked through several outlets and agencies to distribute Transportation Disadvantaged dollars to persons with special transportation needs.
- * Commissioner McCarty said because Palm Tran had claimed the biggest increase out of the budget, she wanted to be certain that the people using the service are those who were truly in need of using it rather than those who were trying to cut their gasoline expenditures.
- * Palm Tran's staff was doing a more in-depth investigation than it had done in the past.
- * The 24 percent increase last month represented persons who had been in the system through other programs. There were 12,000 potential clients in the system, and staff was checking to be certain those riders were qualified under the ridership program.
- * Frequent riders were concerned about the increased fare of \$2.50.

III.B.1.a. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti pointed out that the Village of Wellington was the only municipality that contributed a portion of its gasoline tax to para-transit.

Commissioner Roberts said the growth factor analysis should be done and that reverse commute should continue. The board may be asked for funding when other funds were depleted, she observed.

Commissioner Aaronson suggested that staff and the board visit municipalities in an attempt to have these entities contribute to the para-transit system as Wellington had been doing. A survey on the buses to get feedback on how much the service costs and benefits would be beneficial, he added.

Staff offered that:

- * FDOT gave a grant to update the 1998 user survey.
- * Staff can deliver the level of service the board wishes. The late-hour service had not generated the ridership expected, however.
- * The late-hour service was offered only in Routes 1, U.S. 1; Route 2, Congress Avenue; and Route 3, Military Trail. Money was not available to connect to the east and west. The public was concerned about the late-hour service being provided to limited areas.
- * If an attempt were made to do a grid system to operate Palm Tran fixed route until midnight countywide, the cost of the system would be doubled.
- * Some projects, including a north county bus service, were not a big enough impact on the county and should be budgeted during the budget year of implementation instead of set up in separate departmental reserves. The monies would better be distributed from the general fund, and the board could allocate them where needed.

b.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

During the discussion, points brought out were:

- * Staff of the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and Parks and Recreation departments work cooperatively, particularly in the oceanfront parks shoreline management program.
- * Most exotic removals were contracted out to private contractors.
- * Over \$1 million had been spent yearly in exotic removals.
- * A master plan, focusing on public access to portions of the natural areas, was being developed along the Beeline Highway and the northern part of the county.

III.B.1.b. – CONTINUED

- * No new position was requested in the land management area. A transfer of two positions from the environmental sensitive land bond account to ad valorem was being requested, however. As acquisition efforts slowed down, staff would transition positions for land acquisition and planning to the management area.
- * Management activities were now being funded by a combination of ad valorem, state grant, and stewardship fund interest.
- * The environmental technician 1 and the tree spade were not part of the outreach program.
- * The \$140,000 tree spade costs would be charged to capital projects within the bond fund.
- * The Parks department had lands considered as conservation sites, natural areas, or set-asides within its system while maintaining a considerable number of areas such as ball fields and pools, for activities.
- * The conservation status of the land remained one of the issues that prevent agencies from allowing mitigation in the parks.

Commissioner Masilotti said the county had bought 140 acres around the Acreage Community Park to preserve as a nature area and that it would be a perfect site for use as a mitigation bank instead of taxpayers paying for the removal of the exotics.

- * ERM managed maritime resources, instead of the Parks department, because of its special expertise.
- * Incentives for exotic trees removal would be coming back for board discussion in a separate format.
- * Citrus canker disease was covered in this budget and would be discussed later in this meeting.
- * The five positions requested had not been funded by grant, although artificial and natural reefs had been partially funded with grant from the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Provide a list of all the land acquired and the management proposed budget.
- * Informed the board of what the approach would be when the capital mode was shifted to management, how would staff prioritize the funds, and what the level of management would be.
- * Review the possibility of using parks land as mitigation areas and report back to the board.

RECESS

At 12:05 p.m., the chair declared a recess.

RECONVENE:

At 2:05 p.m., the board reconvened with Commissioners Aaronson, Greene, McCarty, Marcus, Masilotti, Newell, and Roberts present.

III.B.1. – CONTINUED

c.

PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Staff briefed the board that:

- * The Parks department had six persons assigned to exotic removal and native area maintenance within the park system. About 120 native areas were identified.
- * Most exotic removal occurred during park development, with private contractors doing about 80 percent of the work.
- * County personnel were being used when the procedure became more selective and a greater knowledge of native and exotic material was required.
- * Outside maintenance contracts proved to be expensive. Therefore, two new positions, which would save about \$50,000, were requested.
- * The Parks department and ERM shared resources, personnel, and equipment to do prescribed burns and cooperated effectively on dune restoration projects.

Commissioner Masilotti said the most cost-effective way to eradicate exotics countywide needed to be explored whether it was a function of the Park Department, Engineering Department, ERM, or the private sector.

- * Staff would evaluate the issue further.

(CLERK'S NOTE: For continued discussion of item III.B.1., see pages 6-7.)

VI.B. TIME CERTAIN – 2:00 P.M.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS' REQUEST. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Staff reported that:

- * The supervisor of election's budget was \$800,000 over staff's expectation, and \$600,000 over her adopted budget of 2002.
- * The differences were centralized in areas of postage, repair and maintenance of data processing equipment, material and supplies, and capital that included the proposed purchase of additional election machines.

VI.B. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Aaronson commented that when the board approved \$14.4 million for voting machines, he had thought the supervisor had figured the total cost and purchased the needed number of machines. He questioned the need for additional machines.

Supervisor of Elections Theresa LePore responded that:

- * The 200 additional machines were not for the 2002 elections but would be purchased for 2004 for anticipated growth.
- * The yearly average registration was about 52,000 to 53,000. The present estimate was one machine per 185 voters.
- * Previous law dictated the number of voters per machine. It was now left to the discretion of the supervisors.
- * Her average was one machine per 200-225 voters to alleviate lines at the polls.

Commissioner Aaronson said he was hesitant to approve the purchase during this cycle because he was not convinced the already purchased machines would work to the fullest potential in the September and November 2002 elections.

- * The board had budgeted yearly for additional punch-card machines. The new units cost \$3,500 each while the previous units were \$1,500 each.

Commissioners Aaronson, Marcus, and Masilotti suggested monies to purchase the new equipment be reserved.

County Administrator Weisman summarized the supervisor's budget and gave a detailed listing of the line item expenses as listed in the backup material.

Ms. LePore said that:

- * Postage was expected to increase as of June 1, 2002. Mailing of sample ballots was a big expenditure because ballots were sent to each voter in a general election.
- * Absentee ballots averaged about 30 cents each and would cost about \$55,000 for the November 2002 elections.
- * Some printing was done in-house in order to save money.
- * It was more cost effective to have all her employees in the same building. More public business was generated at the new office location.
- * She agreed to research the cost of testing the new voting machines.

VI.B. – CONTINUED

- * She invited the board to watch the testing of the new machines. She noted that the state required vendors to qualify with intensive hardware and software testing through independent, federally appointed testing labs, before they entered the state's own testing. She pointed out that the state made only necessary changes.
- * Currently, there were about 542 precincts and she was anticipating a total of about 700.

County Administrator Weisman told Commissioner Roberts that staff had been researching the legality of using county employees at polling stations.

Ms. LePore said that:

- * By federal and state law, voters are required to vote in precincts in which they legally reside. Her office was successful in finding voting places within the Haitian community.
- * The Creole language as well as the automatic review screen was in place for the next election.

Commissioner Newell informed Ms. LePore that each commissioner had used the new voting machine either in a testing session or in an election. He did not recall receiving an invitation to attend a testing session, however. Ms. LePore explained that demonstrations differed from pre-election testing. She invited the board to a testing session scheduled June 8, 2002, at 10:00 a.m. Commissioner Newell requested a letter from the supervisor explaining what the testing would entail.

Mr. Weisman agreed to subtract the \$700,000 proposed machine cost and federal revenue sharing savings of about \$20,000 that had not been mentioned, from the supervisor's proposed budget.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Bring back for discussion, the options of whether the \$700,000 for the machines should be reserved or the request be brought back for considered during the next budget year.

III.B.1. – CONTINUED

(CLERK'S NOTE: For earlier discussion of item III.B.1., see pages 6-7 and 9-13.)

d. PUBLIC SAFETY

(1) ANIMAL CARE. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that staff had not included in the budget \$200,000 for the design of a new kennel, as Commissioner McCarty had suggested. He said staff had been waiting until the efficiency study was completed in December 2002.

III.B.1.d.(1) – CONTINUED

Staff explained that:

- * The study entailed looking at policies and procedures, operations, work standards and practices, kennels, and administrative functions to determine effectiveness and efficiency. The data already had been gathered. The meeting process was underway before a recommendation was made.
- * The study group would be looking at the adoption rate, but the county's adoption and redemption rates were better than national average.
- * There was discussion from the community to expand the holding period of five days for the animals.
- * If the board agreed to expand the holding period, a fourth kennel would be needed.

Commissioner Marcus called for the focus be on adoption and an increased holding period. Commissioner Newell observed that the study would indicate whether an increased holding period would benefit the adoption process.

- * Staff could ask for the study to cover the issue. The addition would be of a significant cost impact because an additional kennel would have to be staffed and additional medical care would have to be provided.
- * Two additional positions were already requested for animal care in the budget.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested staff advertise on Channel 20 about private adoption agencies working with the county. He contended that the public service announcements might be able to help in increasing the adoption level.

Commissioner McCarty suggested a Saturday morning adoption program staffed by volunteers.

- * The county volunteer coordinator had been working to recruit volunteers. Staff had been working with the Risk Management Department to allow volunteers to handle the animals.

Commissioner McCarty recommended that the county contribute to the private agencies instead of having everything centralized.

Commissioner Newell suggested the issue be discussed at a workshop.

- * Staff had been asked to identify the cost of having those agencies provide some in-kind services.

Commissioner Marcus suggested the private sector be included in an effort to decentralize the adoption process in order to encourage people to participate in the process. She said an aggressive adoption program should be set up and advertised for various county locations on a frequent basis using Animal Care and Control employees. The adoption rate would increase dramatically, she said.

III.B.1.d.(1) – CONTINUED

Commissioner Aaronson contended that people were more comfortable adopting animals from private agencies. He agreed that the issue should be discussed at a workshop.

- * The budget allowed for two positions and staff would come back with answers to the board's inquiries at the July budget workshop.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Schedule a workshop to discuss Animal Care and Control issues.

III.B.2. NON-DEPARTMENTAL.

a.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

During the discussion the following points were brought out:

- * The gross amounts listed in the budget were non ad valorem and included grants or other types of funding. The gross increases were carried forward as unexpended funding from last year.
- * Job growth money was still available.

Commissioner Masilotti commented that Economic Development Coordination Department showed an ad valorem equivalent of 10.8 percent increase while 30 percent of unspent fund was being carried forward. He asked staff to review the issue to determine spent and unspent amounts and identify how those monies were acquired. He said that he would not support giving an increase if last year's allocated funds had not been spent.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Provide a breakdown of the balances.

b.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Staff brought forward the following points during discussion:

- * The unexpended fund carried forward was an increase in grant revenue. An additional federal grant was awarded, but the county contribution had not been increased.
- * The \$500,000 increase was a combination of grant and other monies carried forward from the current year.
- * Those monies were not posted in the general fund. Some departments were aware of money that would not have been spent and listed it in the carry-forward account, then rebudgeted it for the following year.

III.B.2.b. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Newell said the commission should be made aware of those monies for possible expenditure elsewhere.

- * The funds were federal money. Funds chiefly were carried forward because department heads had already entered into contracts and had not used the full contract amount in one year, staff explained.

c.

HOUSING FINANCE AUTHORITY. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that:

- * The gross amount listed in the backup was the salary for the director and a secretary, both of whom were county employees.
- * The salaries were reimbursed by the Housing Finance Authority, and there was no ad valorem impact.
- * The county administrator had the power to fire the director if the Housing Financing Authority decided it no longer require the services of that individual.

d.

LIBRARY. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Staff informed the board that:

- * A master plan of the Library's proposals would be brought to the board within 60 days for a workshop. The Library's capital plan through 2010 would require a funding commitment that could include going to the public for some type of financing as soon as the coming year.
- * The eight additional employees requested were for the Jupiter Library expansion.
- * Those employees would begin working toward the end of the year when the expansion would be completed.

e.

FIRE-RESCUE. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

The following points were brought out during the discussion:

- * The Fire-Rescue budget proposal assumed the merger with the Town of Lake Park and
- * Staff proposed no change in the ad valorem tax rate for this budget year.
- * Staff recommended keeping the same millage rate to build reserves for expenses next year.

III.B.2. - CONTINUED

e. – CONTINUED

- * Considering the September 11, 2001, tragedy, staff would try to get federal and state matching funds to ad valorem for support and training services.

f.

JUDICIAL. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

Commissioner Marcus inquired about new Article 5 costs.

Staff stated that:

- * The budget included \$70,000 of the \$700,000 designated to Article 5. There was \$20,000 for court reporting, \$30,000 for expert witness fees, and \$30,000 for exams.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested paying for parking and lunch for volunteers so they could work toward helping to reduce the workload. He recommended that the issue be explored further.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Exclude the stated Article 5 costs from the budget.

g.

PROPERTY APPRAISER. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Staff was asked to invite the property appraiser to the next meeting to expound on his ideas of how to reduce taxes.

During a brief discussion, the following points were brought out:

- * The property appraiser salaries had increased about 20 percent in the last five years.
- * The property appraiser proposed amount was \$138,000.
- * The property appraiser should be familiar with the county's budget process before offering advice.

IV. CAPITAL BUDGET. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

Staff pointed out that:

- * The capital project summary was divided into three sections: ad valorem support, non-ad valorem capital, and enterprise activities.
- * The new capital budget did not include carryover from prior years.
- * The Animal Care and Control proposed facility was included in the budget for design.
- * More money may be requested for South Bay Head Start site work.

IV. – CONTINUED

- * Staff was planning to redevelop the citrus garden at the Mounts Botanical Gardens.
- * Street and drainage improvements were identified as general problems countywide.
- * The Environmental Resources Management Department's transfer to beach project was listed for \$600,000.
- * General facilities improvements were those that kept the buildings maintained.
- * Two floors in the courthouse remained vacant.
- * The supervisor of elections' previous office space was being renovated as additional space for the property appraiser.
- * Staff will report back with detail of the renovated office space.
- * The largest item for Information Systems Services was for \$3.8 million for the new accounting system.

Commissioner McCarty said she had discussed with staff the possibility of acquiring the B E Aerospace property for use as a business or to expand Lake Ida Park. The property was for sale, she said, and if staff had been considering a proposal, now would be the time for the board to discuss it.

- * Broadcast equipment was to give the county full television access to the Emergency Operations Center during emergency of special events.
- * At the request of Commissioner Masilotti, staff would report back on the Eagle Academy request for air conditioning.
- * Parking associated with South County Courthouse extension was envisioned to be a joint venture with a new library. There had been a difference of opinion as to the county's share. The issue may be one that could be added to the budget.
- * The Lake Ida Park rest room replacement should be designed to limit its attractiveness to unlawful activities.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Add the Parks and Recreation Department's projects to the temporary reserve list.
- * Meet with Commissioner Marcus regarding the Intracoastal Waterway signs.
- * Report back on the difference between airport dollars and federal funds.

V. **RESERVES.** DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

County Administrator Weisman said the reserves were funds that met specific requirements being held for various reasons.

V. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Roberts questioned the disparity in reserves for the Okeeheelee and Southwinds parks. Staff explained that all the revenues were added, the amounts to be spent was subtracted, and the differences were put into reserve. The amount allotted to each park was done by a ratio.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Look into the unincorporated improvement account and explain the zero balance as listed in the backup material.
- * Report back on the sheriff vehicle loan line item.
- * Report back on the Library line items.

VI. OTHER BUDGET ISSUES - None

V1.C. ADDITIONAL FUNDING – COUNTY-SPONSORED EVENTS

REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003.
DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

Staff informed the board that:

- * Four sub-agencies of the financially assisted agencies were requesting additional funding, although the board did not fund these agencies directly. The School Board Child Day Care had asked for an additional \$116,000; Mae Volen Senior Center, \$129,000; HIV Prevention, \$7,000; and the Center for Information/Crisis, \$24,000.
- * The Mae Volen Senior Center had suffered a loss on its investments.

Commissioner Masilotti commented that prior to the ad valorem tax base figures being published yesterday, the Health District's budget was short about \$400,000 to fund the school nurse program.

County Administrator Weisman told Commissioner Roberts that the child day care funds were matching funds with the School Board, but the School Board had reduced its contribution.

Commissioner Aaronson said the West Boca Medical Hospital Board was looking into the possibility of adopting a school program. He said the hospitals could participate in the Adopt a Nurse program to compensate for the nurses being cut from the school program.

Commissioner Marcus requested the four agencies' current budgets.

Commissioners Aaronson and McCarty supported the request of the Mae Volen Senior Center as a one-time contribution.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Inquire of the School Board if it would rather support for child day care or the school nurse program.

VI.C. - CONTINUED

- * Commissioner Roberts asked staff to seek an explanation to the School Board's reduction in contribution to the child daycare matching funds.
- * Bring back a comparison of funding between Mae Volen Senior Center and the cost for services to Hypoluxo north.
- * Report back on the other issues.

VI.D. OTHER REQUESTS

1. MEDICAL EXAMINER. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 5-30-2002

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that the budget had \$100,000 extra to honor a request for the medical examiner and that the South Bay Head Start program needed extra monies. He said he would bring back these and the other undetermined issues back at the July workshop.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Provide an update on the medical examiner.
- * Research the issue of South County Mental Health Center not accepting additional patients and see if the county was needed to intervene to be certain there was a south county facility.

2. CITRUS CANCKER. DISCUSSED 5-30-2002

In addressing the topic, the following discussion developed:

- * Staff said the board had requested a summary of funding options and scenarios to consider for a supplemental program for placement of trees as a result of citrus canker eradication.
- * About 4,400 trees had been removed in the county because of citrus canker. About 4,000 were identified in the Boca Raton for removal because of the 1,900-foot radius designation on infected trees.
- * An estimated 10,000 trees was considered for replacement, and \$200 would be the reimbursement for each tree by the county and state. The state would pay the first \$100, and the county would match it for the first tree. If there were two or more trees, the state would pay an additional \$55 and the county would pay the difference.
- * The cost was reasonable for up to a 25-gallon-pot size that wholesales for about \$100.
- * Some people may prefer to replace smaller trees. This would produce more trees that would provide more canopies for the community.
- * Staff recommended that the replacement process go through nurserymen and a vouchers system.
- * Since October 1995, 5,900 trees had been removed in Broward and Dade counties.

VI.D.2. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti said he spoke with the Agriculture Commissioner Charles H. Bronson and learned that money in the agriculture commissioner’s gross budget could be transferred to this type of program. He said since the experts were estimating the county’s liability to be about 4,000 trees at the cost of \$0.5 million, staff should put that amount in reserve. Staff should then contact the department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and request that the county be included in the emergency funding.

Commissioner McCarty said she supported a first-come, first-served scenario for reimbursement but staff should first go to the state for monetary support.

Commissioner Aaronson said that if the state’s \$9.1 billion citrus industry was not protected, the state would not be able to export citrus. That would have a great impact on the economy of the state and on Palm Beach County. He said the proposed \$200 reimbursement per tree might be expensive but people should be compensated for the loss of their trees. Money should be put away toward funding a program, he contended.

Commissioner Roberts said the eradication program should address not only citrus plants but exotic trees and plants as well.

Commissioner Masilotti said it was undetermined how the removal of citrus trees would affect the development pattern of the county. He said the county had received bad advice about invasive trees and that he was not willing to support the issue because the regulations were impossible for residents to follow without compensation. He contended that the county did not have the money to comply either. He again suggested \$0.5 million be set aside for the eradication program.

Commissioner Aaronson said he had requested a 90-day study on the eradication program. He said he would support \$750,000 because it was one of the initial needs for the eradication program. He shared with the board that he would be visiting the area’s senators and congress members in Washington, D.C., to discuss the citrus industry.

County Administrator Weisman suggested the board agree to fund \$100 for each tree and set aside money to make up the difference when the state offered a match. The board agreed to the \$750,000. Commissioner Roberts suggested the money be taken from the amount already designated as additional money for the supervisor of elections.

STAFF WAS DIRECTED TO:

- * Bring back the issue on a regular agenda for discussion, noting that the money was to be taken out of contingency for this year and an amount would then be discussed during the next budget year.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS AND DIRECTION - None

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The chair declared the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

ATTESTED

APPROVED

Clerk

Chair