

MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BUDGET WORKSHOP

I. CALL TO ORDER: June 4, 2003, at 9:30 a.m., in Palm Beach County Governmental Center, West Palm Beach, Florida.

MEMBERS AND OFFICERS PRESENT:

Chair Karen T. Marcus
Vice-Chair Tony Masilotti
Commissioner Burt Aaronson
Commissioner Addie L. Greene
Commissioner Jeff Koons
Commissioner Mary McCarty
Commissioner Warren H. Newell
County Administrator Robert Weisman
Financial Management and Budget Director Richard Roberts
Budget Division Director Liz Bloeser
Budget Division Assistant Director Joe Bergeron
Deputy Clerk Judith Crosbie

VIII. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS

VIII.A.

CONCERNS ABOUT FOREST HILL BOULEVARD CLOSING. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Commissioner Newell informed his colleagues that he had held telephone conversations earlier in the morning with representatives of the Florida Department of Transportation (DOT), Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority (Tri-Rail) and the contractor regarding the closing of Forest Hill Boulevard at Interstate 95 (I-95) for road improvement purposes. He said the effort to close the road was not coordinated between the agencies and the county received very little notice. He contended that Southern Boulevard already had been closed until July, Belvedere Road also was closed intermittently, and that the closing of Forest Hill Boulevard would force traffic onto 10th Avenue that already accommodates one of the highest traffic capacities in the county. The commissioner said that it was unacceptable to close three consecutive accesses to I-95 at the same time. Signage was misleading and the public was unaware of the happenings, he continued. He stressed that better coordination needs to be developed.

Commissioner Newell said Tri-Rail officials contended that they could do nothing to alleviate the problem. DOT, which controlled the permitting, was attempting to resolve the issue, however.

Commissioner Newell said an ad hoc group comprised of representatives from the City of West Palm Beach, the county and other agencies including DOT, the utilities, and Southern Bell, was formed in May with the charge to develop a program to assist in a construction projects coordination effort. Those projects included special events in the City of West Palm Beach, he added.

Commissioner Koons, a Tri-County Commuter Rail Authority Advisory Board member, said he would concentrate on scheduling issues at that level.

No backup provided.

VIII.B.

FLUORIDE WORKSHOP FOR JULY 15, 2003, RESCHEDULED. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Commissioner Marcus pointed out that the National Association of Counties (NACo) conference was scheduled for July 15, 2003, the same date as the Fluoride workshop. She suggested the fluoride discussion be rescheduled to an August 26, 2003, workshop at 2:00 p.m.

Staff was directed to:

- * Structure the workshop to accommodate the public process to be followed by the board's ultimate decision the same day.

No backup provided.

VIII.A. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Newell informed his colleagues, after a brief telephone conversation, that DOT had agreed to reopen Forest Hill Boulevard.

I. – CONTINUED

OVERVIEW OF FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that:

- * As in the prior year, a balanced budget without a tax increase was being presented. Additional funds were also available for consideration and allocation by the board.
- * The budget package gave the general outline of the financial situation and the assumptions made in balancing the budget. It showed the supplemental approved and those rejected, the capital programs and the recommendations, and concluded with 10 funding-allocation issues of which staff was aware, or commissioners had mentioned.
- * Staff estimated an eight percent increase in property value but the property appraiser reported 10 percent. The increase would generate a net of about \$7.5 million.
- * In addition to all the funding matters, the following uses were suggested:
 - An additional \$2 million to the general fund contingency, totaling \$12 million.
 - Funding for Ixora Park Drainage, Dubois Park Road, and Lake Worth Road Community Corridor capital programs.
 - The sample-ballot mailing issue.
 - Credit of over-funding of Tri-Rail operating subsidy.
- * An additional \$3.5 million remained for allocation.
- * Other issues remained that would either add or subtract from the list.

I. – CONTINUED

- * Regional Transit Authority (RTA) funding of \$4.6 million already was addressed through the general fund or ad valorem tax but the statutes allow for a portion of the gas tax to be used.

Commissioner Masilotti asked why the three capital programs were not added to the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) that had been prioritized over the years. Mr. Weisman said the list consisted of about 30 capital projects. He said an additional \$2.5 million was separately allocated for smaller projects of which two were CCRTs. Commissioner Masilotti requested a chronological listing of the projects.

Commissioner Newell said the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) would be seeking major funding to replenish losses to programs and some corrections issues regarding juveniles. He said Tri-Rail also had asked for \$4 million more for its operating budget.

Mr. Weisman stated that the county had funded the entire Tri-Rail request received this year. Commissioner Newell advised staff to plan for the increase. Mr. Weisman informed the board that staff had been maintaining a strong reserve and an increase for transportation had been expected.

Mr. Weisman reviewed the "Other Budget Issues" as listed on the agenda. Commissioner McCarty suggested the board examine the state-mandated charges because some possibly could be challenged. Mr. Weisman informed the board that the tax rate, customarily set in July, was the most critical part of the process. He said the board could give direction to change or rearrange funds as it deemed necessary through the year.

Mr. Weisman answered Commissioner Greene that the small business assistance supplementary request of \$50,000 from the Small Business Development Center was the only one made in that category. He said staff felt the non-profit program was worthwhile.

Commissioner Marcus informed Commissioner McCarty that federal dollars were designated to the West Palm Beach multi-modal project. Mr. Weisman added that zoning issues regarding the project were being addressed.

Commissioner Aaronson suggested the board establish the desired millage before the budget was discussed. Allocations could then be adjusted to match the millage, he continued. He said he supported 4.5 mills. Commissioner Marcus said she would rather examine the proposed budget before a millage rate was determined.

1.A.

MAJOR BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS AND FACTORS. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman said that:

- * The major budget assumptions used through the years were being maintained. The county's non-bargaining employees would remain at a four percent salary increase and that amount was matched for bargaining employees as well.

I.A. – CONTINUED

- * No upsets were expected with the constitutional officers' budgets. The sheriff's budget would be discussed later in the meeting. The supervisor of elections had an unexpected substantial increase that had been included in the budget and would be discussed later.
- * The county was funding the largest capital program ever, mostly in neighborhood and building improvements, including the Head Start center in West Palm Beach, and the community services center in west Lake Worth. Drainage and road projects in the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) were included and other areas where problems are identified.
- * He was proposing \$2 million be added to the contingency to allow more ready cash for emergencies.
- * Because the county had to provide funding for the Vista Center, the old courthouse and other building improvements, a bond issue of \$90 million would be proposed in October. That would add between \$4 million to \$5 million to the debt service.
- * A three percent increase over last year's funding was proposed for the financially assisted agencies. Staff had removed the one-time funding that was allotted last year.

Commissioner McCarty requested a breakdown of how an extra \$40 million in the budget was used. She said she was aware that \$7.5 million still was to be discussed and allocated by the board, however.

I.B.

ROLL BACK CALCULATIONS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman informed the board that:

Staff proposed to maintain the countywide millage rate of 4.5, library at .5403, and Fire-Rescue Municipal Taxing Unit at 3.05 mills. Although Glades Fire-Rescue remained at 1.0212, Jupiter millage was decreased to 1.7373 mills.

I.C.

INCREASES AND DECREASES IN REVENUES AND APPROPRIATIONS.
DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

During a discussion it was brought out that:

- * Property evaluation was up to \$100 billion.
- * Last year's total budget was \$2.8 billion and this year \$3.065 billion was being proposed.
- * Out of the \$3 billion budget, \$437 million was generated from property taxes.

II. REVENUES

II.A.

MAJOR COUNTYWIDE TAX EQUIVALENT REVENUE TRENDS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Staff informed the board that:

- * Some countywide revenues had gotten more confusing because of the public service telecommunication tax.
- * On July 1, 2004, there would be an actual reduction in the rate of or the amount of sales tax and the state's revenue sharing. That reduction had not been reflected in the proposed budget. The reduction will be about \$8 million for the first full fiscal year 2004-2005 but the effect would only be realized in the last quarter of the 2003-2004 fiscal year.
- * Based on current legislation, the county would lose \$8 million on an annual basis but in 2004 it only would be \$2 million.
- * There was a slight reduction from what had been anticipated in utility fees. Staff adjusted the communication tax rate in the late winter as allowed by statutes and they expected to recover the reduction when new rates take effect.
- * Staff would analyze the most current revenue data before the July workshop to capture a more realistic trend.

Commissioner Masilotti said he would rather be more conservative and plan for a 2.5 percent increase in revenue rather than the 2.9 percent shown through the first six months of the fiscal year. He commented that if the trend fell, the budget could suffer a shortage.

- * The constitutional amount of gas tax was two cents. The state kept a portion for debt service that the county had up to three more years to pay off. The county gas tax is one cent.
- * The gas tax generated a total of about \$50 million a year.

II.B.

SOURCES OF FUNDS BY CATEGORY. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003.

Mr. Weisman introduced the revenue sources that made up the \$3 billion budget.

Commissioner Masilotti noted that the interest earnings totaled about \$47 million. He requested documentation to show where the earnings were derived for the past three budget cycles.

III. OPERATING BUDGET

III.A.

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS' OVERVIEW. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman noted that:

- * Staff had no issue with the Clerk's, Tax Collector's, or the Property Appraiser's budgets.
- * The Supervisor of Elections had a \$5 million budget increase. The \$2 million slated for new equipment had been expected.
- * The cost of doing three pre-election mailings at \$600,000 each was a concern. The mailings would go to each voter for the March presidential primary, the September primary, and an October run-off primary.
- * Staff had recommended that mailings for the March and the October elections be removed from the budget.

Commissioner Newell suggested staff research current legislature regarding the validity of the mailings.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested that mailing to households instead of individuals be discussed with the supervisor.

Commissioner McCarty said that because of the low percentage of voters in the primary, she would support a November mailing.

- * Another increase to the budget was the cost to present the ballots in Spanish but that was a federal requirement.

Commissioner Aaronson said he supported sending sample ballots to the voters.

- * The supervisor included all the advertising in the budget because of a prior board direction.

Commissioner Greene questioned when the ballots would be produced in Creole.

The board informally agreed to do a mailing in November but would revisit the proposal for March and September.

III.B.

OPERATING BUDGET COMPARISONS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Commissioner Marcus said she was seeking a way to fund the Regional Transit Authority (RTA) through the gas tax program and possibly the road program as opposed to general ad valorem.

Mr. Weisman offered a list of the projects that would be deleted from the road program.

Commissioner Marcus suggested the suspension of gas tax for a month, possibly during August or September, be explored. She said this probably could be done instead of a property tax rollback.

III.B. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Marcus said the savings would be for everyone in the county and not only for the property taxpayers.

Commissioner Aaronson said 25-30 percent of the people were tourists who were paying for roads and other ventures. He said there were other ways to give benefits to the citizens. He suggested more services as an option.

Commissioner McCarty said many residents, because of homestead exemption, did not pay property taxes and would not benefit from a property tax decrease.

(CLERK'S NOTE: III.C., D., E., and F., were discussed later in the meeting – See pages 13 and 14.)

IV. CAPITAL BUDGET – See pages 14-16 for discussion.

V. RESERVES – See pages 16 and 17 for discussion.

VI. OTHER BUDGET ISSUES

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

1.

PALM TRAN PRESENTATION. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Palm Tran Executive Director Perry J. Maull presented budget priorities for 2004 as follows:

- * Palm Tran was funding the growth in paratransit trips fully.
- * No fixed routes were being proposed.
- * Enhancement to Route 1, which services US-1 from Boca Raton to Palm Beach Gardens, was being funded by a 100-percent enhancement grant from the Florida Department of Transportation, and by the efforts of the service board to obtain buses.
- * The service board would continue to examine the effectiveness of all the routes within the fixed-route service areas.
- * The overall budget would grow from 2000 to 2004 by about 64 percent.
- * General revenue allocation had increased over the last four years. For the coming budget year, staff was proposing a \$611,000 gross increase in the ad valorem request. Staff had the ability to use \$2.5 million being brought forward from this fiscal year.
- * The major budget items were \$2.5 million that represents a 17 percent increase in paratransit trips next year, four new positions, and a decrease in personal services.
- * The paratransit cost was offset by a grant of \$1,781,728 from the Commission on Transportation Disadvantaged. The balance of the cost was at the county's expense. The overhead cost was estimated to be \$27.80 per trip.

VI.A.1. - CONTINUED

In response to Commissioner Masilotti, staff informed the board that the state's overhead cost for multiple loading averaged \$34 to \$37. Staff further stated that the public was encouraged to use the county's multiple loading system.

With the updated software, productivity should be increased while the overall cost reduced, staff assured the board. Staff claimed that paratransit service was more economical, more reliable, and safer than taxicabs. Average trip length was 14.5 miles one way, and would cost more than \$27.80 when metered by a taxicab. About 50 percent of the riders were wheelchair bound and specially equipped vehicles were required to meet the Americans with Disability Act guidelines. A federal research item cited the average rate outside of Florida as being up to \$52 a trip. The county's five-year contract expires next year and prices may increase drastically.

Staff also reported that:

- * About 2,500 eligible people had received the Transportation Disadvantaged and Medicaid program bus passes which is noticeable on the fixed rate side by about 2,000 boardings a day over the last year.
- * Fixed Route cost per trip was \$3.75.
- * Route 1 later evening service was funded in the base budget. Routes 2, 3, 47, and 48, during the 8:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. shift, were unfunded supplement to the budget.
- * The cost to provide those services was \$1.2 million that included an allocation for complimentary paratransit services.
- * Route 1 was added to the later evening productivity because it complied with the board's standard of 8.1 boarding passengers per hour. The other routes had not met the standard.
- * Routes 1, 2, and 3, were funded by federal dollars and 47 and 48 funded by state workforce development grants that will be depleted in October.
- * The total cost to retain all the services would be \$1.2 million more than what was being proposed.

Commissioner Masilotti asked that Route 40 be extended to service the Super-Wal-mart Store and the Wellington Mall in the western communities.

Staff agreed to review the cost for Sunday service.

Commissioner Marcus said transportation in northern Palm Beach County needed to be addressed and that Tri-Rail would be asking for an additional \$4.2 during the next five years. She said she would like projections for the next three or more years.

Mr. Maull informed the board that staff would address the issues through the five-year transit development plan. The study would be ready in August.

Commissioner McCarty commented that marketing would be a controlling factor in ridership for the late evening and Sunday bus service.

VI.A.1. - CONTINUED

Mr. Maull told the board that a survey conducted in the spring revealed that the second most frequent request was for additional Saturday and Sunday services. The first request was for more frequent service.

Commissioner Greene suggested a garbage bin be placed at each bus shelter.

2.

TRI-COUNTY COMMUTER RAIL AUTHORITY (TRI-RAIL). DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Joseph Giulietti, Tri-Rail executive director, informed the board that his board would be seeking \$4.2 million during the 2005-2006 budget cycle. He said the amount was determined during the double-tracking five-year projections study.

Assistant County Administrator Vince Bonvento informed the board that the county's yearly contribution to Tri-Rail had been \$900,000 but the board approved an additional \$600,000 increasing the amount to \$1.5 million. He said the amount had always been \$1.5 million but grant monies were used for the offset. During budget year 2003-2004, the amount would increase by \$400,000, he stated. The amount was accounted for in the proposed budget, County Administrator Robert Weisman said.

Commissioner Masilotti requested data regarding ridership within Palm Beach County.

Mr. Guilietti informed the board that projections to implement service to the Jupiter area had not yet been done. He answered the board that the total costs of Tri-Rail would be proportionately distributed among the counties although Jupiter would be added to the Palm Beach County stops.

Commissioner Koons proposed that the Okeechobee Boulevard two-lane expansion be a joint venture with the bus project in terms of computers and infrastructure.

Staff was directed to:

- * Review the joint-venture issue and report back to the board.

Mr. Weisman recalled the board's earlier direction to expand Okeechobee Boulevard to eight lanes to State Road 7 and to build a new bridge over the turnpike. Commissioner Koons pointed out that the path was designated as the express bus corridor.

In response to Commissioner McCarty, Mr. Guilietti reported that the entire agency staffed 80 persons of which there were 10 direct reports. He said the entire operation was contracted out.

Commissioner Marcus offered her colleagues copies of a report she had received pertaining to Tri-Rail contracts. She requested copies of the agendas and backup of each of the Tri-Rail executive meetings.

VI.B. TIME CERTAIN 11:30 A.M.

SHERIFF'S OFFICE REQUEST. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

County Administrator Weisman stated that the sheriff had proposed, through negotiation with staff, a five percent budget increase; however the sheriff had decided recently to move forward with his technology enhancement project. The project would provide new software and a mobile computer system to feed information to deputies in the field at an estimated cost of \$30 million. He said the sheriff suggested his savings from the 50-50 Federal Revenue Sharing (FRS) split pay for the system yearly.

Commissioner Koons encouraged the board to look at how the system could be funded. Commissioner Newell added that the enhancement was a priority.

Sheriff Edward W. Bieluch divulged that Palm Beach was the best-prepared county in the state for terrorism and Homeland Security. That was due to the collaboration of each entity working together through the Criminal Justice Commission, he cited.

Commissioner Marcus asked for the number of road patrol officers. After a brief discussion the sheriff supplied the following statistics: 463 road patrol deputies, 24 road patrol lieutenants, and 71 road patrol sergeants. There were nine district captains. The road patrol officers did not include contracted or parks deputies.

Commissioner Masilotti said a recommendation was made to strip and rebuild the sheriff's heliport at Palm Beach International Airport for \$1.25 million. He said although the issue had to be determined, the county could buy a more spacious new building for \$1.5 million.

Commissioner Koons suggested consideration and planning be given to provide funding for a second helicopter equipped with updated technology. He said a weekly after-watch report would be beneficial to the commissioners. The sheriff agreed to provide the after-watch, and the monthly "strike" reports. He also promised hiring comparative reports from 2001 to the present.

Sheriff Bieluch said the new technological system would be a comprehensive system to be shared with all the entities. He said a meeting was scheduled with police chiefs countywide to discuss the issue.

Commissioner McCarty commented that the level of supervisory personnel seemed to be out of proportion.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner McCarty left the meeting.)

The board requested of the sheriff:

- * Job descriptions of the personnel.
- * A list of capital acquisitions for the past three years and projections for the next three years.
- * Documentation on the number of individuals it took to fill one shift.
- * The deputies/sergeants/lieutenants ratio compared to other counties.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Marcus left the meeting.)

VI.B. – CONTINUED

- * An update on the trucks' inspection on the roadways.

Commissioner Newell said accident scenes should be more easily cleared and suggested deputies ask contractors for proof of valid work permits whenever a roadway was blocked for minor repairs.

Mr. Weisman stated that the board would be required to determine if it should endorse the revenue splitting concept and also review the technology proposal. Staff had not had the opportunity to address those issues and was unaware of the extent of the Criminal Justice Commission involvement, he stated.

Captain Alan Fuhrman of the sheriff's office requested board approval of the universal hiring program application for 13 deputies. The application was to be postmarked by June 6, 2003, Captain Fuhrman informed the board.

Commissioner Masilotti directed staff to review the document and present it at the 2:00 p.m. session.

(CLERK'S NOTE: For further discussion, see item VIII.C., on this and the following page.)

Commissioner Masilotti further directed Mr. Weisman to review for the 2:00 p.m. session the following:

- * The dollar amount generated by one mill of ad valorem tax for residential property in the county
- * The impact if Fire-Rescue was kept at three mills instead of 3.05 mills as was allowed last year.

RECESS:

At 12:08 p.m., the vice-chair declared a recess.

RECONVENE

At 2:00 p.m. the board reconvened with Commissioners Aaronson, Greene, Koons, McCarty, Marcus, and Masilotti present.

VIII.C.

DOCUMENT R-2003-0832

APPLICATION FOR THE UNIVERSAL HIRING PROGRAM 2003 TO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICE OF COMMUNITY ORIENTED POLICING SERVICES (COPS) DESIGNED TO ASSIST LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES SEEKING TO ADD ADDITIONAL, NEW CAREER LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS TO ENGAGE IN COMMUNITY POLICING. APPROVED 6-4-2003

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that the application would allow the sheriff a grant to hire 13 fulltime deputies under the COPS in Schools Program. The grant would pay the cost for three years. The county would have to pay for the last year, however, he stated.

Staff also explained that the county was required to fund 25 percent of the costs within the first three years. The match in the first three years was \$1.4 million and the cost of the fourth year totally to be fully funded by the county was another \$800,000.

VIII.C. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Massilotti added that a requirement of the application was that the county would keep the officers after the three years.

Staff informed the board that in previous COPS grants, the sheriff had used the Law Enforcement Trust Fund (LETf) as the match but that it was not identified in this application. Staff explained that there were two grants. A similar grant for 10 positions was approved in April, 2002.

Dawn S. Wynn, assistant county attorney, informed the board that the sheriff's office was notified about two weeks ago that the grant money would become available.

Ms. Wynn continued that the sheriff needed board approval to file an application. She explained that the application was for 13 positions, six of which were for Homeland Security for a four-year period with 75 percent funding from the federal government. Although 25 percent of the cost was not identified in the application, money can be used from the LETf. When the grant was obtained and the board was asked for final approval, the source of the 25 percent match will be spelled out in the budget. She said the sheriff's intent was to use LETf as that was the previous practice.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested approval with the stipulation that all funds be taken from the LETf and no money be taken from ad valorem tax dollars. Mr. Weisman added that the LETf money was a worthwhile expenditure for the coverage to be provided. He suggested the board approve the application with the stipulation.

MOTION to approve the application contingent upon the sheriff using LETf to compensate for the 25 percent match when the grant is awarded. Motion by Commissioner Masilotti, seconded by Commissioner Aaronson and carried 6-0. Commissioner Newell absent.

(CLERK'S NOTE: For earlier discussion on this item, see item VI.B., page 11.)

VIII.D.

STAFF'S RESPONSES TO COMMISSIONER MASILOTTI'S INQUIRIES. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

County Administrator Weisman responded to inquiries Commissioner Masilotti had made before the lunch break. Mr. Weisman informed the board that:

- * One mill on the countywide tax rate was worth \$88 million a year.
- * Staff recommends keeping the Fire-Rescue rate at 3.05 mills. Because of the increase in property evaluation, the rate could be reduced. Some capital projects, including a training center, were to be introduced within the department, however, and the money would be utilized for those projects. He said the difference between 3 mills and 3.05 mills was \$1.8 million.

III.B. - CONTINUED

(CLERK'S NOTE: Items III.B., III.C., III.D., III.E., AND III.F., were now discussed together.)

III.C.

SUMMARY OF DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGETS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

III.D.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET REQUESTS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

III.E.

RECOMMENDED SUPPLEMENTAL POSITIONS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

III.F.

SUPPLEMENTAL REQUESTS ESTIMATED OR REDUCED. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Commissioner McCarty commented that Facilities Development and Operations showed, in fiscal year 2003-2004, that eight positions were being dropped but eleven now were requested.

Mr. Weisman explained that because the coordination between data and phone lines was now happening, the positions requested were chiefly for building maintenance-type jobs.

Commissioner McCarty pointed out that the real estate department was overloaded with work and would need attention. Mr. Weisman said he had made adjustments in the current budget and would again do so in the next budget year.

Four staffers were assigned to Real Estate Division, Mr. Weisman informed the board.

Staff further explained that:

- * The 35 percent increase in spending on legislative affairs was used for additional lobbying at the board's direction.
- * The county gets reimbursed for all Housing Finance Authority expenditures.
- * The ad valorem portion of beach funding was listed under capital expenditures.
- * Fifty new firefighters were being hired yearly.
- * Because of Article 5, the judicial funding was switched to Facilities Development and Operation because the county had to continue funding building maintenance.

III.B. – CONTINUED

- * Article 5 savings as well as the decrease in sales tax were not shown in the budget at this time. The Article 5 savings will occur in July 2004. The budget will be adjusted before its adoption.
- * Six customer service personnel were included in the budget.

Commissioner McCarty asked staff to inquire if the sheriff had included in his budget, the educational personnel that was proposed for animal care and control.

IV. CAPITAL BUDGET

Mr. Weisman stated that:

- * The capital budget consisted of ad valorem and other non-ad valorem funding sources.
- * Community Services computer improvements were recommended.
- * Only \$200,000 of the \$750,000 provided for tree-canopy restoration for citrus canker was used. Staff proposed to restore the funding and keep it at \$750,000.

Commissioner Marcus suggested the \$750,000 be used to fund other items within the budget. She contended that since the program was initiated by the state, it should fund the reimbursement.

Staff was directed to:

- * Terminate the tree canopy restoration program as of October 1, 2003, with the understanding that if the state reinstates its program, to bring back the issue to the board to determine if the county wants to fund it from contingency.

Staff continued that:

- * Of the Engineering and Public Works items, staff did not recommend funding for the Fairgrounds Phase III project. Staff tried to address projects that were most critical with drainage and bridge improvements.
- * Staff had not recommended more than \$1 million a year on these projects. Funding would only be increased if there was extra money for one time spending or if staff sensed the board's direction for importance.
- * Environmental Resources Management had not spent the \$1 million budget for beach projects last budget cycle and another \$1 million would be added during this budget period.

Commissioner Aaronson suggested the county consider supplementing the dollars that the state anticipates cutting for beaches. He suggested the county consider taking over funding the beaches. Commissioner McCarty said she had been considering additional monies to the program instead of cutting what was already obtained from tourism. She suggested a later discussion on the needs, economical impact, and the effects of state and federal government budget cuts on the county's programs.

IV. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti commented that the county was spending as much on an animal care center in Pahokee as it had been spending on a West Palm Beach Head-Start center.

Staff explained that:

- * The animal care center needed to be rebuilt because the old building was falling apart.
- * The incentive program with the Humane Society had not been started long enough to formulate any results.
- * It was possible that a private party may build a helicopter maintenance facility on airport property although the sheriff may obtain its own facility. Funding should be suspended for a year.
- * Some building maintenance and repairs were costly but needed to satisfy bond-rating agencies.
- * Information Systems Services' (ISS) costs were a concern but the county actually spent less compared to Broward and other counties on computer projects. A lot of the projects were technical and the results could not be measured.

Staff was directed to:

- * Review the West County fuel facility for helicopter fueling capacity.

Staff continued to inform the board that:

- * Channel 20 received money to assure that its technology was up-to-date but staff would check as to the quality of the studio.
- * The west county fuel facility was limited to the use of vehicles and a site would be shared with the county, school board, and sheriff.

Staff was directed to:

- * Report back on the Glades Recreation Needs, dates of approval, the projects involved, and the duration of the \$200,000 contribution.

Commissioner McCarty said the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) funding should be prioritized. Commissioner Koons added that more staff was needed to execute the projects. Commissioner Masilotti suggested the projects be farmed out to the private sector.

Mr. Weisman stated that the county had been funding numerous CCRT projects and had been getting them completed. Monies were being put in specific project allocations that were within the CCRT locations that caused spending beyond the allotted \$2.5 million. An example was \$4.5 million allowed for the Lake Worth corridor senior center, he concluded.

Commissioner McCarty said it would be helpful if priority drainage projects were labeled CCRT's.

IV. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti requested monies be made available for planning to assist the Town of Haverhill to annex property that the county had purchased around the airport. This would allow the town to develop the community with a commercial base on Southern Boulevard and a residential base away from the airport-glide path.

Mr. Weisman said staff had advised the town to make a request for board approval.

Staff was directed to:

- * Present the annexation request at the next budget hearing in July.
- * Give an update on the Phil Foster Park improvements.
- * Review the status of Ocean Cay Park design and development.

Staff informed the board that:

- * Funds were not available at this time for South County Regional Parcel A because the school board owed about \$3.1 million that the park director intended to use for the improvements.

Staff was directed to:

- * Be certain the county has a formal contract for the \$3.1 million.
- * Continue with the planning, design, and development of the project.

Staff continued to brief the board that:

- * Funds listed for some expenditure for airport items may not be used.
- * The entire capital program was proposed for \$225,209,946.

V. RESERVES

BUDGETED RESERVES. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman presented a summary of reserves anticipated at the start of fiscal year 2004.

In response to Commissioner McCarty, staff stated that the "Choose Life" license plate issue was still in the courts and that Community Services had been monitoring the issue.

Staff explained that the budgeted reserves general contingency was \$10 million. The undesignated and available amount was \$82,158,408 plus the \$10 million of contingency to equal \$92,158,408.

Commissioner McCarty said the Tourist Development Council (TDC) special project fund was established with \$100,000 for non-recurring items. She asked why the account only showed \$11,252.

V.- CONTINUED

TDC Director Charles Lehman explained that \$500,000 had been authorized for an underwater program about 5 years ago and the \$11,000 was the balance brought forward. Ernie Pena-Roque, TDC financial analyst, stated that \$100,000 had been approved for the film festival for fiscal year 2004 and that amount was allocated for the event. He said about \$60,000 previously had applied to the film festival and the remainder had always been used to support other projects.

Commissioner McCarty suggested the fund be closed out and special requests be made to the board for funding from the contingency. She commented that funds would be sought for the super bowl. Commissioner Marcus mentioned that an International Secretariat to be located in Miami would also be seeking county assistance.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested the board participate in funding a fishing program geared toward restocking Florida waters with large game fish. He explained that the Fish and Wildlife Commission would match county contributions with \$100,000 yearly for three to four years. Commissioner Marcus requested more detailed information on the subject.

Staff was directed to:

- * Add the issue on the list of items to be explored.

Commissioner Aaronson said it would be beneficial if the board looked at projects individually and determined their usefulness to the county.

VI.C.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM – NEW MONEY ALLOCATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2004. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

County Administrator Weisman said that the staff recommended approval of a \$2.2 million allocation for economic development programs.

Staff was directed to:

- * Identify the development regions.

VI.D. SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS REQUEST – See discussion in item 3.A., page 6.

VI.E.

OTHER COUNTY-SPONSORED AGENCIES/PROGRAMS. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman informed the board that some sponsored programs had not fit into the financially assisted agencies group. He said there was a proposed budget allocation with Community Services' recommendations for those programs, although some groups requested more than staff had budgeted.

Staff was directed to:

- * Provide more information on the school readiness program level of funding.

VI.E. – CONTINUED

Mr. Weisman continued:

- * The Mae Volen Senior Center was funded for the amount requested. The program gets direct grants and the county supplements the amount.
- * The HIV prevention program amount was maintained at \$82,000. The Healthcare District was to be consulted on funding the amount.
- * The Center for Information and Crisis Services, Inc., had a one-time funding of \$24,000 extra last year. This year staff recommended the board resume allocation of the usual amount of \$107,042.
- * The Center for Family Services had requested a three percent increase, but was kept at \$95,473.
- * Community Olympics Development program was allotted the board's recommendation of \$175,000.
- * The Homeless Coalition was funded \$50,000, keeping the board's three-year commitment to the center.

VI.F.

FILM FESTIVAL FUNDING – DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

County Administrator Weisman said the Tourist Development Council (TDC) had requested \$207,000 for the film festival.

Commissioner McCarty stated that TDC had authorized \$100,000 to be taken from bed-tax dollars for the film festival in 2004 and also had requested an additional \$207,000 from ad valorem.

Commissioner Masilotti asked the monetary benefits to the county for spending the \$207,000.

Commissioner Aaronson stated that even with the requested county funds, the film festival committee was committed to raise \$285,000 to meet its budget. He said the economic impact realized by the Cities of Lake Worth, Delray, and West Palm Beach during the last festival was great, and outlined some benefits. Commissioner Marcus said if the festival was to be funded from ad valorem monies, the board needed to see an actual budget.

Commissioner Koons said he would support the allotment.

Commissioner McCarty stated that about \$800,000 had been given to the film festival since it began eight years ago. She said that at the program's inception, the board intended to provide start-up money from bed tax for a couple of years. She contended that even though the industry had prospered to a \$800 million entity, the county was being requested to triple its yearly contribution. She suggested the program be labeled economic development if it served that purpose. She concluded that she would not support the request.

Staff was directed to:

- * Provide a breakdown of the entire budget at the July 9, 2003 meeting.

VI.F. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Aaronson said probably the Economic Development Board should be asked for funding. Commissioner Masilotti said the film industry was worthwhile but he would like to review the festival's budget. Commissioner McCarty said she too joined in the request but that she urged her colleagues to be fair to programs with similar requests.

Commissioner Aaronson asked Randi Emmerman, film festival coordinator, to document information she has on other film festival programs and provide it to the commissioners.

VI.G. CULTURAL COUNCIL ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST. - See pages 20 and 21 for discussion.

VI.H.

ELDER JUSTICE PROGRAM. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman stated that:

- * The Elder Justice (EJ) program was first funded in 2002 with a budget of \$159,000.
- * A letter from an ex-employee questioned the use of funds.
- * Questions arose whether or not the funds were being spent on the program. Staff's information suggested that only 70 percent was being used on the program, however. The remainder was being spent on court-related activities.

Court Administrator Susan Ferrante stated that:

- * The fund showed a surplus because court administration agreed not to hire a staff attorney to replace a former employee.
- * A decision was made that the program required a social worker-type individual.
- * The staff attorney's position was being reclassified.
- * It was the practice to request budget transfers at the end of the year from OFMB to use unexpended funds to pay the department's shortfall.
- * She would have responded in a timely manner had she been aware of the board's concern earlier.

Commissioner Masilotti said funds he approved for the Elder Justice Center was not intended to be co-mingled with anything else. Commissioner Marcus requested information on any other programs that may be handled in similar fashion. She said although staff thought that co-mingling had been appropriate, the board was now conveying that the action was inappropriate. She informed staff that any special grant that the board approved should stay within the program. Unspent amounts should be rolled over for the following year. A special request should be made for under-funded amounts, she concluded.

VI.H. – CONTINUED

Staff was directed to:

- * Add the Elder Justice program to the review list.
- * Identify money that had been rolled over to other programs because of insufficient funding.

VI.G.

CULTURAL COUNCIL ADDITIONAL FUNDING REQUEST. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman briefed the board that after its discussion on the Cultural Council request for additional funding, it approved \$400,000 and indicated that the council could request another \$400,000 grant at this time.

Commissioner McCarty said she would support giving the grant because it contributes to tourism and economic development. Commissioner Aaronson added his support as well. Commissioner Masilotti said he too was supportive of the cultural council but he had concerns about the companies receiving the funds. He said local start-up groups were not mentioned on the list. He asked Will Ray, president of the Cultural Council, to meet with him.

Commissioner McCarty suggested the board approve the grant through the budget process and then review the recipients at the board's regular meeting. Commissioner Marcus explained that the Cultural Council already had gone through its decision-making process and informed the groups that funding would be subject to the board's approval.

Commissioner Marcus said the board needed to review the impact of the state's cuts while keeping track of spending. Commissioner Aaronson added that reallocation of the grant process needs to be evaluated at Tourist Development Council (TDC) level.

Mr. Ray informed the board that only the Historical Society had not met the minimum requirement for funding. Mr. Ray explained the various categories and how they were formed. In response to Commissioner Greene, Mr. Ray answered that the board of directors approved the recommendations of the grant-review panels. Commissioner Greene requested the names of participants on the panels.

Commissioner McCarty contended that the board should be asked to approve budgets at this meeting and not projects and allocations. She said a separate discussion should be held for those purposes.

Commissioner Masilotti said documentation showed that TDC would be spending \$600,000 more in bed tax than last year and if an additional \$400,000 were granted, spending would have increased to \$1.4 million in 13 months.

Mr. Ray said staff had misunderstood the board's earlier direction. He requested the board's approval today with direction that a budget number be provided early enough for 2005 so that a workshop could be held before the budget process.

VI.G. – CONTINUED

Staff was directed to:

- * Put the item on the list to allow the board to evaluate it against the other allocations.

VI.I. CITRUS CANKER FUNDING - See item IV, page 14 and item VII., page 23 for discussion.

VI.J. ARTICLE V/REVISION 7 – NO DISCUSSION 6-4-2003

VI.K.

LAKE REGION WATER TREATMENT PLANT. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Staff was directed to:

- * Keep the suggested allocation in the budget but bring back a full financing plan in July.

VI.L.

WEST NILE VIRUS. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

Mr. Weisman informed the board that the Health Department requested \$145,000 for West Nile funding. He said the request was higher than the \$60,000 previously made. He suggested the board delay discussion until staff reviewed the item further.

VI.M.

SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST. DISCUSSED 6-4-2003

The board informally agreed to allocate \$50,000.

VI.N.

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY. DISCUSSED WITH DIRECTION 6-4-2003

Staff was directed to:

- * List all the gas-tax funds for the board's review.

The board discussed:

- * The possibility of doing a mailing to explain to the public the state mandates that caused the shortfall.
- * Looking at the road programs, phasing out some of the projects and using funding for RTA.

VII. BOARD COMMENTS AND DIRECTION

The board commented that:

- * The impact of a reduction of .05 mill would be about \$4.5 million.
- * The board saved \$750,000 on the canker project.
- * The Cultural Council discussion brought out misunderstanding on everyone's side.

VIII. UNSCHEDULED ITEMS - See pages 1-2, and 11-12.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

ATTESTED

APPROVED

Clerk

Chair