

MEETING: BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BUDGET WORKSHOP

I. CALL TO ORDER: July 9, 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 Director Liz Bloeser
Budget Assistant Director Joe Bergeron
Deputy Clerk Judith Crosbie

STATUS OF PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2004 BUDGET

I.A.

REVIEW OF TENTATIVE BUDGET DOCUMENT – See pages 5 and 16.

I.B.

CHANGES MADE SINCE JUNE 4, 2003 BUDGET WORKSHOP. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Mr. Weisman briefed the board that:

- * After the June 4, 2002, budget meeting, the county had \$1.6 million available for allocation. Since then, an updated property evaluation of \$5.6 million was reported, and the elimination of a second primary election reduced the supervisor's budget by \$1.2 million.
- * A total of \$8.5 million was available.

Commissioner Newell said if the county did not consider funding the juvenile programs, many of those projects would fail including those offered by the juvenile assessment center.

He suggested \$5 million be set aside to fund those programs.

II. 9:30 A.M. TIME CERTAIN

SHERIFF'S BUDGET. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

County Administrator Weisman said that:

- * The sheriff had provided responses to the board's inquiries made at the workshop of June 4, 2003, regarding staffing of the road program, capital expenditures, and the command structure.

II. – CONTINUED

- * County staff considered the sheriff's office computer and vehicle purchases to fit within a reasonable timeframe similar to that of the county.

Commissioner Aaronson questioned the ratio of deputies compared to other counties. Sheriff Ed Bieluch said that he was unaware of how other agencies did their computation. Broward County contracted with most of its municipalities, he added. His figures were based on the total officers within his organization and although his department could be better staffed, he was getting the job done, he concluded.

Commissioner Koons said the commissioners agreed at its visioning meeting to focus on the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT) areas. He recalled a conversation with the sheriff about forming a super Citizens on Patrol (COP) District 1 ranging from Hypoluxo Road to Community Drive. The sheriff said although serious training issues were involved, the project already was started.

Commissioner Greene said the commissioners also agreed that they wanted to evaluate the impact of the work being done in the CCRT areas. She said she would like to see the San Castle area report because the sheriff's department had made a difference there.

Commissioner Greene said although she did not want to violate anyone's rights, she supported testing inmates entering and exiting the jail system. She said she would like to introduce legislation to that effect but was concerned with who would pay the cost. She said that she had hoped that the Health Department and the Sheriff would help to pay.

Sheriff Bieluch suggested the entities work together when legislation was being prepared because the process involved more than just testing. Commissioner Marcus said the Florida Statutes specified the crimes for which inmates should be tested. She asked the sheriff to report how many inmates were convicted of those crimes and the costs associated with them.

Commissioner Newell said he appreciated the sheriff putting the Law Enforcement Trust Fund back into communities. He asked the sheriff to allow his Marine Patrol to assist the county in removing tagged vessels off Peanut Island and the Jupiter Inlet. The sheriff agreed to comply.

Commissioner Newell asked the sheriff to be certain to restaff the property crime division to replace those deputies shifted to homicide because of the workload. He requested a copy of the sheriff's weekly mapping report. Sheriff Bieluch responded that the data would be included in a report that was being prepared for the board to get in August.

Commissioner Marcus asked the sheriff to report on how many deputies were assigned to vehicles on road patrol to respond to incidents on any given 12-hour shift. She also sought the ratio of how many officers were being hired and still in training. Sheriff Beiluch promised a report that would include officers who were physically in cars, on the roads in the community, on a given day.

II. – CONTINUED

Major Jill Sheppel explained that several officers who were in the field responding to calls did not fit the criteria of road patrol. She said because of the September 11, 2001, bombing incident in the country, some officers were trained in specialized units and deployed to special operations to support regular road patrols. She said money budgeted last year for 44 new officers was received in October 2002, at which time, the department restructured and reorganized the agency and deployed some officers into specialized units. Sheriff Bieluch added that 517 deputies were in uniformed-patrol operations.

When asked about his computer system, Sheriff Beiluch said the last estimate he received was \$30 million to install computers in the patrol cars over an 18-month period. He said he had about \$8 million for the project. After a brief discussion on how the computers could be funded, Commissioner Marcus requested a more positive deadline for the computer installation.

The sheriff explained his recruiting plan at Commissioner Masilotti's request. The Sheriff also elaborated on programs offered at his substations and Commissioner Masilotti commented that the addition of officers to police the Acreage was a successful move. Sheriff Beiluch said he would offer to comply and spend designated funding on street officers if monies were granted. He contended however, that more officers would not make a difference if a plan were not in place.

Commissioner Masilotti requested a breakdown of officers in the police force of each city in the county and the population that each services. He contended that the data could provide information on the level of service.

Staff was directed to:

- * Move forward with the sheriff's budget with a five percent increase and provide the board with all of the information requested for review.

VI. SPECIAL ITEM – 10:30 A.M.

SOUTH FLORIDA FAIR REQUEST. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

County Administrator Weisman briefed the board that:

- * The South Florida Fair requested \$350,000 to complete additional parking spaces.
- * The board had already funded a portion of the project and although the request was made through the regular budgetary process, staff had not approved it.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item I.B. was discussed at this time. See page 1.)

Buck Christian, manager of the South Florida Fair, recalled the board approved funding about three months ago for culvert improvements. He said 1,200,069 people visited the fair last year and it was difficult to find parking for all the vehicles. He requested funding to make ready a portion of the 130-acre site to be used for that purpose.

Commissioner Marcus summarized that the board already had given \$175,000 toward the project and had suggested that a request could be made later for more money.

VI. - CONTINUED

Because staff recommended against the \$350,000 request, the board was now petitioned, Commissioner Marcus concluded.

Commissioner Masilotti inquired if tourist development funds had been requested. Mr. Christian answered that his group had applied over the years but was unsuccessful in receiving funding; however, they had not applied this year. He said the requested expenditure if granted, would suffice for the next four years.

Commissioner Aaronson said funding the project would be beneficial to the county's economy. Mr. Christian added that Economic Research of Washington conducted an analysis for the fair about five years ago and found the economical impact to be \$154 million to the county.

Commissioner Koons inquired about collecting a surcharge but Mr. Christian said one was already in place to cover the bond covenant.

After polling her colleagues, Commissioner Marcus directed staff to:

- * Compile a list of county contributions to the South Florida Fair for the past 10 years.
- * Add the \$350,000 expenditure to the budget for funding.

Commissioner Marcus stated that the board needed a long-term capital program from the South Florida Fair to determine future direction.

CLERK'S NOTE: The following item was discussed next.)

III.I.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS-ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (HIV-AIDS) EDUCATION, PREVENTION, INTERVENTION, CONTINUOUS CARE (EPICC) FUNDING. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

David Goodlett, a Health Care District board member, said Health Department Director Jean Malecki made similar presentations both to the county and the Health Care District (HCD) regarding HIV-AIDS educational program. He said although no one disagreed with the serious need, his group was not asked to fund the effort. He said they understood the need, agreed with the community concern, and would consider funding during the budget process.

Commissioner Marcus suggested Assistant County Administrator Jean Creamer attend the Health Care District meeting to be certain the board's wishes for the HCD to fund the prevention program were clearly conveyed.

Mr. Goodlett informed the board that the HCD had established a trust fund with the \$17 million obtained from the sale of Glades General Hospital. The interest derived from the trust fund would be used in the Glades community for healthcare related issues, he stated. He said the district could now assist residents countywide in a positive way.

III.I. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Marcus stated that the board received lots of request for HIV funding but none were to address prevention. Mr. Goodlett suggested the county and the HCD join efforts in compiling a report to identify supply and demand of funding. He said the same logic, as used for the Children's Services Council, could apply to AIDS and its prevention.

Commissioner Marcus requested a response from the HCD regarding the funding, prior to the September 11, 2003, budget hearing.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Item I.A. was discussed at this time.)

I.A.

REVIEW TENTATIVE BUDGET DOCUMENT. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

In response to Commissioner Marcus' inquiry on additional monies from appraisals, Mr. Weisman stated that:

- * Changes as of July 1, 2003, showed additional ad valorem values of \$5,625,978.
- * Elimination of the second primary election saved the county \$1,283,288.
- * With changes and adjustments, the total available for allocation was \$8,553,675.
- * The total property evaluation figure was the second highest the county had ever received.
- * The contingency was about 10 percent.
- * Because the board had previously allocated \$350,000 to the South Florida Fair, the balance to be allocated was \$8.2 million.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested a portion of the balance be put into reserves for unforeseen issues because the county was strong financially.

Mr. Weisman continued that:

- * Although the reserve was at 10 percent, it needed to be kept at 8.5 percent to maintain the present bond rating and although there were some expected expenditures for the sheriff, Article V mandates, and Criminal Justice Commission's requests, it was unclear how much would be needed.

III.A.

UNFUNDED MANDATES/ARTICLE V. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

County Administrator Weisman stated that:

- * Funding would not be provided by the state as of July 1, 2004, for those agencies that the state indicated would be funded by other sources.
- * Staff was proposing the board put additional funding in the Criminal Justice Commission reserve until there was certainty from the state.

III.A. – CONTINUED

Richard Roberts explained that:

- * During the past month staff had been identifying the costs that would be transferred to the state as a result of (Article V) Revision 7.
- * The court-programs cost to be assumed by the state was estimated to be \$34 million annually.
- * Savings of about \$8.6 million would not be generated until the last quarter of fiscal year 2004.
- * The county would lose about \$15.6 million annually in judicial revenues.
- * The net court-related savings to the county on an annual basis was about \$18.9 million.
- * Teen court was not included in the analysis and would cost about \$700,000 per year. The teen court was handled through the clerk's office and the school district.
- * The proposed reduction of non-court revenues, specifically state revenue sharing and sales taxes, would produce net savings of about \$10.9 million to the county, and about \$2.7 million for the last quarter of fiscal year 2004.
- * Staff proposed that those dollars be taken and put in a court or criminal justice reserve to be used for programs that either "fell through the cracks" or were missed. Teen courts could be one of those programs.

Commissioner Marcus informed the board that the Florida Association of Counties would recommend revisions to legal aid, teen court, and other programs during the next legislative session. She said the board could determine after the session what programs to fund.

Mr. Roberts said the savings would be reflected in the final budget in September 2003.

Commissioner Newell contended that \$2.4 million savings for court related programs did not include criminal justice programs such as teen court. He said the teen court was not examined for alternative funding because it already had a funding source. He suggested \$5 million of the \$8.2 million available for allocation to be set aside to support priorities when the state discontinues its funding.

Mr. Weisman explained that an additional \$23 million in reserves was an accumulation over prior years. He said staff was proposing to spend some of that money; an amount would be determined when the books were closed. He said money in reserves meant that the public's money was being saved, future needs could be funded, and taxes were being kept at a low rate.

Commissioner Aaronson informed the board of the possibility of the City of Boca Raton annexing county property. He said the annexation would cause a multi-million dollar effect on the amount of taxes the county collects. He also encouraged his colleagues to put away as much reserves as possible because they were uncertain of the amount of funding the county would receive from the state.

III.B.

REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (RTA) FUNDING. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Commissioner Marcus commented that the \$4.2 million requested for the Regional Transit Authority should not be taken solely from ad valorem funds. She contended that since the theory was to use trains to lessen road trips, fewer roadways should be required.

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that:

- * If gas tax dollars slated for some road programs were taken now, fiscal year 2004 projects would not be affected. Only projects scheduled thereafter would be affected.
- * The board should determine which projects would be affected if it took already assigned money from the gas tax fund.

Commissioner Masilotti said that:

- * The justification to spend the gas tax money for RTA was to take trips off the roads, however staff had recommended roads that were not accessible to the RTA rails. Residents in Jupiter Farms and the Acreage areas had no access to public transportations although they too pay gasoline tax. Although he was supportive of the RTA, ad valorem taxes should be used.

Commissioner Aaronson said he was not supportive of cutting road programs for the RTA but would support ad valorem taxes to be used.

Commissioner Koons commented that mass transit should begin with buses being ordered and put into operation. He said although he would have preferred gas tax be used, ad valorem funding could be tried for at least a year.

Commissioner Newell said he was informed that the RTA threatened to put off double tracking for a year if the county continued to interrupt the road-closure schedule. He asked Commissioner Koons, the board's representative to RTA, to intervene. He concluded that he too supported ad valorem taxes for the RTA improvements.

Commissioner Masilotti said that because Jog Road from Roebuck Road to 45th Street promoted growth, he would request staff give it priority in funding.

Commissioner McCarty said she supported the gas tax option as a means of funding the RTA.

In response to Commissioner Marcus, Mr. Weisman said that when impact fees were not available, gas tax money was used to build roads.

County Engineer George Web informed the board that the proposed Jog Road extension would divert traffic from the Acreage and Royal Palm Beach areas because a direct connection between Okeechobee Boulevard and the Beeline Highway would be provided. Commissioner Masilotti said if the gas tax dollars were to be used to fund the RTA, he would prefer the Jog Road project be delayed.

III.B. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Marcus pointed out that no projects would be affected next year if gas tax dollars were used. Mr. Webb stated that staff would show a delay of projects being shifted from year 2005 to year 2006 in the five-year road program. Any impact for future years would be included in the data.

Commissioner Aaronson said he agreed with Commissioner Masilotti about the Jog Road project. Commissioner Koons said Jog Road was considered a big reliever road that should not be delayed. He now suggested that gas tax dollars be used.

Mr. Webb reviewed the board's direction as follows:

- * Staff should continue with the design and mitigation of the Jog Road project. The board will again address the issue next year during the budget process and determine if the project should be advanced in the five-year road program.

Commissioner Masilotti said his intent was to find a permanent funding source for the RTA.

Staff informed Commissioner Aaronson that the municipalities' portion of the gas tax dollars would not be split and used toward the RTA project.

Commissioner Marcus summarized that the majority of her colleagues supported ad valorem funding for the RTA project.

III.C.

SAMPLE BALLOT MAILINGS. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Mr. Weisman informed the board that:

- * Staff had budgeted \$600,000 for the primaries to the general election.
- * No mailing was required for the 2004 general election in this budget year because voting would occur in fiscal year 2005.
- * Funding was not recommended for a mailing for the presidential primary in March of 2004. A mailing was recommended for August 2004 elections, however.

Commissioner Aaronson contended that pertinent information should be distributed to citizens who want to cast their votes.

Commissioner Newell said the governor's Select Task Force on Election Procedures, Standards, and Technology, of which he was a participant, recommended that county and city governments provide mailers; however, he was unaware if the recommendation had been adopted into law. Mr. Weisman interjected that mailers were being sent to individuals instead of to the household.

Commissioner Aaronson said in addition to the presidential primary and municipal elections in March, the ballot could include issues relative to charter amendments, the school board, and bonds. He said for \$600,000 every voter should be well informed.

III.C. - CONTINUED

Staff was directed to:

- * Include the March mailer for an additional \$600,000.

Commissioner Marcus mentioned that a balance of \$7.6 million remained to be allocated.

III.D.

FILM FESTIVAL. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

J. Charles Lehmann, Tourist Development Council (TDC) executive director stated that:

- * The TDC contributed \$100,000 to the 2004 film festival because of a task force recommendation. The contribution was based on the importance of the festival to the film and television industry in the county.

George Elmore, a representative of the film festival, said that:

- * He was requesting \$150,000 to underwrite the student showcase program.
- * Some of the previous contributors and underwriters thought it was time to step back with their support because they already had helped the industry grow from a \$50 million to a \$350 million entity.
- * Because the board expressed concerns about the funds being earmarked for a gala, the student showcase program was deleted from the film festival budget.
- * He was requesting the funds be earmarked through the Economic Development Office (EDO).
- * His group ran one of the leanest film festivals in the country with a staff of less than 12 people.

Chuck Elderd, the film commissioner, said a study showed that since 1991, the film festival produced an estimated \$134 million in revenues and created about 67,000 jobs in the county. Mr. Elderd continued as follows:

- * At the county's economic summit in 1996, the board decided that film and television education should get ad valorem tax dollars for the students in the community. The student showcase had done a remarkable job of presenting students to professions within the industry. The showcase also had become an asset to market the community, especially to professionals and others who ordinarily would not visit.
- * The student showcase was an awards ceremony where public school students are awarded scholarships for winning competitions for projects they had worked on during the school year. The schools also win funding for their programs.

Deputy County Administrator Verdenia Baker explained to the board that the film festival personnel received salary allocations to run not only the student showcase but other student-related activities as well.

III.D. - CONTINUED

Mr. Elmore further explained that the student showcase budget showed \$173,000 total expense. He said \$60,000 went toward equipment for the magnet programs, and \$25,000 funded actual scholarships for the student showcase. The remainder was used for fares and accommodations for judges, as well as for marketing and other miscellaneous items.

Commissioner Koons said he discussed career community clusters with the school board. He said he would support using the unallocated \$98,000 along with the county's \$150,000 contribution to target some related activities in magnet and other schools.

Commissioner Newell expressed concern about spending \$10,000 for a hotel to accommodate the students' showcase judges. He commented that less than half of the allocation went to the students. He requested staff research the Marine Technology Program at Palm Beach Lakes High School to find out the cost associated with funding the group.

Commissioner Aaronson said the film festival agreed to adhere to Commissioner McCarty's comment made at an earlier meeting to have EDO handle the allocation to the students' showcase. He said the City of West Palm Beach Major Lois Frankel expressed a desire to work with the film festival in an attempt to feature Clematis Street and CityPlace. He indicated that 555 hotel beds were booked in beds in the county during the last Lake Worth event.

Commissioner Masilotti said he was interested in creating jobs for residents of the county and since Mr. Elderd had demonstrated the creation of over 6,000 jobs within a 12-year period, he would like to examine the issue further.

Mr. Elderd answered Commissioner McCarty that the film commission's budget was \$408,000 this year and \$453,000 was anticipated for next year. He said the money, obtained from bed tax dollars, was second to that of Miami's \$600,000 budget. Commissioner McCarty requested staff supply the board with the statistics of how much of the film industry Miami handled compared to Palm Beach County.

Commissioner McCarty questioned how the TDC contribution of \$100,000 would be spent. Liz Bloeser of the budget office explained that the revenue categories were not the same as the expenditure categories. She said although there was not a social revenue category, social expenses were categorized.

Commissioner McCarty said the local film industry judges should be utilized to cut costs for the student showcase. She suggested the money be put directly into schools and that Mr. Elderd help to supplement the film festival from his budget.

(CLERK'S NOTE: For further discussion, see page13.)

RECESS

At 12:36 p.m., the chair declared a recess.

RECONVENE

At 2:00 p.m., the board reconvened with all of the commissioners present.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Marcus announced that the first budget public hearing would be held September 11, 2003, at 7 p.m., in these commission chambers.)

IV. 2:00 P.M. TIME CERTAIN

FINANCIALLY ASSISTED AGENCIES. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Director of Community Services Edward L. Rich informed the board that:

- * The department of community services issued a request for proposal on March 30 and 31, 2003. A total of 55 proposals were received by the May 5, 2003 deadline.
- * A review committee handled the proposals.
- * The funding recommendations for this year was \$7,832,759 including a three percent increase that the board had authorized.
- * The extra million dollars that the commission gave last year was treated as a one-time allocation.
- * He was uncertain of the amount of reduction from the Department of Community Affairs for mental health and substance abuse.
- * The City of Pahokee was added to the base-funding category this year and would be provided for partially.
- * United Way and Community Chest were two major supporters.

Mr. Rich gave the following responses to the commissioners' inquiries:

- * His division did provide services, except for recreation programs, to the seniors in the entire Glades area.
- * An extra million dollars to his budget would be helpful.
- * If the Department of Children and Families (DCF) funding was cut from some programs, the agencies would have to operate on what was available through the county. Staff would meet with those agencies to determine the programs to keep.
- * Children Home Society was closed for issues not associated with the budget.
- * Some recipients had not provided information on the reductions they anticipated from DCF and other sources. Staff had recommended some of those agencies for funding as well.

Ms. Creamer added that because of uncertainty from the agencies and from DCF as to what the cuts would be, staff had presented the best information it could gather from the agencies without verification from DCF.

Commissioner Newell stated that if \$5 million was allocated to the criminal justice programs, the remaining \$2.6 million could be set aside for the financially assisted agencies (FAA) programs. He said when the state designate its funding, the county then could appropriate money to the units. Other needs could be funded from reserve or contingency, he concluded.

IV. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti suggested \$1 million be added to the FAA programs and other pressing unfunded needs be brought back to the board. The commissioner commented that he also would like to put more money into the Countywide Community Revitalization Team (CCRT).

Commissioner Newell said over \$3.7 million in reduction was anticipated in the Community Services programs. Staff would analyze the reductions and reallocate money to the most effective and efficient programs, he added. He said the CCRT program had been funded and additional money also was allocated to the program.

Ms. Creamer said the \$1 million allocation would fund applicants' requests but would mainly restore the additional funding given last year. Staff would need another process to review the reduction as it became known and would report a final recommendation to the board, she added.

Commissioner Marcus said she supported giving the \$1 million now and addressing the reduction when it was reported. She asked Mr. Weisman to outline the priorities that would impact the budget that were discussed at the July 8, 2003, board retreat.

Mr. Weisman said the priorities the board agreed upon were CCRT funding, infrastructure funding for commissioners, and environmental issues.

Commissioner Koons said he supported a \$1 million allocation now and would agree to target contingency funds for the \$1.6 million later.

Commissioner Greene asked why the cost of legislation for inmate testing, as discussed at the retreat, was not mentioned among the priorities. Mr. Weisman said it would not be a multi-million dollar item. Commissioner Marcus added that the board and staff would know how much to take from contingency funds when the sheriff determined an amount for the legislative project.

Commissioner Aaronson said that it would be wise to wait until the reductions were known but that he would support the allocation.

Mr. Roberts informed Commissioner Newell that \$2.7 million to be derived from Article V savings would be put in a separate criminal justice reserve and could be used for any criminal justice program the board deemed appropriate.

Staff was directed to:

- * Allocate \$1 million to the FAA now, put aside \$1.6 million and bring back the reductions when they were made available.

Commissioner Masilotti commented that the anticipated savings from Article V would not be available until July 2004. He suggested the money be traded out of reserve to fund the programs and be repaid when it was actually realized. Mr. Weisman said the money could be budgeted that way but it was risky because of the state's uncertainty.

III.D. – CONTINUED (See pages 9-10 for previous discussion.)

FILM FESTIVAL - CONTINUED

Commissioner Marcus reiterated Commissioner Koon's proposal to put \$150,000 directly to individual schools in the county for arts programs monitored through the Economic Development Office. Commissioner Newell said he did not agree and contended that if money was being put into programs for the arts, schools that were not backed by large foundations should be supported.

Commissioner McCarty commented that she liked Commissioner Koon's recommendation but she suggested allocating the money to the student showcase until staff could better identify the expenditures.

Commissioner Marcus said that:

- * She supported the money going directly to the schools through an interlocal agreement process like the arrangement with the Marine Industry Education Foundation.
- * The film commission would administer the showcase program under its existing budget and staffing.
- * Expenditures including the overhead and operational costs could be funded from the film festival budget.
- * The allocated amount should be \$100,000 to be added to the \$90,000 that was brought forward in the budget.
- * At the end of the year, the schools would report on the progress, then the board would decide if funding should be increased.

Commissioner Newell said the marine industry program management was not a good comparison because the foundation funded a large portion of the program.

Commissioner McCarty said she supported Commissioner Marcus' suggestions. Commissioner Aaronson said Commissioner Marcus' recommendations were reasonable and would benefit the schools; the film festival would be independent and all would be satisfied. On polling the board, Commissioner Marcus noted that the majority agreed to accept her recommendations.

Staff was directed to:

- * Work with the school board and the film commission and report back to the board the details of how the allocation for the student showcase would be handled.

III.E.

CULTURAL COUNCIL. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

William E. Ray, president of the Palm Beach County Cultural Council, Inc., stated that:

- * The new grant program was about community development.

III.E. - CONTINUED

- * The board gave the council \$400,000 yearly for children's cultural and multi-cultural activities. The Tourist Development Council (TDC) paid the staff.
- * Because some districts had few children and some organizations did not handle multi-culturalism, the council formulated the C-2 grant program to provide support for organizations that enable citizens to participate in culture, science, history, and the arts, without having to focus on tourism or limited programs.
- * Since funding was not from bed tax dollars, the process was open to everyone and was competitive.
- * The council had not been proactive in finding applicants in the western communities but waited on applicants to come to it. The council also did not do a good job of finding organizations that provide community-based cultural programs and activities in newly developed or faster growing areas, but would address those issues.
- * He asked approval of the categories.

Mr. Ray confirmed at Commissioner Marcus' inquiry, that he was not only requesting the additional \$400,000, but that he also was seeking the board's approval of the groups that were selected.

Mr. Ray said the Norton Gallery and School of Art (Norton) applied for Category B funding and would not qualify in the new category. Funding only was allowed in either the tourist or the community category.

Commissioner McCarty questioned the TDC giving \$100,000 to the film festival. She said the same rules should apply to the organizations. She also said she could not support the recommended list.

Commissioner Marcus said if the board focused on the decision of allocation, it could then recommend the requirements. She said she was opposed to giving the \$400,000. She polled the board for its consensus on the amount to be given.

Commissioner McCarty said she would allocate the money if it went only to recipients who did not access bed tax money as well. Commissioner Newell said he would agree to give \$200,000 this year and maybe the full amount next year. Commissioner Koons agreed to give the full amount but suggested a review of the process. He said the larger cultural organizations could be given incentives to deliver services in District 6 if the board prioritized and reviewed the programs. Commissioner Masilotti said he supported Commissioner Koons' recommendation. Commissioners Aaronson and Greene added that they too supported the \$400,000 allocation.

Staff was directed to:

- * Allocate the additional \$400,000 to the cultural council.

Commissioner McCarty contended that the council should hold to the criteria it sets and not allow organizations to access bed tax dollars if they violate the rules. She said she would not support the funding unless the set criteria were observed. Commissioner Newell agreed.

III.E. - CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti suggested the organizations be restricted to Palm Beach County. He said almost all of the organizations under the B-1 category received some form of bed tax support through the TDC and that he was supportive of the \$400,000 allocation because he believed Mr. Ray tried in good faith to fulfill the board's directive.

Commissioner Aaronson suggested the allocation be left the way it was and that the rules are examined for next year.

Commissioner McCarty said if the Norton or any cultural organization wanted to continue receiving bed tax dollars, they should treat all county residents the same. She said a local newspaper published that the Norton would eliminate the free day to residents except for those residing in the City of West Palm Beach.

Commissioner Marcus directed Deputy County Administrator Baker to:

- * Take the issue to the TDC for its recommendation to the Norton.

In response to Commissioner Masilotti, Mr. Ray explained that all the grant funds were reimbursable for program and marketing expenses. He said the monies did not fund awards, salaries (except for marketing salary under category B), social events or fundraisers. At Commissioner Masilotti's inquiry, Mr. Ray agreed that the Palm Beach International Film Festival dollars allocation was only for programming and none of the money would fund a party.

On Commissioner Marcus polling of the board, she indicated that the group had decided to allocate the \$400,000 this budget period but revisit the rules for the next fiscal year.

RECESS: At 3:36 p.m., the chair declared a recess.

RECONVENE: At 3:41 p.m., the board reconvened with Commissioners Aaronson, Greene, Koons, McCarty, Marcus, Masilotti, and Newell present.

III.F.

WEST NILE VIRUS. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

County Administrator Weisman informed the board that:

- * The health department requested an increase above the current level in funding.
- * He had requested the health department staff explain to the board why the county instead of the state should fund the West Nile Virus issue.

Jean Malecki, the Health Department director, informed the board that:

- * About 10 years ago the country experienced the largest outbreak of the St. Louis encephalitis. It differed from the current West Nile virus.
- * At that time the virus caused several deaths, hospitalizations, and restrictive activities at night in the schools and communities.

III.F. - CONTINUED

- * The health department worked with county staff on a warning protection program. The state then decided to put money into the testing component.
- * The year after the encephalitis outbreak, the legislature discontinued the program.
- * Although there was no money when the West Nile virus began, the department's extra dollars were spent to warn the public. Because of the swift action, the county experienced no deaths and only two hospitalizations this past year although 4,000 cases were reported nationwide and 284 deaths resulted, including 28 in Florida.
- * Although she requested \$60,000 at the outset, costs had gone up.
- * The department had no money to support the project. A one-time grant of \$44,000 had been received from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and it had used for computers.
- * The state had contributed \$98,200 to provide for testing and laboratory fees for birds used for detection of the West Nile virus.
- * To compensate for the lack of funds and to provide for the 30-60 minutes lead time to retrieve dead birds or animals for testing, she requested \$145,000.

Staff was directed to:

- * Budget \$145,000 for the West Nile virus project and return any unspent portion to the general fund.

I.A. – CONTINUED (See page 5, for earlier discussion.)

At Commissioner Marcus' inquiry, Mr. Weisman stated that:

- * The balance to be allocated was \$4.35 million. The allocations were \$2.6 million for the financially assisted agencies; \$350,000 for the South Florida Fair; \$600,000 for the Supervisor of Elections extra mailing; \$100,000 for the film festival funding for schools; \$400,000 for the Cultural Council; and \$145,000 for the West Nile virus project.

Commissioner Marcus pointed out that funding for the CCRT, the RTA, beach restoration and environmental preservation was short-listed at a meeting yesterday and had not yet been determined. She said although the criminal justice commission programs had not made the short list, they remained to be considered.

III.G.

PALM TRAN EXTENDED HOURS. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Palm Tran Executive Director Perry Maull informed the board that to continue extended hours to the bus service, the cost would be \$1,239,064. He affirmed that the Palm Tran Advisory Board did approve the recommendation to continue extended evening hours from Monday through Saturday. He said the costs were to cover services that would be discontinued because state and federal grants would expire in October 2003.

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

Mr. Weisman said a productivity report showed an average of eight passengers per hour. Routes were preserved if they had over eight passengers an hour, but those below eight riders were terminated, he stated. Staff had suggested routes 2 and 3 be terminated but routes 47 and 48 were at the borderline, he concluded.

Commissioner Koons recommended support for the extended hours. Mr. Maull said the fiscal impact on para-transit with the extended hours was \$229,600.

At Commissioner Marcus' inquiry, the board agreed to allocate \$1,239,064 to Palm Tran for extended hours.

III.H. – See this page below.

III.I. – See page 4.

III.J.

DILLMAN ROAD CONSTRUCTION IMPROVEMENTS. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Mr. Weisman informed the board that:

- * Staff considered the \$750,000 Dillman Road improvements to be the county's obligation.

(CLERK'S NOTE: Commissioner Newell rejoined the meeting.)

- * After funding the project, the balance to allocate was \$2.4 million from the remaining amount of \$3.1 million.

The board agreed with the staff recommendation to allocate the \$750,000.

III.H.

GRAVE MARKERS FOR INDIGENT BURIAL/CREMATION PROGRAM. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Commissioner Newell said the gravestone issue need not be discussed at this meeting but he urged staff to formulate a uniform policy for costs.

Assistant County Administrator Jean Creamer informed the board that there was a policy in place and that the indigent burial program staff would be instructed to give correct and pertinent information directly to families at the time arrangements were made.

V. BOARD COMMENTS AND DIRECTION

V.A.

CITRUS CANCKER VS. TREE PLANTING PROGRAM. DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Commissioner Koons suggested the county use \$100,000 to fund a tree planting program in an attempt to make public spaces look better. He said the program would be in partnership with the school board and could be handled by the Cooperative Extension Service. He suggested that the money be taken from the citrus canker program or from the Environmental Resources Management (ERM) Ag-Reserve lease program funds. Mr. Koons introduced a letter from the Cooperative Extension Director Clayton Hutcheson suggesting how the program would work. He concluded that the program would restore the tree canopy program in the neighborhoods.

Commissioner Greene suggested the county explore using the trees from the Department of transportation redevelopment areas. Commissioner Koons suggested relocating the trees to create a tree bank, however, Commissioners Marcus and Masilotti shared that ERM already had a tree relocation program in place. Commissioner Masilotti said transportation costs were more appropriate to be considered instead of acquisition costs because trees were being donated to the county from closed-out nurseries.

Mr. Weisman informed the board that the state's tree cutting program for canker eradication was gearing up to resume. Commissioner Marcus stated that the state would also resume its funding.

Staff was directed to:

- * Not fund the citrus canker program and allocate \$100,000 to the tree-planting program in partnership with the schools.

Commissioner Marcus pointed out that the program and allocation would be reviewed yearly.

V.B.

VARIOUS: CRIMINAL JUSTICE COMMISSION (CJC), COUNTYWIDE COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION TEAM (CCRT), BEACH RENOURISHMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT (ERM) RESTORATION AND, HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV). DISCUSSED 7-9-2003

Commissioner Masilotti inquired as to how much money was needed to continue service at the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) assessment center and for other related programs.

Commissioner Newell informed the board that \$7.2 million was presently being funded and would be lost because of the state's unfounded mandates. He said \$10 million was the amount needed to include other community core service areas including Belle Glade and Lake Worth. He said \$7 million would operate existing programs.

Commissioner Marcus recalled that the CJC had lobbied the board to provide a permanent funding source but the board at that time was not ready to commit. She commented that the county still could get permanent funding from the state for some of the programs. If the attempt failed, she continued, \$2.7 million was being set aside for funding the rest of the fiscal year.

V.B. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Marcus said teen court and other programs were funded through July 1, 2004, and the county would have another opportunity to lobby the state during the next session to reconsider failed issues. She said if the county was unsuccessful in its attempt, the board could then determine appropriate funding. She urged her colleagues to let the process work itself through the next legislative session instead of setting money aside that was not needed until next July.

Commissioner Masilotti said he agreed with Commissioner Marcus' statement, but he inquired if the \$2.7 million would be enough to carry the programs from July 1, 2004, to the end of the budget cycle

Mr. Roberts assured the board that the money would be adequate and would be put in reserves earmarked for those programs.

Commissioner Newell said the programs needed long-term funding solutions. He said the \$2.7 million might be needed for other programs under the Article V prohibition and that he was attempting to have money added to the budget to be carried over to the next budget year when about \$7 million would be needed.

Commissioner Marcus pointed out that the CJC issue had not made the priority list at the board's summit the previous day or at the present budget meeting. She polled the board as to their decision.

Commissioner Koons said he supported the long-term goal but that the board should revisit the issue in March when the governor's proposed budget would be available.

Commissioner Greene suggested the sheriff's department be asked for funding support.

Commissioner Aaronson also acknowledged the long-term goal but suggested that the legislative delegation convey to lawmakers that because money was used for the Regional Transit Authority and other state issues, the county could not fund programs that were of importance to residents. He also suggested that the board invest in the criminal justice programs through the CCRT. Commissioner Koons concurred.

Commissioner Marcus clarified that Commissioners Koons and Aaronson wanted a portion of the remaining \$2.4 million allocated to the CCRT but directed toward the criminal justice programs. Mr. Weisman pointed out that although staff had not reviewed the issue, the CJC's request was for expansion of services and not for current service maintenance.

Commissioner Newell suggested the board allocate the remaining \$2.4 million along with the \$2.7 million from the Article V savings toward criminal justice issues to include juvenile programs.

Commissioner Marcus said she would support up to \$2 million going toward CCRT with emphasis on enhancing the criminal justice programs within those areas.

V.B. – CONTINUED

Commissioner Masilotti commented and recommended that:

- * The \$2.7 million worth of savings to be realized would fund the CJC programs for the last quarter of fiscal year 2004.
- * If the savings were not realized, the money could be taken from contingency.
- * An allocation of \$1 million could go to the CCRT earmarked for the criminal justice programs.
- * A \$500,000 allocation could go toward both the beach re-nourishment program and the environmentally sensitive land program.

Mr. Weisman informed the board that the board had the potential to fund the programs if state funding was inadequate. Commissioner Masilotti suggested the money be taken out of contingency now to fund the programs. Mr. Roberts suggested, however, that the money be left in the contingency account until any requests were made.

In response to Commissioner Greene, Mr. Weisman said the beach renourishment program now had \$1.1 million including the added \$500,000. Commissioner Greene commented that the allocation was insufficient.

Commissioner Newell suggested that \$1 million be added to the \$2.7 million for CJC programs. At the chair polling of the board, the majority agreed to allocate \$1 million dollars to the CJC, \$500,000 to beach renourishment, \$500,000 to ERM restoration program, and \$400,000 to CCRT for capital programs.

Staff was directed to:

- * Allocate the \$500,000 to the beach renourishment program but bring back the program schedule at the September 11, 2003, budget meeting for the board to see if the money was needed during the next fiscal year.

Mr. Weisman requested and obtained the board's consensus for staff to set up an office for the CCRT projects.

In response to Commissioner Koons regarding the CCRT project, Mr. Weisman informed the board that staff would attempt to get more projects done in various areas during the same timeframe.

Commissioner Masilotti suggested the \$400,000 allocated to the CCRT capital programs be geared toward some recreational programs.

Commissioner Marcus said \$150,000 should be taken from contingencies to fund the HIV prevention program if the Health Care District decided not to provide funding.

V1. – (See pages 3 and 4.)

VII. ADJOURNMENT

At 4:36 p.m., the chair declared the meeting adjourned.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Clerk:

Chair: