

Liberty County, FL

Liberty County Board of County Commissioners Tentative Budget Hearing

Minutes

Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 6:00 pm

AGENDAS ARE POSTED ON THE BOARD'S WEBSITE AT WWW.LIBERTYCOUNTYFL.ORG;
ATTACHMENTS ARE PROVIDED TO THE BOARD MEMBERS ONLY AND ARE AVAILABLE TO
THE PUBLIC UPON REQUEST.

Meeting Location

Liberty County Courthouse - 10818 NW SR 20; Bristol, Florida 32321

Zoom link and call in numbers

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89883911070?pwd=0XjbLELiFHbYBxaMbrfe5jdaHXvbBu.1>

Meeting ID: 898 8391 1070

Passcode: 374510

Dial by phone: (305) 224-1968

1. Call To Order

Minutes:

- Chairwoman Hannah Causseaux called the budget workshop to order in person and via zoom at 6:00 P.M. Present at the meeting were Commissioners Dewayne Branch, Jim Johnson, Doyle Brown, Scott Phillips, Clerk Daniel Stanley, Finance Director Maggie Holland, HR Director Shaula Jerkins, and Deputy Clerk Jessica Conyers. Attorney Jennifer Shuler was not in attendance.

2. Invocation

Minutes:

- Invocation led by Chairwoman Causseaux.

3. Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes:

- Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Brown.

4. Audience Concerns

Minutes:

- There were no audience concerns.

5. Motion to Amend the Agenda

Minutes:

- There was no motion to amend the agenda.

6. Motion to Adopt the Agenda**Minutes:**

- Motion to adopt agenda made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion carried.

7. Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**Minutes:**

- Clerk Stanley addressed the Board to discuss Tentative Millage Rate. This is the same rate that the Board has had since 2017. The Board implemented Fire Tax and by Florida Statute the Board is required to reduce the amount of revenue that is expected to be received on the fire tax and that amount is eliminated from the anticipated revenue from Ad valorem Taxes which moves the Board from 10 to 9.325. The current year tax rate is 9.3247 and the rollback rate is 8.9812.
- Chairwoman Causseaux opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments.
- There were no Board comments.
- Motion to approve the Tentative Millage Rate for Fiscal Year 2024 - 2025 made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Branch, motion carried.

8. Tentative Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025**Minutes:**

- Clerk Stanley addressed the Board to discuss Tentative Budget. The Board is still needing Fiscal Year 2022 -2023 audit ending September 30, 2023, and the Elected Officials rate of pay from Office of Economic and Demographic Research. Since the last workshop all forecasted revenues have been released by the EDR, the Clerk's Office has updated projected revenues in other line items, and there are changes to several funds due to Open Enrollment.
- Commissioner Johnson spoke about removing \$80,000.00 for one vehicle and equipment for the Sheriff's Department
- Brett Phillips addressed the Board. If the Sherriff's Office can come back next year and readdress some things they would be willing to take out the fund for the vehicle.
- Commissioner Brown would like to leave this amount in the budget and if the Sheriff's Office does not use the funds, the Board can amend the agenda to remove fund from the budget.
- Bret advised that they will delay in asking for funds until January if the Board keeps the line item in the budget.
- Chairwoman Causseaux advised that the Board will move on with the agenda and revisit this discussion.
- Chris with the Apalachee Regional Planning Counsel addressed the Board to discuss their budget increase, the county absorbing the increase, and how ARPC is financially structured.
- Fund 1 - General. Clerk Stanley advised that the Board is around \$9,000.00 less than last

time. He spoke on Health Insurance increases and cash carry forward. The Board is balancing the budget with cash on hand for the next Fiscal Year of \$2,052,00.00. The Board has built in \$75,000.00 to the budget for a Lobbyist and the Board will need to vote on this.

- Motion to deny increase of \$75,000.00 to General Fund 1 line 513310 Professional Fees to advertise for a County Lobbyist made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.
- Commissioners Brown and Phillips are opposed. They would like to keep the increase in the budget.
- Motion carried.
- Bret addressed the Board to discuss the Sheriff's Budget.
- Motion to remove \$80,000.00 for the Sheriff's Department vehicle from the budget made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.
- Commissioner Phillips and Brown are opposed. They would like to leave the funds in the budget.
- Motion carried.
- Fund 102 - Ambulance. Clerk Stanley advised that the only change to this fund is in Health Insurance.
- Fund 103 - Landfill.
- Motion to deny SMS status for Cole Maloy made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion carried.
- Motion to approve an additional dollar an hour raise for Perry Hostetter after CDL's are obtained made by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Brown, motion carried.
- Fund 104 - Transportation (Road & Bridge). Boo would like to give employees an additional twenty-five cents an hour on top of the dollar an hour raise,
- Motion to approve additional twenty-five cent on top of the dollar an hour raise made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Branch.
- Boo advised that Grader Operators pay rate increase will be more.
- Motion to amend the previous motion to adopt pay scale with increases as proposed made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Branch, motion carried.
- There were no changes to Fund 105 - Voted Gas Tax.
- Fund 106 - Transit. Monica addressed the Board to discuss budget.
- There are some increases in Health Insurance.
- At previous meetings the Board had made a motion to put all Mechanics at the same rate of pay and to keep them all the same Sterling Brown will need an rate increase of twenty-five cents an hour.
- Motion to increase Sterling Brown rate of pay to match Road and Bridge Mechanics at \$23.25 an hour made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Phillips, motion carried.
- There were no changes to Fund 109 - SHIP.
- There were no changes to Fund 110- Emergency Management.
- There were no changes to Fund 114 - 911.
- Fund 119 - Fire Tax. Clerk Stanley advised that cash carry forward will not change due to

pending property purchase. The property purchase is still pending and will not be completed before the beginning of the new Fiscal Year.

- Fund 120 - County Administration. There are three positions built into the budget and needs Board approval or denial.
- Motion to remove the positions for County Manager or Administrator, Budget Officer, and Human Resource Manager from the budget made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.
- Commissioners Brown and Phillips are opposed. They would like to leave the funds for these positions in the budget.
- Motion carried.
- Motion to deny SMS status or hourly increase for Joe Durden made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson.
- Commissioner Phillips is opposed.
- Motion carried.
- Motion to approve an additional dollar an hour raise for Teresa Stossel made by Commissioner Phillips.
- Motion dies for lack of second.
- Fund 121 - Building Services. Clerk Stanley advised that there has been a slight increase in revenue due to the Board changing fees for building permits and planning fees. There has been a decrease in Health Insurance.
- Motion to approve an additional fifty cent an hour raise for Allison Maloy made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion carried.
- Fund 122 - Recreation Services.
- Motion to approve an additional dollar an hour raise for Deanna Parrish made by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Branch.
- Tommy Jr discussed cutting the second position and possibly hire a part time person to help out during the summertime.
- Motion to amend the motion to strike the position and give Deanna the raise made by Commissioner Phillips, seconded by Commissioner Branch, motion carried.
- There were no changes to Fund 204 - Capital Project Fund.
- There were no changes to Fund 602 - Police Training.
- There were no changes to Fund 603 - Law Enforcement.

9. Board to advertise Notice of Final Budget Hearing

Minutes:

- Chairwoman Causseaux opened the floor to public comments. There were no public comments.
- Motion to approve and advertise Notice of Final Budget Hearing as amended made by Commissioner Branch, seconded by Commissioner Johnson, motion carried.
- There were no Commissioner discussions.

10. Motion To Adjourn

Minutes:

- Motion to adjourn made by Commissioner Johnson, seconded by Commissioner Brown,

motion carried.

Florida Statute 125.001 requires that due public notice be given of all regular meetings of the Board of County Commissioners of a County in the State of Florida. Florida Statute 286.0105 requires that notices of any meeting or hearing, if a meeting or hearing is required, must include the following language, "if a person decides to appeal any decision made by the board, agency or commission with respect to any matter considered at such meeting or hearing he will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based."

Contact: Daniel Stanley (dstanley@libertyclerk.com (850) 643-2215) | Minutes published on 10/15/2024, adopted on 10/10/2024