

JEFFREY K. BARTON  
Clerk to the Board



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**OF BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS**  
**OF JULY 13, 2011**

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JEFFREY K. BARTON

Clerk to the Board



July 13, 2011

**BUDGET WORKSHOP OF THE BOARD OF COUNTY**  
**COMMISSIONERS**

The Board of County Commissioners of Indian River County, Florida, met at the County Commission Chambers, 1801 27<sup>th</sup> Street, Vero Beach, Florida, on Wednesday, July 13, 2011 to conduct a Budget Workshop. Present were Chairman Bob Solari, Vice Chairman Gary C. Wheeler, and Commissioners Wesley S. Davis, Joseph E. Flescher, and Peter D. O'Bryan. Also present were County Administrator Joseph A. Baird, Management and Budget Director Jason E. Brown, County Attorney Alan S. Polackwich, Sr., and Deputy Clerk Maureen Gelfo.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Solari called the Workshop to order at 9:00 a.m.

**INVOCATION**

Deputy Teddy Floyd, Indian River County Sheriff's Office, delivered the Invocation.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chairman Solari led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **GENERAL OVERVIEW SESSION - JOSEPH A. BAIRD, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR**

Administrator Baird used a PowerPoint Presentation (on file) to support his budget message for Fiscal Year 2011-2012. He announced the proposed budget of \$258,404,842, a reduction of \$60,359,981 or 18.9% from the current year. He outlined the major budget impacts, including tax roll declines in the General Fund, the Municipal Services Taxing Unit (M.S.T.U.), and the Emergency Services District (ESD), of 6.4%, 8.3%, and 7.4% respectively, and a decrease of \$1,732,155 or 56.5% in interest earnings. Administrator Baird noted that \$1,660,000 of fund reserves had been used to balance the budget; however, in the future, he hoped to phase this usage out. He said that savings had been accomplished with the elimination of nine positions (5 vacant and 4 filled), automobile allowance reductions, and fleet reorganization. On the positive side, he noted that the County has saved around \$4.1 million as a result of the recently enacted Senate Bill 2100 (SB 2100) mandating 3% employee contributions to retirement funds. He stated that the Commission's goal of no tax increases has been accomplished with the exception of increases of 0.0036 and 0.0241, respectively, for the Land Acquisition Bonds, and a slight increase in assessment rates (following 15 years of decreases) for the Solid Waste Disposal District (SWDD). He announced that the proposed millage rates for the General Fund, the M.S.T.U., and the EMS remain the same at 3.0892, 1.0733, and 1.7148, respectively, and assured the Board that all the budget reductions were accomplished without cuts to service.

### **GENERAL FUND**

Administrator Baird reported that the overall proposed budget for the General Fund is \$69,680,951, a \$9,236,767 or 11.7% decrease. He thereafter outlined the proposed budgets and reductions for all departments under the Board of County Commissioners (page 29 of the Budget Workshop booklet), relaying that the total for the Board's departmental budgets is \$14,865,133, a decrease of \$1,481,300 or 9.1%. He noted that due to the erroneous omission of a line item, funding of \$70,000 would have to be added back to Human Services.

Management and Budget Director Jason Brown explained that after the \$70,000 is returned to Human Services, the Board's proposed budget would reflect an 8.6% decrease.

### **MUNICIPAL SERVICE TAXING UNIT (M.S.T.U.)**

Administrator Baird announced that the overall proposed budget for the M.S.T.U. is \$24,470,418, a decrease of \$4,469,846, or 15.4%, and the proposed millage remains the same as last year at 1.0733. He outlined the proposed budgets and reductions for all departments under the M.S.T.U. (pages 32 & 33 of the Budget Workshop booklet), relaying that the total M.S.T.U. departmental budget is \$4,622,666, a \$500,476 or 9.8% decrease. He remarked on the County's low general millage rate, which he believed was the second lowest in the State.

A discussion followed wherein staff addressed the Board's questions and comments about the presentation data. Topics included, but were not limited to, the broad range of services funded by the M.S.T.U.; whether the majority of funding for the Aquatic Centers, Recreational Department, and Shooting Range facilities was revenue or tax-based; what constituted the budget reductions in Ocean Rescue; and funding and staffing at the Gifford and North County Aquatic Centers. The Commissioners requested that staff return to the Board with a comparison showing the millage of this County and neighboring municipalities, and the services provided by the M.S.T.U. funding.

Continuing his budget message, Administrator Baird predicted that Fiscal Year 2012-2013 would be an even harder budget, and explained why the State's Florida Retirement System (FRS) rates could spike to \$4.8 million next year. He suggested that the Commissioners begin lobbying their State legislators to keep the FRS rates low.

Chairman Solari wanted further information before any lobbying was done, and requested a future presentation on the FRS.

Concluding the M.S.T.U. analysis, Administrator Baird said there have been some positive occurrences, such as increases in Sales Taxes, State Revenue Sharing, and Gas Taxes. He also posed the possibility of paying off the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds early, which would eliminate one tax for next year, so slight increases could be made in other areas.

### **TRANSPORTATION FUND**

Administrator Baird mentioned that the Transportation Fund gets about 72% of its revenue from the taxing funds, and announced the proposed total Transportation Budget as \$13,016,157, a reduction of \$2,329,220 or 15.2%. He noted that County gas tax revenues have increased by 6.0% or \$133,000, and outlined the expenses and reductions for the Transportation Fund departments (page 34 of the Budget Workshop booklet), which amount to a proposed budget of \$11,531,179, a decrease of \$2,267,284 or 16.4%.

Administrator Baird and Director Brown thereafter addressed the Board's questions and comments about levels of service; staffing; the reasons for the \$547,050 reduction in Road and Bridge; and enhancing staff efficiency by leaving heavy equipment at the work sites. Administrator Baird revealed that staff would be evaluating whether privatizing beachfront park maintenance would reduce costs.

### **EMERGENCY SERVICES DISTRICT FIRE RESCUE**

Administrator Baird announced that this taxing district is paid by all residents, with the exception of Indian River Shores, and the total proposed budget as \$25,696,785, a decrease of \$2,320,785, or 8.3% (see page 35 the Budget Workshop booklet). He noted that there were ad valorem reductions of \$1,485,441 or 7.4%. He reported that there was a savings of \$1,063,495 from the FRS changes (SB 2100); no salary increases, and that one full-time position had been eliminated due to retirement. He noted that \$484,500 had been budgeted for capital purchases,

and that the operating budget has increased by 0.3% or \$12,354. He reported that the proposed millage rate is 1.7148, the same as last year.

Discussion ensued as staff addressed questions or comments on the capital expenses, and the fund balance.

Further conversation followed as the Commissioners and Administrator Baird talked about whether the dual certification program (training firefighters as paramedics), has reduced the County's costs. Administrator Baird did not believe the program has resulted in a cost-savings, but he stressed that from a safety standpoint, it was advantageous to have the fire-medics.

Several Commissioners thanked and acknowledged County employees for continuing to be good public servants, despite SB 2100 and the 3% decrease in take-home pay.

Administrator Baird also commended County employees, stating they have worked hard to reduce the budget, and he expressed appreciation to the Firefighters and Paramedics Union (IAFF Local 2201), for understanding the economic situation and stepping up to the plate.

**AGGREGATE MILLAGE**  
**STATE PROPOSED AGGREGATE MILLAGE**

Administrator Baird conveyed that the proposed Aggregate Millage is 5.0663, 0.4202% below the rollback millage of 5.4865.

**ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE LAND ACQUISITION BOND**  
**LAND ACQUISITION BONDS – 2004 REFERENDUM**

Administrator Baird reported that the proposed budget for the Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds is \$1,057,596 with millage of 0.0717. Total debt service expenses are



budgeted at \$4,748,441, with a millage of 0.3647 for the Land Acquisition Bonds – 2004 Referendum.

A brief discussion ensued, during which the Board noted that the 2004 Land Acquisition Bonds had been voter approved.

### **STREET LIGHTING DISTRICTS**

Administrator Baird recounted the proposed Revenues and Per Parcel/Acre charges for each of the eighteen street lighting districts, as outlined on pages 42 & 43 of the Budget Workshop booklet.

### **OTHER MUNICIPAL SERVICE BENEFIT UNIT (M.S.B.U.)** **EAST GIFFORD STORMWATER M.S.B.U.** **VERO LAKE ESTATES M.S.B.U.**

*(Clerk's Note: This item was heard following Internal Service Funds and is placed here for continuity).*

Administrator Baird announced that the Vero Lake Estates M.S.B.U. and the East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U. proposed budgets are the same as last year, at a per Parcel/Acre charge of \$19 and \$10, respectively. He explained that an M.S.B.U. assessment is based on the benefit received, rather than on the property assessment, adding that the Vero Lake Estates M.S.B.U. covers drainage and roads, whereas the East Gifford Stormwater M.S.B.U. is allocated for stormwater cleanup from prior flooding.

Director Brown responded to Board questions, providing further information on the fund balances in the M.S.B.U.'s.

Administrator Baird informed the Board that the budget presentation was running ahead of schedule and suggested the Board review the Enterprise and Miscellaneous budgets that were scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, July 14, 2011.

There was CONSENSUS among Board members to move forward to today, July 13, 2011, the Enterprise Funds and Miscellaneous Funds that were originally scheduled for the Budget Hearing of Thursday, July 14, 2011.

The Chairman invited public input.

**Walter Geiger**, 3944 58<sup>th</sup> Circle, acknowledged that the EMS Department is run efficiently. However, he was concerned about the amount of overtime paid last year and budgeted for this year, and due to the low call volume at certain fire stations, believed that it was unnecessary to replace staff when someone is ill or on vacation. He suggested that the Board renegotiate the IAFF Local 2201 contract with the goal of reducing overtime.

Administrator Baird explained how the fire-medics and firefighters' salaries are structured in terms of overtime and pay equity.

Board discussion followed, with input from Administrator Baird, regarding the staffing of the fire stations, the need to have enough staff to quickly respond to emergencies, and the importance of the Advanced Life Support (ALS) engines.

*The Chairman called a recess at 10:33 a.m. and reconvened the meeting at 10:47 a.m., with all members present.*

## **INTERNAL SERVICE FUNDS**

*(Clerk's Note: This item was heard following Streetlighting Districts and is placed here for continuity).*

Administrator Baird announced the individual proposed budgets for the following: Fleet Management, \$3,333,220, a \$76,629 or 2.4% increase from last year; Risk Management, \$4,520,346, a \$834,245 or 15.6% decrease from last year; Employee Health Insurance, \$14,100,349, a \$69,164 or 0.5% reduction from last year; and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Department, \$502,622, a decrease of \$215,293 or 30.0%. He thereafter addressed the Board's questions regarding the increase in Fleet Management, and the decreases in Employee Health Insurance and Risk Management departmental budgets.

## **ENTERPRISE FUNDS**

*(Clerk's Note: The following three items were originally scheduled for Thursday, July 14, 2011, but the presentation was given at this time).*

Administrator Baird noted that there were no increases in any of the Enterprise Fund fees, and emphasized that the only increases the County has in the 2011-2012 Budget are the debt service funds for the two Land Acquisition Bonds, and as mentioned earlier, a minimal increase to the SWDD rates. He announced the individual proposed budgets (pages 49-52 of the Budget Workshop booklet) for the following: Golf Course, \$2,900,420, a reduction of \$51,728 or 1.8% from last year; Building Department, \$1,516,667, \$273,293 or 15.3% less than last year; Utilities Services, \$36,213,537, a 5.9% or \$2,279,955 decrease; Utility Impact Fee Fund, \$578,075, a reduction of \$83,125 or 12.6%.

## **MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS**

Administrator Baird announced the proposed budgets for the Miscellaneous Funds, as outlined on pages 59-87 of the Budget Workshop booklet. He said that there were proposed budget increases in the following funds: Tourist Development, an increase of \$3,571 to \$638,250; Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), a 1.0% or \$6,926 increase to \$667,772; Additional Court Costs, an increase of \$13,787 or 16.1% to \$99,601; and Court Technology, an increase of 23.5% or \$57,665 for a budget of \$303,465.

A lengthy discussion ensued as Administrator Baird, with input from Director Brown and Emergency Services Director John King, addressed the Board's questions about the reduction in the 911 Surcharge Fund; the increases in the Additional Court Costs and Court Technology Funds; and the Dodgertown Bonds and Dodgertown Capital Reserve Fund Bonds.

## **CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Administrator Baird reported that the Optional One-Cent Sales Tax has a proposed budget of \$14,843,099, an \$11,284,107 or 43.2% decrease from last year. He noted that the revenues are down and the fund balance has been reduced because of projects that were done.

Commissioner Davis inquired about the potential for State reimbursement on some of the County's projects. A brief discussion followed, during which Administrator Baird observed that the amount of State funding has markedly declined.

Having concluded all topics scheduled for the morning, as well as those items scheduled for Thursday, Administrator Baird announced there were several Non-Departmental funds that could be reviewed at this time. There was a Board CONSENSUS to do so.

Please see Afternoon Session for presentation on the following budgets that were discussed at this time:

STATE AGENCIES  
SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA)  
FELLSMERE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA (CRA)  
NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

*The Chairman announced that the Workshop would adjourn for lunch at 11:21 a.m., and would reconvene at 1:30 p.m.*

#### **AFTERNOON SESSION**

Chairman Solari reconvened the Budget Workshop, and opened the Public Hearing for the Solid Waste Disposal District (S.W.D.D.) at 1:30 p.m., with all members present.

#### **PUBLIC HEARING - SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL DISTRICT (S.W.D.D.)**

The SWDD 2011-2012 Budget Workshop minutes are prepared separately, and are attached.

The Chairman adjourned the SWDD Public Hearing and reopened the Budget Workshop meeting at 1:36 p.m.

Chairman Solari requested that the Sheriff's presentation be made following the other four Constitutional Officers and prior to the Value Adjustment Board.

## **CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICERS**

### ***CLERK OF CIRCUIT COURT***

Administrator Baird announced that the Clerk of the Court's proposed budget for 2011-2012 is \$959,794, a \$35,281 or 3.5% reduction from last year.

Jeffrey Barton, Clerk of Circuit Court and Comptroller, addressed the Board's questions about the increase in the OPEB (Other Post-Employment Benefits) expense, and provided his perspective on whether court revenues would increase in the upcoming year.

### ***TAX COLLECTOR – CAROLE JEAN JORDAN***

Administrator Baird explained that staff would not receive the Tax Collector's budget until August 1, 2011; however, he provided staff's estimate of \$1,265,104.

Tax Collector Carole Jean Jordan reported that her office has taken over full driver licensing services, subsequent to the closure of the Department of Motor Vehicles office at south U.S.1. She stated that the department processes about 200 such transactions per day, reported that training is underway for a new, time-saving software system, and acknowledged her staff for providing excellent customer service.

### ***PROPERTY APPRAISER – DAVID C. NOLTE***

Administrator Baird reported this budget to be \$2,257,731, a reduction of \$107,022 or 4.5% from last year. He acknowledged that the Property Appraiser has cut his budget more than any other County department over the prior four years.

Property Appraiser David Nolte observed that although the numbers do not indicate an economic recovery, he has seen a surprising amount of new construction in the County. He reported that this past year, there was only \$87 million of new construction; whereas at the peak of the housing boom, there had been \$700 million, and an average year would yield approximately \$400 million of new construction.

### ***SHERIFF – DERYL LOAR***

*(Clerk's Note: The Sheriff's budget was heard following the Supervisor of Elections, and is placed here for continuity).*

Administrator Baird reported that the Sheriff had submitted a flat budget with no decrease, prior to the July 2010 passage of SB 2100. However, the Constitutionals have been asked to return their retirement savings to the County at the end of the current fiscal year. He added that the Sheriff's savings for this fiscal year were approximately \$400,000, and his retirement savings for 2011-2012 will be approximately \$1,609,507, a \$59,507 increase from staff's original calculation of \$1,550,000. He explained that due to the retirement savings, as well as an anticipated \$149,645 from the State Criminal Alien Assistance program (SCAAP) Grant, the Sheriff's 2011-2012 funding has been reduced \$1,699,645 or 4.2% from last year, bringing the total proposed budget to \$39,224,473.

Sheriff Deryl Loar provided a PowerPoint presentation (not on file), highlighting key expenses of the Sheriff's Department, and explaining that the need for services escalates in conjunction with declining economic conditions, rising unemployment rates, and a population increase. He outlined some of the services provided by the Sheriff's Department, and detailed some of the strategies employed to reduce costs, including changes in work schedules and reductions in overtime. He noted that Administrator Baird had included SCAAP Grant funding in next year's budget, and explained that he was concerned that the SCAAP Grant and other law enforcement subsidies might be reduced or eliminated. He also voiced concerns about the department's aging vehicle fleet, which has approximately 70 cars (out of a fleet of 300) with

100,000 or more miles, and invited suggestions for funding some new automobiles. He added that he would like to return to a departmental budget that includes a category for “Capital Outlay.”

Commissioner O’Bryan complimented the Sheriff and his team on this year’s budget. He asked how much the Sheriff’s FRS savings were this fiscal year and what his plans were for those dollars.

Sheriff Loar replied that he did not know the exact dollar amount of FRS savings, but advised that several employees had unexpectedly retired just before SB 2100 took effect, and \$453,000 in retirement benefits had to be paid out to those individuals. He divulged that additional FRS dollars would be needed this year for an employee who was returning from military service. He thereafter addressed questions regarding the aforementioned vacant positions.

Commissioners O’Bryan and Solari agreed that in view of the Sheriff’s retirement savings and the SCAAP Grant, they would support the County Administrator’s budget recommendation. However, they advocated a return of the SCAAP funding to the Sheriff’s budget, should the Bureau of Justice Assistance fail to award the grant.

Commissioner Davis’s questions regarding the automobile fleet sparked a lengthy discussion, during which the Sheriff provided a breakdown of vehicle and fuel expenses. Afterwards, Commissioner Davis revealed his support for approving the proposed budget, but wanted to see what could be done to enhance the vehicle fleet.

Vice Chairman Wheeler inquired whether the Optional One-Cent Sales Tax revenue could be used for the purchase of emergency vehicles. After this was confirmed by Administrator Baird, the Board consensus was to explore using those funds to update the Sheriff’s fleet.



Administrator Baird suggested dividing the vehicle expenses between this and next fiscal year, and said he would return to the Board with a budget amendment after the Sheriff is invoiced for any new car purchases.

Director Brown asked whether the Board wished to incorporate the Sheriff's FRS savings for this year (approximately \$450,000), with the One-Cent Optional Sales Tax as part of the vehicle funding source.

Chairman Solari declared that the money would be a good source of funds, if it is available.

Sheriff Loar reviewed some of this fiscal year's expenses, which had included the \$453,000 in pension funds disbursed this year, and the purchase of necessary capital equipment from funds allotted in November 2010. He stressed that he had not foreseen that there would be a savings on the FRS fund.

Vice Chairman Wheeler praised Sheriff Loar for his capable handling of the agency and the budget.

The Chairman invited public comments.

**Mr. Geiger** congratulated the Sheriff on the Citizens Academy Course and encouraged the public to take the free class. He recommended that the Sheriff include with future budget submittals, several informational sheets about improvements and events taking place in the Sheriff's office.

**Cyril Knowles**, 7855 91<sup>st</sup> Avenue, 32957, questioned whether secretarial staff was allowed to drive fleet vehicles back and forth to work.

Sheriff Loar advised that office personnel did not drive the Sheriff's Department automobiles home.

***SUPERVISOR OF ELECTIONS – LESLIE R. SWAN***

*(Clerk's Note: This item was heard following the Property Appraiser and is placed here for continuity).*

Administrator Baird conveyed that the recommended budget is \$1,120,456, an increase of \$101,860, or 10.0%.

Supervisor of Elections Leslie Swan provided a handout (on file) and recapped her letters of May 2, 2011 and May 26, 2011 (pages 71-74 and pages 82-87 of the Constitutional Officers Budget Requests booklet) to present supporting data regarding her request to revise her proposed budget from \$1,388,893 to \$1,180,365. She provided a history of the budget cuts taken by the Supervisor of Elections office, and outlined the rigorous cost-cutting measures undertaken to cut next year's expenses, including staffing reductions and a decrease in Ms. Swan's personal employee compensation package. She emphasized that the costs of the Elections Office fluctuate according to election activity and State mandates, and reported that in Fiscal Year 2011-2012, there are three major events that require funding: (1) Redistricting; (2) the Presidential Preference Primary in August; and (3) Municipal Elections in November. After reviewing Elections Office expenses, Ms. Swan conveyed that her office would be faced with a \$59,000 shortfall in next year's budget, if the County Administrator's budget recommendation of \$1,120,456 is approved. She petitioned the Board to consider granting to the Elections Office, an additional \$59,000 for the provision of voter services in accordance with all of the State mandates, most of which are unfunded.

Chairman Solari stated he would support Ms. Swan's request if she agreed to reduce her budget by a commensurate amount next fiscal year, because she would not have the costs of the Redistricting and the Presidential Primary Election.

Ms. Swan replied that she could not be certain what her future costs would be and thus could not commit to a particular budget.

Vice Chairman Wheeler supported Ms. Swan's total budget request of \$1,180,365. He emphasized that she has done an outstanding job in decreasing the Elections Office budget, taken personal budget cuts, and provided a concise explanation on the need for additional funding. He declared that it is the Board's responsibility to make sure the elections are run properly.

Commissioner O'Bryan reasoned that based on a year-to-year comparison, Ms. Swan's operating budget is down by 10%, and suggested adjusting her budget to reflect a 5% decrease. He observed that as the year progresses, a better determination can be made of this year's special expenses.

Commissioner Davis agreed, acknowledging the additional responsibilities falling on the Elections Office this year.

#### ***VALUE ADJUSTMENT BOARD (VAB)***

Administrator Baird reported that this year's budget was \$86,060.

#### **NON-DEPARTMENTAL STATE AGENCIES**

*(Clerk's Note: This item was presented during the morning session, following Capital Projects, after Non-Profit Organizations and is placed here for continuity).*

Administrator Baird announced the General Fund proposed budgets for the following State Agencies: Guardian Ad Litem: \$18,704, a \$14,841 reduction; Victim Assistance Program, \$54,788, a \$6,413 increase; State Attorney: \$33,919, a reduction of \$4,393; Public Defender: \$4,881, an \$85.00 increase over last year; and Medical Examiner, \$295,512, a \$18,104 decrease.

*(Clerk's Note: Presentation on the budgets for the following State Agencies occurred during the 2:30 p.m. afternoon session.)*

Administrator Baird announced the overall proposed budgets for the following State Agencies: New Horizons of the Treasure Coast, Inc., \$288,162, a \$15,166 or 5% decrease; State Health Department, \$551,053, a reduction of \$29,003 or 5% reduction; Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, \$58,163, the same as last year; Department of Juvenile Justice, \$536,022, a \$58,922 or 9.9% decrease; Environmental Control Board, \$17,073, no change from last year; State Attorney \$156,434, \$10,048 less or 6%; Public Defender, \$75,996, a reduction of \$1,647 or 2.1%; and the Medical Examiner, with an \$18,104, or 5.8% reduction, for a budget of \$295,512. Increases were noted for the following State Agencies: Circuit Court Expenses, \$244,458, up \$13,731 or 5.95%; Guardian Ad Litem, up by \$968 or 1.23% to \$79,628; and Victim's Assistance Program, elevated to \$54,788, an increase of \$6,413 or 13.3%.

**John Romano**, CEO of New Horizons, provided his rationale for requesting that the proposed 5% budget cut be returned to the Agency's budget.

The Commissioners acknowledged Mr. Romano's work and the value of New Horizons.

Commissioner O'Bryan acknowledged Ms. Swanson for the excellent services provided by the Health Department and for meeting the recommended budget.

**Miranda Swanson**, Health Department Administrator, thanked the Board and Administrator Baird for their support.

Discussion ensued as the Commissioners, Administrator Baird and Director Brown voiced concerns about the County's funding for the Treasure Coast Regional Planning Council, which has long remained the same, in spite of other agencies cutting budgets. Chairman Solari, the Board liaison to the Council, stated that he had approached the group about reducing their

budget, but to no avail. Commissioner Davis sought and received confirmation from Administrator Baird that this item would be added to the list of discussion items for the Legislative Delegation.

The following officials thanked the Commissioners for their support:

**Diamond Litty**, Public Defender, 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit

**Steven Levin**, Honorable Chief Judge, 19<sup>th</sup> Circuit

**Travis Erickson**, Guardian Ad Litem, Local Circuit Director

*The Chairman called a recess at 3:12 p.m. and reconvened the meeting at 3:21 p.m., with all members present.*

### **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Administrator Baird announced that the recommended budget for this item was \$119,332, the same as last year.

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Administrator Baird announced that the proposed budget was \$656,726, a decrease of \$34,564 or 5.0%.

### **SEBASTIAN COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA** **FELLSMERE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AREA**

*(Clerk's Note: This item was presented during the morning session following Capital Projects and is placed here for continuity)*

Administrator Baird announced that the proposed budgets as follows:

Sebastian Community Redevelopment Area (CRA): \$123,364, a \$20,357 reduction from last year

Fellsmere Community Redevelopment Area (CRA): \$9,706, a \$9,606 reduction

### **CHOOSE LIFE LICENSE PLATE PROGRAM**

Care Net Pregnancy Centers – Administrator Baird announced that the recommended budget is \$17,000, the same as last year.

### **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

#### **HOUSING AUTHORITY**

*(Clerk's Note: This item was presented following Sebastian Community Redevelopment Area and Fellsmere Community Redevelopment Area, and is placed here for continuity)*

Administrator Baird noted that the **Indian River Housing Authority** has been eliminated as a line item in the budget; however, he recommended funding of \$110,000 for this year. He thereafter addressed the Board's questions about the CRA's, and Job Grant funding.

### **NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

*(Clerk's Note: Presentation on the remaining Non-Profit Organizations concluded during the afternoon session).*

Administrator Baird announced the proposed budgets as follows: Mental Health Walk-In Clinic, \$27,500; State Forestry Service, \$13,822; Veteran's Council \$74,650, a \$290 decrease (as submitted by the agency); and Keep Indian River Beautiful (KIRB) \$38,609, \$2,032 or 5% less than last year.

Administrator Baird reported that the Cultural Council had withdrawn their request for financial assistance, and Vice Chairman Wheeler commended them on the letter they had sent withdrawing the request.

Commissioners O'Bryan and Flescher advocated returning \$35,000 (the proposed budget reduction) to the Children's Services' budget.

**Bradley Bernauer**, Director of Human Services, Children's Services Advisory Committee, advised that he was grateful for the monies received from the Board. Responding to questioning, he told the Board there was not much duplication of services; instead, there was cooperation between the agencies as they tried to help people.

Administrator Baird, with input from Director Brown, provided further information about the revenues from the Florida State of the Arts license plates. It was noted that the County's designated arts agency, which is currently the Cultural Council, receives the license plate revenues.

### **QUASI-NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS**

Administrator Baird announced the proposed budgets as follows: Community Transportation Coordinator (Senior Resource Association, Inc.), \$500,130, a 5% or \$26,322 reduction; Community Transportation Coordinator Grants, \$0 (the amount will be adjusted after the grants are awarded); Gifford Youth Activity Center, \$90,038, a reduction of \$4,739 or 5.0%; Progressive Civic League of Gifford, \$12,825, decreased by \$675 or 5.0%; Humane Society of Vero Beach & IRC, \$395,547, the same as last year (still under negotiation); and Treasure Coast Homeless Services Council, Inc., \$15,270, a reduction of \$803 or 5% from last year.

The following speakers thanked the Commissioners for their support:

**Freddie Woolfork**, 4590 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Administrator of Development and Marketing,  
Gifford Youth Activity Center

**Kristine Sarkauskas**, CEO & President, Mental Health Association, 242 Del Monte Rd.,  
Sebastian

**Eric Wheeler**, President, Veteran's Council

**Karen Diegel**, CEO, Senior Resource Association

Administrator Baird believed that the issues which had surfaced during the budget presentation could be resolved without changing the proposed total budget. He recapped that the Sheriff had an additional \$59,507 in FRS savings over the \$1,550,000 original figure, for a total of \$1,609,507; the Human Services Budget would have \$73,093 returned to it; and the Supervisor of Elections will be receiving half of her requested increase of \$59,909. He suggested the Board take the proposed net increase out of General Fund Contingencies, with no other budgetary changes.

Chairman Solari reminded Administrator Baird that New Horizons had also requested that \$15,166 be returned to their budget.

There was a consensus among Commissioners Flescher, Davis, and O'Bryan, to reinstate the \$15,166 to New Horizons.

Chairman Solari opined that although it was painful, the 5% cuts to Children's Services and New Horizons were necessary to balance the budget. He supported the Supervisor of Elections' budget request for this fiscal year, but asserted that this year's fiscal plan, containing the additional expenses, would not become the baseline comparison for future elections office budgets.

Commissioners O'Bryan and Flescher reiterated their support for adding \$35,000 to Children's Services; however, there was no Board consensus to do so.

Administrator Baird sought and received confirmation from the Board that the FRS savings from this fiscal year could be included in the total budget.



Commissioner O'Bryan was in favor of granting half of what the Supervisor of Elections had requested to make up the difference between her requested budget and Administrator Baird's proposed allocation.

Vice Chairman Wheeler advocated retaining the 5% cuts to Children's Services and New Horizons; however, he supported the requested increase to the Supervisor of Elections' budget. He also asked about using the Optional One-Cent Sales Tax to purchase some vehicles for the Sheriff.

Administrator Baird responded that he would like to take no more than \$400,000 of the \$700,000 Optional Sales Tax contingency fund, and not change the total proposed budget.

Several Commissioners agreed that they did not want to commit to a particular figure for the Sheriff's fleet until more information was presented regarding the mileage and condition of the current vehicles, how many automobiles might need replacing, and what this year's FRS savings had been spent on.

Administrator Baird acknowledged that this matter would be brought back to the Board.

After the Board's deliberations were concluded, Administrator Baird outlined that the proposed budget would incorporate the following changes: the Sheriff's additional \$59,507 in FRS savings; Human Services would have \$73,093 replaced; Supervisor of Elections would receive half of her requested increase of \$59,909; and New Horizons would have \$15,166 restored. He suggested the Board take the proposed net increase out of General Fund Contingencies, with no other budgetary changes.

Director Brown announced that the total net increase to the proposed budget was \$58,707, which would be taken from the \$600,000 in contingency funds, bringing the contingencies to \$541,293.

Administrator Baird announced the County's total proposed budget of \$258,404,842, a decrease of \$60,359,981 or 18.9% from the current year. He recapped the recommendations for individual budgets and millage, as follows:

General Fund

Millage 3.0892: the same as the current year, 7.03 % below rollback

Budget \$69,680,951

Municipal Service Taxing Unit (M.S.T.U.)

Millage: 1.0733, 9.03% below rollback

Budget: \$24,470,418

Transportation Fund

Millage: None

Budget: \$13,016,157, \$2,329,220 or 15.2% less than last year

Emergency Services District (ESD)

Millage: 1.7148 remains the same at 8.12 % below rollback

Budget: \$25,696,785

Environmentally Sensitive Land Acquisition Bonds

Millage: 0.0717

Budget: \$1,057,596

Land Acquisition Bonds for the 2004 Referendum

Millage: 0.3647

Budget: \$4,748,441

MOTION WAS MADE by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, to approve the tentative budget as presented by the County Administrator.

Attorney Polackwich suggested that the Board also take action on the proposed millage rates.

MOTION WAS AMENDED by Commissioner O'Bryan, SECONDED by Commissioner Flescher, to include approval of the preliminary millage rates, as presented by the County Administrator.

The Chairman CALLED THE QUESTION, and the Motion carried unanimously. The Board approved the tentative budget and the preliminary millage rates, as presented by the County Administrator.

Chairman Solari announced that the Public Hearing on the Tentative Budget and Proposed Millage Rates would be held on September 7, 2011 at 5:01 p.m., and the final Budget Hearing and Adoption of Millage Rates would take place on September 14, 2011 at 5:01 p.m. He commended all of the County employees for working through the tight budgets, and extended kudos to Administrator Baird, Director Brown, and the budget staff.

*(Clerk's Note: All business was completed in one day and therefore a meeting on July 14, 2011 was not necessary and was not held).*

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Budget Workshop adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

ALL BACKUP DOCUMENTATION IS ON FILE IN THE OFFICE OF THE CLERK TO THE BOARD AND  
IS HEREBY MADE A PART OF THESE MINUTES

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey K. Barton, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Solari, Chairman

Minutes Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
MG/Budget Workshop