

Decatur County Board of Commissioners
Budget Workshop
June 10, 2014
10:45 AM

Present: Chairman Frank Loeffler, Vice-Chairman Dennis Brinson, Commissioners Russell Smith, Jan Godwin, County Administrator Gary Breedlove, Accounting Manager Michelle West, and Consultant, Perry Henry.

Chairman Loeffler called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m. County Administrator discussed the TAN history and the current status of this year's TAN. County Administrator Breedlove discussed some budget factors that the Commissioners need to consider for the upcoming fiscal year 2015.

- *Deficit will be \$1 million +
- *Reasons: Personnel costs, City of Bainbridge Trash, etc.
- *Sales tax revenues remain flat since January 2013: GATE, FICA 2%, etc.
- *Fuel expense costs us \$200,000 a year more than 2010.
- *Percentage of Bainbridge/Decatur County people are under "poverty level" is two and one half times the national percentage.
- *Decatur County has the highest unemployment rate in Southwest Georgia.

County Administrator also discussed some favorable news:

- *Our County MIL rate of 11.41 is approximately 2 MILS below average of the 14 SWGRC Counties 13.489(Source: GA DOR Digest/MIL rates).
- *Landfill timber sales may provide \$400,000 revenue.
- *Public Works secured approximately \$140,000 from state for striping, etc.
- *Several loans have been paid off early to eliminate loans with higher interest rates, with the exception of Sheriff's cars(3.5%) and Silver Lake(3%), remaining loans are 2.47% or lower. Plus, of our approximately \$8 million debt, 75% is "secured" with either SPLOST or MIL revenue.
- *Potential Landfill customer who would "offset" tonnage lost from City of Bainbridge.
- *Industrial Park possibilities seem better.

Consultant Henry stated that this budget was a plan as to what the County intends to fund and how, and it is critical to make every effort to follow this plan. Henry stated that the County's finances are improving, but still has a ways to go to be financially sound. Henry stated ACCG recommends that Counties need a fund balance of 3 – 6 months.(\$4-8 million) Perry also stated that the \$1 million deficit is from capital improvement projects.

Accounts Manager West discussed the increase in expenditures included in the FY15' Budget. West stated the biggest increases were mainly from personnel, which consisted of raises, FICA, medical costs, and retirement cost that increased. West stated that each department's operating expenditures were pretty much in line from the previous year's budget. The increase of expenditures came from cell 4 & 5 construction and the ongoing WWTP upgrade in process.

Roland from the golf course discussed his budget increase request and there was a brief discussion from Commissioner Smith on the reasons for the increase.

Commissioner Godwin requested that the River Town Days contribution of \$3,000 be put back in the budget.

Approve: 
Chairman

Attest: 
Deputy County Clerk