

May 24, 2011
Statesboro, GA

Workshop

The Board of Commissioners met for a Workshop at 11:45 a.m. in the Community Room of the North Main Annex.

The following commissioners were present: Chairman Nevil, Vice-Chairman Rushing, Commissioner Mosley, Commissioner Simmons, Commissioner Thompson, Commissioner Gibson and Commissioner Ethridge (arrived at 12:30). The following staff were present: County Manager Thomas Couch, County Attorney Jeff Akins, Clerk of the Board Maggie Fitzgerald, Deputy Clerk of the Board Christy Strickland, Statesboro Bulloch County Parks and Recreation Director Mike Rollins, Chief Financial Officer Harry Starling, Public Safety Director Ted Wynn, Development Services Director Andy Welch, Fire Chief Randy Walker, Interim BCCI Warden Chris Hill, BCCI Deputy Warden Wayne Smith, Clerk of Court Teresa Tucker, Human Resources Director Heather McNeal, and Probation Director Christi Black.

Chairman Nevil called the Workshop to order, and called on the County Manager Thomas Couch for an invocation. Mr. Couch gave the invocation, and then recessed for 20 minutes for lunch. Mr. Couch resumed the workshop at 12:10, and discussed with the Commissioners and Staff the Special Called Meeting that was held on Monday May 23, 2011, concerning SPLOST 2013 with the Governing Authorities of Bulloch County and the Municipalities. There was discussion on a future meeting and Commissioner Thompson suggested having an open meeting whether or not there was a quorum. After further discussion, Mr. Couch stated that City of Statesboro had not offered a counter-proposal regarding the cost of water and sewer infrastructure installation for the future I-16/US 301 Industrial Park. Chairman Nevil stated that it would be best if another written proposal was sent to the city regarding what the County would expect to pay for the infrastructure. Mr. Akins stated if a proposal was sent, it also needed to state that there were time limits for the counter-proposal because the cost would need to be determined for the SPLOST 2013 renewal. After additional discussion regarding the water and sewer infrastructure, Mr. Couch proceeded with discussion on the FY 2012 Budget.

Mr. Couch gave the commissioners a packet and stated his concerns were on two funds, the general fund and the rural fire fund. Mr. Couch stated that there was some pressure from property tax revenue and that Chief Tax Appraiser John Scott is not as concerned with foreclosures as what the State Legislature is going to do and there is not a final number but right now property taxes are at approximately a 3-4% loss. Mr. Couch then discussed the request and issues for revenues and expenditures for each department and outside agencies. After additional discussion, Mr. Couch moved to discussion on the Fire Services.

Mr. Couch stated the Rural Fire Service budget is not collecting enough revenue and is having a hard time figure out where to cut the cost. Chief Randy Walker stated that he did not feel like they were getting the payment for the services that are rendered. There was some discussion about services the city provides versus what the county provides and if the county should continue services within the five mile district instead of paying the city for them. After additional discussion on the fire district Commissioner Simmons offered a motion to adjourn the workshop. Commissioner Rushing seconded, and the motion carried unanimously.

J. Garrett Nevil, Chairman

Attest: Maggie Fitzgerald, Clerk of the Board