

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**September 10, 2024**

**5:00 P.M.**

**Bradford County Courthouse**

**945 North Temple Avenue**

**Starke, Florida 32091**

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**BUDGET WORKSHOP MEETING MINUTES**

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**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Commissioner District 1 – Chair Carolyn Spooner  
Commissioner District 2 – Kenny Thompson  
Commissioner District 3 – Joseph C. Dougherty  
Commissioner District 4 – Vice-Chair Danny Riddick  
Commissioner District 5 – Diane Andrews

**PRESS PRESENT:** None

**STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** County Manager Scott Kornegay; Executive Assistant Amanda Brown; County Attorney Rich Komando; Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden; Ag/Extension Interim Director Dr. Cindy Sanders; Community Development Director Kelly Canady; Solid Waste Director Bennie Jackson; Interim Director Kimberly Crawford; Senior Center Director Diane Gaskins; VA Officer Barbara Fischer; Fire Rescue Chief Ben Carter; Division Chief Dylan Rodgers; Zoning Director Randy Andrews; Public Works Jason Dodds; Col. Brad Smith.

- 1. CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Spooner called the workshop to order at 5:00 P.M.
- 2. CITY OF STARKE (CITY) AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF POLICE AND FIRE DISPATCH SERVICES.**

Chair Spooner recognized Col. Brad Smith who recommended that the board terminate its agreement for the provision of police and fire dispatch services.

**Discussion:**

- The City of Starke Police Department was dissolved; therefore, city police dispatch services are no longer necessary. The county still provides dispatch services into the city for fire and after-hour line crews.
- Per Col. Smith, fire dispatch services from the city to the county and vice versa is nearly equal.
- To cover the cost of the sheriff's office dispatching deputies inside the city, the city pays the sheriff's office 2.5 mills.

**The board was in CONSENSUS to terminate the agreement and to stop invoicing the city for dispatch services.**

**3. DEPARTMENT BUDGETS:**

**A. VETERANS AFFAIRS**

Chair Spooner recognized Barbara Fischer who presented her budget.

**Discussion - none**

**B. AGRICULTURE**

Chair Spooner recognized Dr. Sanders who presented her budget and explained that the difference in salaries from FY 2023-2024 to FY 2024-2025 is a result of adding two new agents and a compression increase. She advised that the county is saving money on an extension director that is fully funded by UF IFAS

**Discussion**

- New items requested – an increase in travel for the agents and painting the interior and exterior of the ag/extension building.

**C. SENIOR CENTER**

Chair Spooner recognized Diane Gaskins who presented her budget.

**Discussion** – none

**D. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT (SHIP)**

Chair Spooner recognized Kelly Canady who presented her budget.

**Discussion** – none

**E. SOLID WASTE/MOSQUITO CONTROL**

Chair Spooner recognized Bennie Jackson who presented his budgets explaining that the increase in his FY 2024-2025 solid waste budget is a result of tipping fees, salaries, and replacement of two compactors in Lawtey and Starke. He advised that his mosquito control budget is a dollar-for-dollar match between the state and county. Lastly, he reported that he has a total of 20 employees.

**Discussion:** none

**F. PLANNING AND ZONING**

Chair Spooner recognized Randy Andrews who presented his budget.

**Discussion** – none

**G. LIBRARY**

Chair Spooner recognized Tricia Wylie and Kimberly Crawford who presented the library budgets reporting that while they have fewer staff, they still provide the same level of service. Ms. Wylie shared that the library receives funding mostly from the county and from state aid, which is contingent upon the county's contribution.

**Discussion:** none

**H. MAINTENANCE AND ROADS**

Chair Spooner recognized Jason Dodds who presented his budgets. He shared that his fuel budget is shared with all county departments/offices.

**Discussion**

- Comments commending Jason Dodds.
- Chain of command within county operations.
- Commissioner Andrews stated that she will direct all her requests through the county manager's office.
- In regards to public works helping the Town of Brooker with their fire station, Mr. Dodds said he will keep trying to help Brooker whenever he can, but he does not have staff available to dedicate for an extended period of time.
- Completed road paving projects.
- Savings of approximately \$3.2 million in CEI costs that Jason provides.

- Purchase of a used mower in the amount of \$99,000 and hire one additional employee for the public works department.
- Chief Deputy Clerk Rachel Rhoden cautioned against spending more county money before addressing its spending in the Fire Rescue division.
- Interest in holding budget workshops to discuss all county needs and spending before budgeting new expenses.
- Concern expressed over the lack of resources in public works to handle all county maintenance needs.

**I. FIRE RESCUE**

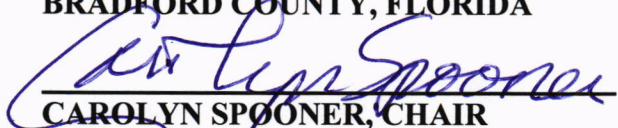
Chair Spooner recognized Chief Ben Carter who presented his budget stating that his department generates over 41% of its own revenue to cover expenses. He reported that his department will receive two new fire engines to replace an aging fleet and two, possibly three, new living quarters to replace the unsafe, outdated portable buildings that are currently used as staff living quarters. The majority of the funding for these projects comes from grants and state appropriations.

**Discussion:**

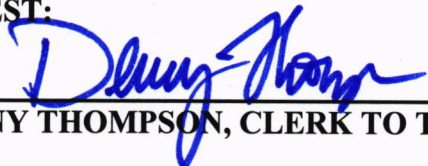
- Poor condition of flooring in current portable living quarters.
- ISO rating evaluation.
- Reminder of 9/11 stair walk event.

**ADJOURN:** There being no further business, the workshop adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

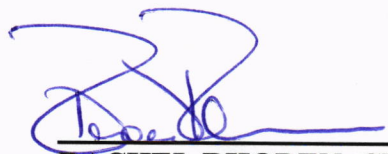
**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
BRADFORD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

  
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**CAROLYN SPOONER, CHAIR**

**ATTEST:**

  
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**DENNY THOMPSON, CLERK TO THE BOARD**

**MINUTES PREPARED BY:**

  
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**RACHEL RHODEN, CHIEF DEPUTY CLERK**

**Minutes approved by the BOCC during a scheduled meeting on:** October 17, 2024