

Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Request

Date of Meeting: March 17, 2009

Date Submitted: March 4, 2009

To: Honorable Chairman and Members of the Board

From: Benjamin H. Pingree, County Administrator
Timothy Barden, Director, Assistant County Administrator

Subject: Request for Ratification of Board Actions Taken at the February 17, 2009
First Budget Workshop Regarding the Development of the FY2009/2010
Budget

Statement of Issue:

This item requests ratification of Board actions taken at the February 17, 2009 First Budget Workshop for FY2009/2010.

Background:

On February 17, 2009, the Board held the first workshop in the development of the FY2009/2010 Budget. This was the first of five workshops that the Board will hold during the budget process. The Board provided its initial direction to the preparation of the FY09/10 Budget. Also presented to the Board was an overview of new funding options by Nabors, Giblin & Nickerson, PA. Included in the presentation were the following:

- Special Assessments
- Public Service Tax (PST)
- Solid Waste Licensing Fee
- Utility Regulation

Analysis:

The February 17, 2009 workshop was held and attended by the Board and staff as well citizens from the community. There was significant public input and discussion followed by Commissioner's comments of the following items:

Budget Discussion Item #1:

Set the tentative millage rate based on the roll back rate plus the percentage growth in personal income determined by the Department of Revenue. Allow this millage rate to be used in the development of the FY2009/2010 Budget.

Budget Discussion Item #2:

Begin the budget development cycle based on zero growth in programs and positions and a COLA increase for employees.

Budget Discussion Item #3:

Enhanced Board focus on the Capital Improvement Plan. Included in this will be identifying road

projects that are priorities.

Budget Discussion Item #4:

Enhanced focus on Grant opportunities. Included in this will be the continued implementation of existing grants, while having an enhanced focus on securing all additional grant funding made available to the County.

Budget Discussion Item #5:

Alternative Revenue Options:

- Special Assessments
- Public Service Tax (PST)
- Solid Waste Licensing Fee
- Utility Regulation

The Board did not address or give direction at the workshop for any of these alternative revenue options.

Summary of Requests for Board Action:

- Direct staff to set the tentative millage rate based on the roll back rate plus the percentage growth in personal income determined by the Department of Revenue. Allow this millage rate to be used in the development of the FY2009/2010 Budget.
- Direct staff to begin the budget development cycle based on zero growth in programs and positions and a COLA increase for employees.
- Direct staff to enhance the focus on the Capital Improvement Plan. Included in this will be identifying road projects that are priorities.
- Enhanced Focus on Grant opportunities.
- Provide direction on what revenue alternatives, if any, to pursue in preparation for FY2009/2010.

Options

1. Ratify workshop and approve recommended actions stated above.
2. Do not ratify workshop and do not approve modified actions as per the Board direction.
3. Board Direction

Recommendation:

Option #1

Attachments:

1. February 17, 2009 Workshop Agenda Item.