

Jasper County Board of Commissioners

April 26, 2021

Work Session Minutes

6:00 P.M.

Commissioner Henry called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Present: Chairman, Bruce Henry; Vice-Chairman, Gerald Stunkel; Sheila Jones; Don Jernigan; and Steven Ledford.

Staff Present: Mike Benton, County Manager and Sharon Robinson, County Clerk.

Work Session:

1. Tax Sale on May 4, 2021- Old Methodist Church Building- 24 Short Street Monticello- Parcel M05A 028:

Tax Commissioner Angela Walsh stood before the board to discuss the upcoming tax sale on May 4th of the Old Methodist Church building. She stated that she normally holds two sales per year. She stated that she has tried to sell the building before to no avail. Ms. Walsh stated that she spoke with her attorney and they decided that a judicial sale would be the best option. This way there will not have to be a wait for the buyer to make improvements to the building. The Downtown Development Authority has shown interest in purchasing the building. She stated that the least she could sell the property for is \$2500 which will cover the taxes and fees. The total amount due right now is \$8,691.60. This includes attorney fees as well as penalty and interest. Ms. Walsh requested permission to lower the bidding point if there are not bidders.

2. FY 2022 Budget Book Presentation:

Mr. Benton discussed the preliminary budget. He stated that the total digest (assessed value) totaled \$677,948,122 before exemptions. The exemptions totaled \$166,357,552. The net digest is 511,590,570. The net Jasper County new real growth is \$16,127,207. The preliminary rollback rate for 2022 is 13.826.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that Timber is not going to be cut as much so that amount should be lowered. He also stated that auto companies are at a standstill with making cars as well because of a shortage in backup cameras that are mandatory for the vehicles.

Commissioner Jernigan asked if the Recreation Department had funds from a fundraiser. Mr. Benton stated that they do have funds. They are planning to do more fund raisers and would like to have full control over the funds that are raised.

Commissioner Stunkel stated that material cost is going to be good for sales tax but not for building permits.

Mr. Benton stated that the beginning proposed budget is \$10,452,693 before agencies, debt services. That is a \$376,841 increase. Some of that is mandatory increases.

Ms. Robinson explained the process of how the retirement works for employees. The retirement starts on the January after the employee's two year anniversary. The county matches 6%. The employee puts in 3%.

Mr. Benton clarified that the capital expenditures are only requests.

Chairman Henry stated the Capital Expenditures should be removed from the total.

Mr. Benton stated that one change that was made this year was instead of sending out blank pages. In past the column L was left blank. This year the top section was pre-filled with known changes.

Commissioner Stunkel questioned the Magistrate's request. Mr. Benton stated that it needed a lot of work.

Mr. Benton stated that the Recreation Director is asking for an additional position to replace the assistance that he usually receives from the Sheriff's office.

Sheriff Pope stated that because there are so few inmates there is a smaller pool of people who qualify to go out on work detail. They identified 5 and ask them if they would be willing to take the vaccine in order to be able to go on work detail and they all declined.

Commissioner Stunkel suggested to adjust the items down to what the annualized would be.

3. Additional Topics as Needed. None

Bruce Henry, Chairman

Sharon S. Robinson, Clerk