

April 23, 1968

Present: F. Elliott Burch
J. Wilmer Bowles
George R. Aud
W. S. Donaldson
H. Sterling

Meeting convened at 9:30 a.m. and the entire morning was devoted to the budget.

Bushwood Waterway Improvement

Mr. M. Pratt, Mr. Pantaleo, Mr. P. Raley. Mr. Pratt submitted sole bid for this project, in the amount of \$11,055. Bid bond was presented with bid. Project was advertised in local papers as required by law.

Budget Hearing - Afternoon - 2 p.m. to 5:15 p.m.

The commissioners, Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Sterling, Mr. Guyther, Mr. P. Raley, department heads, and approximately 100 persons in attendance.

Mr. Burch thanked those present for attending and indicating their interest in the proposed budget. Meeting turned over to Mr. Donaldson who proceeded to outline budget procedure, review sources of income, 50% surtax, and stated that the itemized budget must be forwarded to the Fiscal Research Bureau for comparison of last year's expenditures and new requests. He mentioned that the federal aid to schools is not in the county budget, but is in the Board of Education budget. This money does not come to the county and we do not spend it.

There was some discussion on the new income tax law, and Mr. Guyther stated that the general public was misled by the state as to amount of money to be received by the counties. Actually, this money is used for various state projects and does not come back to the county. Of the 50% surtax, this does come back to the county, and none of it goes to any other county.

The budget was then reviewed and suggestions made as follows:

1. Possible 75% tax exemption to persons over 65, as retirement income does not change.
2. Occupancy fees on trailers should be increased, or method of assessment so that trailers in trailer parks could be assessed at higher rates.
3. Request that the commissioners take a close look at Supervisors of Elections expenses.
4. That cost of Metropolitan Commission audit not come out of county funds, as this effects only one area of the county.
5. Consideration be given to cutback in personnel in courthouse.

6. If there is an increase in taxes, it should be handled so that everyone in the county is effected, and not just the property owners.
7. Expenses for equipment and office supplies be cut.
8. Elimination of some of the services of the Youth Commission.

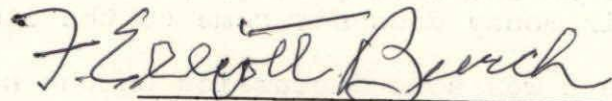
Budget Hearing - Evening - 7:30 p.m. to 1:15 a.m.

Attendees as at afternoon session, and approximately 500 citizens. Presentation of budget procedures, etc., as at afternoon session. Budget reviewed and suggestions made as follows:

1. To withdraw appropriation for the airport.
2. Process server to serve civil papers to relieve the deputies of this duty.
3. Paving roads with bituminous concrete, and not use blue chip, as the former will cut down on maintenance costs.
4. The commissioners should inspect the sanitary fills to see what is being done for the money being paid for maintenance of these facilities. Suggestion that this money be given to the Volunteer Fire Departments and let them operate the dumps.
5. Consideration be given to the method of assessing large farm lands in the county that are not worked, but just held by developers.
6. Increased amount paid for each pupil for impacted area as a result of the air station.

There were also duplicate suggestions made at the morning hearing.

Approved,



F. Elliott Burch
President