

January 31, 2001

CALLED MEETING
JANUARY 31, 2001 **8:30 A.M.**

PRESENT: Chairman John Mayes, Commissioners Chuck Hufstetler, Jerry Jennings, and Tim Mahanay.

OTHERS

PRESENT: County Manager Kevin Poe, County Clerk Sue Broome, Assistant County Manager Tom Tully and Comptroller Al Leonard.

RECONVENE MEETING

Chairman Mayes reconvened the meeting of January 23, 2001.

INVOCATION

Comptroller Al Leonard led the Invocation.

APPROVAL OF 2001 BUDGET.

County Manager Kevin Poe stated that they are proposing to approve the summaries of the 2001 Budgets from General Fund down to the Prison Construction Fund as presented in the summaries budget folder. He reviewed a report prepared by Comptroller Al Leonard showing a breakdown of expenditures in the major areas of service. He stated that revenues are fairly close between 2000 and 2001, which is conservative, but they want to budget worse case scenario. Regarding expenditures, there are significant increases in Judicial which is primarily due to the anticipation of a fourth judge being appointed in July and us having to staff the additional judgeship. The main increase in for Public Safety is personnel costs. He noted the significant increase in Economic Development, but a lot is from Community Development projects. He had reviewed their budget and had totaled all the capital projects, but had excluded the grants such as the Environmental Enforcement Officer. The Community Development will have \$6,526,445 worth of Capital Projects budgeted. They are projecting Federal and State grant revenues in the amount of \$4,331,685, so for \$2.4 million they will be getting approximately \$6.5 million of capital projects completed. The Personnel Costs significant increases are primarily due to Public Safety salary adjustments which will be implemented. Capital Cost on equipment is approximately same as the previous year, Lease-Purchases have increased due to taking advantage of the ACCG Lease Pool and purchasing more equipment on lease-purchase. The Recreation Capital Projects have the Garden Lakes and Alto Park projects as well as the acquisition of property for the Armuchee Recreation Park included.

Commissioner Hufstetler asked if these were the actual 2000 figures. Comptroller Al Leonard replied that these are budgeted figures. Commissioner Hufstetler stated that comparing it to the 2000 actual figures would show an approximate \$5.8 million increase, not a \$3.384 million.

Commissioner Jennings asked about the Water Fund. Comptroller Leonard replied that the Water Fund is not a general governmental fund that they use the Budget document as a control, but it is not officially adopted. Commissioner Jennings stated that this illustrates how they are addressing the salary issues, the fourth judgeship and getting aggressive in capital improvements. With capital improvements in the County we have to be willing to spend money to make it happen. He stated that he is willing to spend some of the funds built up over the last few years in the Fund Balance in order to make the capital improvements, so he is pleased with the Budget.

Commissioner Hufstetler stated there are very good things in the Budget, some needed increases, but at the same time he is disappointed that just about anything which was asked for was given and that surveys were not done independently. He stated that he does not feel this is as good a budget as they had over the last two years. The projected \$5.8 million increase in expenses over actual 2000 and he feels that it will create bigger problems in a following year.

Chairman Mayes stated that there were a lot of specific items which were not scrutinized as they have in the past, but adopting the Budget does not mean they would not like to scrutinize some items which they may have flagged and can be revisited.

County Manager Kevin Poe stated that historically they have always done better than what was actually budgeted. He noted that they are not looking at any kind of tax increase, even though they are looking at an adjustment in the Millage Rate, and probably Solid Waste in connection with HB489. Commissioner Hufstetler noted they have had good revenues in the past, but the sales tax has been down this year from last year. He feels this will be the first year we see the full affect of the Oglethorpe Power increase and that this will be a tougher budget regarding revenues than in the past.

Commissioner Mahanay stated that if we are going to spend money, the increases in the Budget are in the right place. He noted the increase in Salaries and stated that the biggest asset any organization has is its personnel. We also have a lot of other things going and coming, such as the Prison, Parks and Recreation, Judicial System. None of these items are frivolous, they are all important. Now is a good time to spend it because we do have a good budget surplus left over. He stated that he agrees with Commissioner Hufstetler that revenues will predictably be lower than in the past, but we do not know how much. He recommended approval of the Budget.

County Manager Kevin Poe stated they need a Motion for adoption of the 2001 Budgets for various funds which are listed the in the document presented. Commissioner Mahanay made a MOTION for approval of the 2001 Budget for the General Fund, E-911 Fund, Emergency Management Fund, Fire Fund, Law Library Fund, Forum Fund, Rome-Floyd County Animal Control Fund, Rome-Floyd County Recycling Center Fund, Workers Compensation Fund, 1996 S.P.L.O.S.T. Fund, and Prison Construction Fund. SECOND by Commissioner Jennings.
VOTING:

YES

NO

Commissioner Hufstetler

Commissioner Jennings

" Mahanay

" Mayes

Motion Carried

Commissioner Jennings stated that he had a couple of other items of business. The first being the flag issue, which he was glad had passed in the Senate yesterday. Chairman Mayes stated that he is glad that passed, that all citizens in Georgia will benefit from the change and all African Americans were infuriated to have to respect that flag. Commissioner Jennings stated that as soon as the bill is passed he would like to see the Commission remove all the old Georgia flag from all of the County facilities and as soon as new flags can be obtained he would like to see them put up. He also noted that a number of the Floyd County flags are in a bad state. County Manager Kevin Poe stated that new County flags have been ordered. Chairman Mayes stated that some of the flags may be requested to be placed at Confederate Memorials and he would support that. Commissioner Jennings stated that if there is an appropriate place, they will entertain the idea. The United States flag will also be looked at.

Commissioner Jennings stated that the interviews for the Clerk's position will be taking place soon. Commissioner Hufstetler replied they will be Thursday, Friday and Monday. Commissioner Jennings asked if the plan was to select two or three candidates. Chairman Mayes replied that it has been reduced to eight candidates, from approximately 100 applicants. Commissioner Jennings stated that at some point he, Commissioner Fricks and Commissioner Mahanay would like to interview the two or three finalists.

Commissioner Jennings stated they are moving toward potential action in the area of solid waste and he thinks it is important for them to be clear what they are doing and where and the time frame. This will have to be taken to the Solid Waste Commission, but in terms of looking at such as paper, making sure that we have the newspaper separated from the boxed paper and a system in place to do that. He suggested visiting the Recycling Center if necessary and Commissioner Hufstetler suggested possibly visiting Bartow County. Commissioner Hufstetler commented on the cost of the recycling equipment and consultant's report. County Manager Poe stated that he is meeting with the staff and the equipment vendor related to specifically the paper and cardboard issue and trying to address these concerns. Comptroller Leonard noted that cost to the Recycling Budget is actually going down rather than up for 2001. Commissioner Hufstetler noted that the contamination issue addressed by the consultant was if the County went to a single co-mingle stream, which the County never recommended. That would have glass in with paper.

Commissioner Jennings stated that there was a good meeting the previous night at Armuchee Elementary on the TMDL issue in Lavender Creek. He presented a draft of the plan which has to be in the hands of Georgia EPD by March 31. The plan was reviewed at the meeting and it will be revised and then presented at a meeting on Monday, February 12. He noted that Lavender Creek is not one of the major polluted creeks in Floyd County. There are 125 streams and rivers in Georgia which are on the TMDL list from EPD. It was noted that the RDC across the state, have been contracted by the EPD to help counties establish these TMDL plans.

Commissioner Jennings stated that information had been received from County Attorney Wade Hoyt regarding hiring Frank Jenkins, who is well recognized across the State, for the Quarry Ordinance. He stated that he supports them moving in that direction.

Commissioner Jennings stated that regarding the fourth judge we need to have a formal resolution from the Commission supporting the fourth judge. He recommended that this be placed on the Agenda for the meeting of February 12. Commissioner Hufstetler stated that one of the items they had talked about in the meeting with the Legislators was that they find out what the case load per judge is and the other that they have a meeting with them to talk about the numbers. He stated that he would like to see a meeting with the Judges before that time since it is a request from both the Board and the Legislators. Commissioner Jennings asked that County Clerk Sue Broome organize a meeting with the Judges before February 13.

Commissioner Jennings mentioned Committee assignments, stating that he did not know if a decision had been formally made on this matter. He stated that this needs to be discussed when all Commissioners present. Until that is formally decided, he assumes they will continue with their current committees. He noted that Commissioner Mahanay would like to stay with Public Safety. Chairman Mayes stated this it is his responsibility to assign and reassign these items and he had asked the individual Commissioners who are interested in changing to talk with the individual affected and see if they can work out something, he does not want to arbitrarily make that decision.

County Manager Kevin Poe distributed a first draft of new issues projects, which will be ongoing. He also asked that they also review the information from the retreat held last September. He stated that a review of this could possibly be incorporated in the Caucus of the next meeting. He stated if there were other items which need to be added to the list he asked that he be notified.

Chairman Mayes mentioned that a letter had been received from the Government Financial Officers Association stating that the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for December 31, 1999, prepared by Comptroller Leonard qualifies for a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. Commissioner Jennings stated that when the plaque is received it needs to be formally presented to Comptroller Leonard. Comptroller Leonard stated that he has a very good staff which makes this possible.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business to come before the Board, MOTION was made by Commissioner Jennings, SECOND by Commissioner Mahanay, that the meeting be adjourned. VOTING:

Commissioner Hufstetler
" Jennings
" Mahaney
Chairman Mayes

Motion Carried

COMMISSIONERS

**FLOYD COUNTY BOARD OF
JOHN W. MAYES, CHAIRMAN**