

WORTH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JANUARY 15, 2009
WORK SESSION
5:00 P.M.

The Worth County Board of Commissioners met in a scheduled Work Session on Thursday January 15, 2009 in the Commission Board Room, 3rd Floor Courthouse.

Chairman Medders called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

Present at Role Call: Commissioners Fred Dent, Bettye Bozeman and Jerry Childree
Chairman Matt Medders, County Administrator Robert Zellner, County Clerk Deborah Robinson.

Commissioner Hall arrived at 5.05 P.M.

Attorney Miller arrived at 5.45 P.M.

Audit Presentation:

First to address the Commissioners was Mr. Ronald Hudson C.P.A.

Mr. Hudson is currently the C.P.A. for the County and was attending the Work Session for the purpose of presenting the Board with the most recent audit and a brief summary of the financial conditions for the last 3 years since Mr. Hudson had been working for the County.

Mr. Hudson informed the Board that everything was ok, that numbers are accurate. He mentioned the Board would see toward the end of the audit a page marked deficiencies, explaining to them this was nothing to worry about. Mr. Hudson explained the deficiency is characterized as "Lack of Segregation" which basically means the County does not employ enough people to cover all the different responsibilities. He stated that all small Counties have this listed as a deficiency every year and it does not mean that you have to hire more employees, it is put in the audit as something that you have recognized. Mr. Hudson then turned the audit over to Mr. John Nesmith to discuss the financial statement and general fund. Mr. Nesmith started out talking about the decrease in the General Fund Balance from 2006 – 2008. Mr. Dent informed him the current Board had paid off debt that the previous Board had created and also they had purchased new equipment for the public works department and new cars for the Sheriff's department because nothing had been purchased for a long time. Mr. Nesmith told the Board although it has made cash flow in the General Fund decrease by 27% he was also aware these large purchases would not have to be

done again for a few years and this would allow time for the general fund to build back up. Mr. Nesmith closed by stating the County overall is in good shape and debt is low. Commissioner Dent mentioned the Garbage Issue in the past has not helped with revenues, however now that the County is doing the billing and the collecting things in landfill collections should improve.

Ronald Hudson and John Nesmith both addressed the Board before departing stating they thought the County was in Good Shape, that everything in the audit is very explainable and understandable and if the Board had any questions at any time for them to please call.

Advance Disposal Agreement Discussion:

Mr. Zellner opened by saying how Advance Disposal Services had called and that they had had several conversations back and forth about how much garbage we originally told them we would have on a daily basis. He explained that Advance Disposal Services had pointed to him how they had calculated the price in the contract based on 85 Tons of garbage per day and that apparently they were only collecting an average amount of 43 tons per day. Mr. Zellner informed the Board that Advance Disposal Services was asking to increase the amount per ton by \$3.88 to take care of the cost of hauling. Mr. Zellner explained their other concern was in reference to the increase from Crisp County Solid Waste and how Advance Disposal Services had stated they were losing money taking garbage to them. Mr. Zellner also explained that Advance Disposal Services thought it would work better if the County paid Crisp County Solid Waste Disposal directly for the 20 tons per day however, they would want \$7.50 per ton for loading the truck. Commissioner Dent spoke in reference to the requests from Advance Disposal Services stating first he did not have a problem with the County paying Crisp County Solid Waste directly however, in regards to the charge of \$7.50 per ton for the labor, fuel & equipment maintenance for loading the 20 tons going to Crisp County his opinion was we did not owe them a dime. He stated Advance Disposal Services knew about this from the very beginning and should have calculated for that in the original bid. Mr. Dent spoke about the 85 tons Advance thought they would be getting; he stated he had looked back over several months of reports from Veolia Solid Waste Services and it most definitely averaged out at approximately 40 tons a day. Commissioner Dent stated he felt maybe we should re-negotiate in some areas of the contract with Advance Disposal Services but added as far as the trucking costs he did not feel any loss was being taken by them. Commissioner Bozeman explained Advance Disposal had contracted with someone to haul for them and they had guaranteed this person a certain amount of loads per day and now he was only getting one load a day. Commissioner Dent thought the Board

should do a lot more talking with Advance Disposal Services before we promise to do anything.

There was discussion between the Board about the County's contract with Crisp County Solid Waste, points mentioned were the increase they had recently imposed, any possibility of us being able to get out of the contract with them and also making sure that we were not being charged more than the starting base rate plus the CPI increase each year.

There was then discussion in reference to the fact that we are being billed from Advance Disposal Services for 4,931 cans but we are only sending out 4,400 invoices. There are approximately 500 people out there that are not being billed and we need to find out who they are because this is loosing us around \$10,000 a month. Commissioner Bozeman explained that during the time all the extra cans were being asked for a list was put together each day and faxed to the Advance Office in Americus Ga. Advance was supposed to mark off the list where they had put out cans and then fax it back to us however, Ms. Bozeman stated that we had not received the lists back and she felt that was where some of the issues with this difference of about 500 customers was coming from. All the Commissioners agreed that Advance Disposals list of customers and our billing list should be the same. Also that we should get a daily route sheet from Advance showing exactly where they have picked up each day. Attorney Miller asked if the "Mapping" that the E-911 Center had done could be of some help to us. Mr. Zellner responded in reference to that question by saying some of the problems with that are because people to do have land line phones like they used to, so many people now only use a cell phone.

Review FY 2008-2009 Budget:

Laverne Watkins stood before the Commissioners to answer any questions they had in reference to the budget.

Ms. Watkins mentioned a couple of things while the Commissioners were looking through their Budget Books. The first being she felt each department was running quite accurately in reference to usage of the money in their budgets. The second being the need to purchase a truck for the Building & Zoning Department, Ms. Watkins stated the present truck had been around a long time and did need replacing. Ms. Watkins also pointed out the effort that had been made in some departments to not buy for surplus stock anymore but just to buy as needed. Ms. Watkins stated that what really helps especially around the 1st of July when the new budget is adopted that departments don't just buy stuff they don't need right away.

Her main concern was that there will be enough funds to see us through to the end of the budget.

There was some discussion about the "Homestead Grant" and as to whether we will get it or not.

Mr. Zellner stated that this time last year the county had only received 37% of the budget however this year we had received 39% to date.

Commissioner Dent stated he did not see any department way out of line in reference to spending, those that were over had genuine reasons for the overage such as vehicle purchase, election fees but overall we were in good shape.

Discussion of truck for Building & Zoning:

Commissioner Bozeman stated that there was enough money at the present time to purchase the new truck they needed. Commissioner Dent stated the aboard could vote on that at the next meeting.

With nothing else for discussion at this time Chairman Medders adjourned the Work Shop at 6:27 P.M.

Deborah Robinson

Matt Medders

County Clerk.

Chairman.