

**COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS
BUDGET WORKSHOP – JULY 9,2020**

The Board of County Commissioners met in their annual budget workshop with all Commissioners present. Also present was Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk. Tron called the meeting to order.

Several people were in attendance: Rodney Kelling, Kelsee Burnett, Thea Schnittker, Vanessa Willis, Paula Rowden, Ted Heaton, Ross Sullivan, Tony Martin, Phillip Willis, Koda Rich, Susan Schulte, Jaime Muncy, Linda Stalcup, David Pifer, Elaine Rowden, Steve Lewis, Lynne Webb, Erick Nordling, Benny Cabrera, Seth Gillespie, Johnny Denton and Jana Harris.

The commissioners met in a meeting on Thursday, July 9th for the annual budget workshop. In attendance were the auditors from Lewis, Hooper and Dick, LLC. and several county departmental heads and members from county entities (Library, Hospital, Senior Center, etc). After discussing the financial procedures and compliance reports, the commissioners adjourned to meet in the commissioner's room for the remainder of the meeting.

A long discussion with the auditors and the commissioners ensued on how to deal with the 38% drop in valuation for the county and what it would mean to the citizens. The commissioners said they will have to use the current budgets for the 2020 year and will have to cut at least 15% from all budgets for the 2021 year. This is so taxes will not be raised more than 10% by the county. The commissioners discussed the cuts to help with property taxes but the auditors reminded them the schools and rec commission could raise the taxes and there is nothing the county can do. They questioned how much taxes would be for a \$100,000 home and the auditors said the citizens would be looking at around \$89.00 per month That is just for the county's portion. The commissioners discussed those taxes, including the emergency management department and sheriff's department, that money pays for; if a house is burning, the county has a fire department which doesn't charge for fires; If someone needs an ambulance, the county provides emergency medical response; If the law is being broken the county residents are safe because money funds the Sheriff's department which includes dispatch; asphalt roads are in good condition and many other areas the taxes help pay for.

Commissioners discussed the possibility, in the long run, tearing down some of the asphalt roads to help keep the county funded and taxes down. Also, placing a hiring freeze on departments who have or will be losing employees due to retirement. They are also suggesting departments give them 5-10 year plans on any large purchases or projects, to help adjust budgets for such plans.

Valuation last year was 129,924,429 (before Seaboard did their tax exempt), 2021 estimated valuation is 88,695,598 most was due to the cut in oil/gas prices in March by PVD

By motion, the Board adjourned.

Attest: Amy Jo Tharp, County Clerk

Tron Stegman, Chairman