

**DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

**BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**TOMMY LEWIS, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING**

**August 10, 1998**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 10, 1998, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Tommy Lewis of DeSoto County.

Deputy Tracy Whitehurst of the DeSoto County Sheriffs Office was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

- Jessie Medlin-----District 1
- Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
- James D. Pearson-----District 3, Absent
- John Caldwell-----District 4, Absent
- Tommy Lewis-----District 5
- W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk, Absent
- Tracey Whitehurst-----Deputy of DeSoto County
- Clovis Reed-----County Administrator
- Bobby Chamberlain-----Board Attorney

**B. INVOCATION**

The invocation was presented by Supervisor Eugene Thach.

**C. BUDGET**

The County Administrator Clovis Reed presented to the Board of Supervisors an overview of the 1998-1999 fiscal year budget. The County Administrator said that some new positions had been added into the budget and said that there is \$ 150,000.00 for a Museum in the budget; \$ 425,000.00 for improvements at the jail; and Park Improvements of \$ 500,000.00. Mr. Reed said that the budget request for Fy99 asked for an additional \$ 3 million dollars and after cutting the budget he is recommending a \$ 1.5 million dollar increase for FY99. Mr. Reed said with \$ 844,000.00 of new money the balance will have to come from contingency.

Mr. Reed said the county should take in an additional \$ 844,000.00 from increased tax revenues from the populatoin increase. Mr. Reed said it would seem that with a 8.7% increase in population there would be more money in increased revenues. However, when factoring in homesteads the result is a 6% increase in tax collections for the new year. Mr. Reed pointed out several line items which needed to be discussed.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked Mr. Reed about the Homestead credit. Mr. Reed said the state reimburses \$ 95.00 per application for the county and \$ 100.00 to \$ 125.00 for the cities per application on Homestead exemptions. Mr. Reed said the county used to get \$ 100.00 per application but that was cut back to \$ 95.00. Mr. Reed further explained that the homestead reimbursements are capped at 7%. Mr. Reed said that when you are

**Item C., Continued,**

**8/10/98**

**T.L.**

growing at a rate of 8.7% the result is a loss. The Homestead exemption process impacts the faster growing counties, as the reimbursement does not meet the rate of growth. Mr. Reed said there is a need to raise the level of awareness for homestead reimbursements.

**JUSTICE COURT BUDGET:**

Clovis Reed, County Administrator notified the Board that Justice Court had projected there to be \$ 750,000.00 in revenues in FY98 thru Justice Court, but with the decrease in officers, they brought in \$ 650,000.00 which resulted in \$ 100,000.00 reduction in Fy98 revenues. Mr. Reed said that is why there has been a push for more patrolmen for Justice Court. Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked Mr. Reed if the sheriffs department was presently writing citations and Mr. Reed said yes. Ms. Aldridge has projected \$ 550,000.000 for the next year.

Clovis Reed referred to line item #230; Justice Court has collected \$ 418,538.00 to date in fines, and they collected \$ 680,899.00 in fines for the previous fiscal year.

**ALLIED GRANT**

County Administrator Clovis Reed notified the Board of Supervisors that the Allied Grant was carried over in the FY99 budget.

**GRAND GULF REVENUES:**

Line item #296: County Administrator Clovis Reed said some Grand Gulf revenues are still going through Solid Waste to fund that item. Mr. Reed recommended continuing to transfer this money to Solid Waste.

**FAMILY & CHILDREN SERVICES BUDGET:**

Line item #267: The County Administrator Clovis Reed reminded the Board of Supervisors, they have already matched the money for the buses. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked County Administrator Clovis Reed the status of these buses. Mr. Reed said that Mid State Opportunities is still working to receive the buses and he will notify the Board when the buses are ready. Mr. Reed said the delivery on the buses is lengthy and this has been an on going project for the last two (2) years.

**SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT BUDGET:**

County Administrator Reed said that Sheriff James Albert Riley requested an additional budget apportionment of \$ 500,000.00, due to the increase of housing, food, and medical services to prisoners. The County Administrator Clovis Reed recommended to the Board of Supervisors and increase in this budget of \$ 100,000.00. Mr. Reed said that he has met with Sheriff Riley and Sheriff Riley agrees to the budget recommendation if he is allowed two more squad cars for the Sheriffs Department.

The County Administrator Clovis Reed commended the Sheriff for working within his budget. The County Administrator said that once the budget is set, the Sheriff lives by it and does a good job running his department within his budget.

Line item #202: Marianne Schwarts, a citizen in attendance, asked what personal meant on line item #202 of the sheriffs department budget. The Comptroller responded that this title should be changed to indicate Patrol Law Enforcement as this item was to fund the expense of the patrolmen in the sheriffs department.

Mr. Reed reported that money for state prisoner reimbursements will go up a little but still cost increase as well.

**Item C., Continued,**

**INTEREST REVENUE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
T.L.

8/10/98

The County Administrator said that the county will experience interest income in the amount of \$100,000.00 and pointed out that the Comptroller, Dale Thompson does a good job at investing the county funds.

**MUSEUM BUDGET:**

County Administrator Clovis Reed said \$ 150,000.00 is set aside for the museum project for the 98-99 fiscal year. Supervisor Eugene Thach recommended \$ 100,000.00 for the fiscal year 98-99 and then \$ 100,000.00 for the next fiscal year.

**CIVIC CENTER BUDGET:**

The County Administrator said Mr. Stuart Taylor requested a budget of \$ 369,000.00 for the Civic Center. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if an agreement has been signed regarding money loaned to fund this project. Vanessa Lynchard responded, that the Comptroller has suggested waiting until the close of the fiscal year to sign the agreement to include all funds to be repaid from the FY98 budget. Vanessa said that a memo is being sent to the Comptroller and the Board Attorney regarding this agreement today. Mr. Lewis asked if that amount should be added to the revenues of the Civic Center. The County Administrator Clovis Reed responded that point has been researched and it has been determined that there will not be any excess revenues for two (2) years from the 2% tax. Mr. Reed said we are through the first (1<sup>st</sup>) year and now we must plan for the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) year. Mr. Reed explained that the manager of the Civic Center is not dealing with the construction as was planned. Mr. Reed said the manager wants to bring on three (3) new people this year.

Supervisor Eugene Thach said he is in favor of budgeting for \$ 200,000.00 however, not all of the costs should be coming out of the general fund.

Ms. Jo Buck, a citizen in attendance, asked Supervisor Tommy Lewis why we need a manager of the Civic Center as we do not have a building yet. Supervisor Lewis replied, Mr. Taylor is helping in the design of the building, making changes, and working up bookings for the opening of the Civic Center.

Mr. Reed stated the Board of Supervisors and the Civic Center Bureau needs to set a meeting and discuss funds. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked Martha Gatlin to set up a meeting with Clovis Reed the County Administrator so funds can be discussed. Ms. Gatlin said there are a number of issues the Civic Center Bureau wishes to discuss with the Board of Supervisors.

**DESOTO SUNRISE:**

**LINE 459:** The County Administrator Clovis Reed spoke with Dennis Moore regarding the DeSoto Sunrise Home's budget. Mr. Moore is requesting an increase of \$ 50,000.00 in this budget. Mr. Reed recommended a contract to freeze this amount with a minimum of a three (3) year contract. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked Mr. Reed if we had records for this shelter. Mr. Reed replied yes. Mr. Reed said he has received a letter from Judge Barbee stating he is very pleased with this shelter, and Mr. Reed will be forwarding a copy of this letter to the Board of Supervisors. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked the County Administrator Clovis Reed the cost to run this shelter. Mr. Reed replied this budget cost was \$ 121,000.00.

**LIBRARY BUDGET:**

Mr. Reed said the Library Budget was \$ 720,000.00. The libraries are requesting an additional \$108,045.00 for the next fiscal year. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked why such an increase is necessary. Mr. Reed said Jim Anderson has reported the money is need for new activities, and staff in the region. Mr. Reed presented a Library Budget for the region, which reflects revenue of 49% from DeSoto County and an expenditure of 33% for DeSoto County. Mr. Reed pointed out the percentages for the rest of the counties are fairly close between revenue and expenditures. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked Mr. Reed why the expenditures were not in line with revenue for DeSoto County. Mr. Reed replied he did not have the entire break down of expenditures, however he would speak with Jim Anderson regarding the formula to derive at these figures and advise the Board of Supervisors of his findings.

8/10/98

---

T.L.

**EXTENSION SERVICE:**

Martha Gatlin of the Extension Service requested an additional 13% increase in budget. Mr. Reed recommended an increase of \$ 11,366.00. Ms. Gatlin explained to the Board of Supervisors, the increase would cover extending the hours of a current employee from twenty (20) hours per week to thirty (30) hours per week. Mr. Reed did allow a pay increase in the FY99 budget.

**CHURCH ROAD:**

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked the County Administrator Clovis Reed if money was set aside for completion of Church Road. Mr. Reed replied there is no money in the FY99 budget for this project. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked Mr. Reed if money for this project is available in the Road & Bridge Budget.

Supervisor Eugene Thach stated priorities needed to be set. Mr. Reed said he can cut 1 million out of the general accounting or shift the park issue. Mr. Reed said the County could retire the debt on Church Road for a 500,000 bond issue.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the cost to build Church Road is going up every day the project is delayed. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said he would be in favor of hiring an engineer to build a five (5) lane road rather than a two (2) lane road. Supervisor Eugene Thach said the county does not have money to build a five (5) lane Church Road however, the county needs to get right of ways. Supervisor Thach said he is in favor of completing Church Road, and he recommends to budget the project for Church Road in the FY99 budget. Comptroller Dale Thompson suggests taking 1/2 mill from Road & Bridge and other 1/2 mill from the General Accounting fund. Mr. Reed recommends taking 1 mill from the General Accounting Fund and .35 mill out of Road & Bridge. Mr. Reed requested direction from the Board of Supervisors as how to fund the Church Road project.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said we put money in the Road & Bridge Budget every year but it is not being spent. If the money is continually carried over it would not be missed if it were spent in a budget year. County Administrator Clovis Reed said it is possible to do the Park and fund Church Road if the Road Department budget is not completely spent. Clovis Reed suggested taking 1 mill from General County and .35 from Bridge. The Comptroller Dale Thompson recommended taking 1/2 mill from General County and 1/2 from Road and Bridge. The County Administrator Clovis Reed said that will not fund the debt service.

Bill Bayne of the Commercial Appeal asked how much 1.35 mills would produce in revenue. Clovis Reed said \$ 675,000.00 potentially. Supervisor Jessie Medlin said with the annexations we may not have that again. The County Administrator Clovis Reed said that the county will lose \$ 171,000.00 out of overlay.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if you do this and reduce the bonds \$ 200,000.00 how much will you have to go into contingency. The County Administrator said \$ 500,000.00. Supervisor Lewis asked how much is projected to put back into contingency. The County Administrator Clovis Reed said \$ 3 to \$ 500,000.00.

**Item C., continued,**

**CENTRAL MAINTENANCE BUDGET:**

The Road Manager Kenny Gunn requested a \$7.6 million budget. Mr. Reed recommended \$ 2,741,000.00 dollars, as the Road Manager can roll over any excess money to the next fiscal years budget The Comptroller, Dale Thompson projects 1.5 million to be rolled over into next years budget.

8/10/98

T.L.

## **CONTINGENCY FUND:**

Mr. Reed stated to the Board of Supervisors, the Contingency Fund has approximately 6.2 million dollars to date, with a potential balance of 7 to 7 ½ million dollars by September 30, 1998.

The County Administrator Clovis Reed stated the need to explore maintaining services without growing the Contingency too much and with remaining in good financial shape. Mr. Reed said that the Contingency Fund needs to remain high enough to insure good financial standing for DeSoto County while guarding against "Saving Up" money. Mr. Reed said that the Contingency Fund is now in a position that the Board may want to consider maintaining the fund rather than growing it or growing it only as much as it is needed to stay in good financial shape.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked for clarification on budget strategy. The County Administrator Clovis Reed said that he and the Comptroller have given conservative estimates of revenues in past budgets. Often more money has come in than was in the budget. The Board authorized putting purchase orders on the computer therefore if anyone spent money that was not in their budget they were mandated to come back to the Board of Supervisors to ask for a budget increase. Mr. Reed said that if every bit of the revenues come in and if every dollar is spent from the budget you will have a balanced budget. Most often the budgets are not spent fully and most often the revenues have exceeded projections.

Mr. Reed said that this year if Church Road is improved it will require dipping into the Contingency Fund in the amount of \$700,000.00. The County Administrator said he has developed the FY99 budget to slow Contingency growth because you do not want to develop a savings account through the Contingency effort. Rather you want to keep the county in good financial standing. Mr. Reed cautioned that the county must have the ability to stay in good financial shape to insure future bond ratings.

Supervisor Eugene Thach suggested using 1 mill from General County and .35 mill from Bridge preferably for fifteen (15) years for Church Road.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if the Board is going to fund parks. Supervisor Eugene Thach responded that we would have to see after going through the budget, but said the Board will probably have to get \$50,000 from the museum and \$30,000 from Building & Grounds for appliances.

Supervisor Eugene Thach recommended appropriating 1 mill from General County and .35 mills from bridge for the Church Road project, with budget cuts in the Museum Budget and Park Budget.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin suggested appropriating fixed amount of money each year to existing parks for maintenance.

## **DATA PROCESSING - PROGRAMING POSITION:**

Mr. Reed stated to the Board of Supervisors that a pay increase for the Programing Position in Data Processing was not taken into consideration. Mr. Reed recommended adjusting the budget to reflect money for the Programing Position.

### **Item C., Continued,**

## **DESOTO COUNCIL:**

Jim Flanagan has requested an additional \$ 25,000.00 in this budget. Mr. Reed recommended an additional \$ 18,750.00 for DeSoto Council budget. Mr. Reed said he did not have the breakdown of expenditures for increased request, however, previous year matching dollar amounts were given for ads, and logo.

8/10/98

---

T.L.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis said the DeSoto Council is basically the “DOOR MAT” to DeSoto County and they have done a fine job. Supervisor Lewis suggested to Mr. Reed to set a meeting with Jim Flanagan to discuss expenditures of the requested budget amount.

**ROBERT R. MEACHAM III, M.D. - MEDICAL DIRECTOR:**

The County Administrator Clovis Reed presented to the Board of Supervisors a Medical Directorship Proposal.

Mr. Reed said Dr. Meacham is requested an increase to \$ 85,000.00 per year. Mr. Reed said that Dr. Meacham’s presentation of the cost of providing medical services included revenues from cities which have never been taken into account in the past, therefore the savings would have been overstated compared to previous accountings of this fund. Mr. Reed said, at this time, he is not sure if Dr. Meacham will accept this position for the same amount of money as last year.

**D. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. DALE THOMPSON, COMPTROLLER**

**a. BUDGET AMENDMENT**

Dale Thompson, Comptroller presented the budget amendments for the approval by the Board of Supervisors.

**(1) EMS**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997, and ending September 30, 1998. The Comptroller Dale Thompson presented and recommended the following budget for approval for the EMS Department:

Lower	101-251-650	\$ 400.00
Lower	101-251-671	\$ 700.00
Lower	101-251-674	\$ 25.00
Lower	101-251-933	\$ 400.00
Increase	101-251-681	\$ 1,525.00

At the recommendation of the Comptroller and the EMS Department, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

**Item D.1.a.(1), Continued,**

Jessie Medlin-----	Yes
Eugene C. Thach-----	Yes
James D. Pearson-----	Absent
John Caldwell-----	Absent
Tommy Lewis-----	Yes

**\*\*SEE EXHIBIT D.1.a.(1)\*\***

**8/10/98**

**T.L.**

**(2) SHERIFFS DEPARTMENT**

In accordance with the provisions set forth in Section 19-11-11 of the Mississippi Code, the Board of Supervisors did discuss an amendment to the budget for the Fiscal year beginning October 1, 1997, and ending September 30, 1998. The Comptroller Dale Thompson presented and recommended the following budget for approval for the Sheriffs Department:

Lower	001-200-479	Travel Out of State	\$ 6,000.00
Increase	001-200-937	Purchase Radios	\$ 6,000.00

At the recommendation of the Comptroller and the Sheriff's Department, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the budget amendment. The **motion passed** by a vote as follows:

Jessie Medlin-----Yes  
Eugene C. Thach-----Yes  
James D. Pearson-----Absent  
John Caldwell-----Absent  
Tommy Lewis-----Yes

**\*\*SEE EXHIBIT D.1.a.(2)\*\***

**E. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was no business conducted in Executive Session at this meeting.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess until Monday, August 17, 1998 at 9:00 a.m.

THIS the 10th day of August, 1998, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

---

TOMMY LEWIS, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors

**8/10/98**

**T.L.**