

# **DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

## **BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**ALLEN LATIMER, 2011 PRESIDING**

**August 29, 2011**

### **A. CALL TO ORDER**

The August 29, 2011 meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by Supervisor Allen Latimer, Board President.

Sheriff Bill Rasco of the DeSoto County Sheriff's Department was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----	District 1
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----	District 2
Supervisor Bill Russell-----	District 3
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----	District 4
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----	District 5
W. E. Sluggo Davis-----	Chancery Clerk
Michael Garriga-----	County Administrator
Tony Nowak -----	Board Attorney
Sheriff Bill Rasco-----	Sheriff

### **B. INVOCATION**

Supervisor Eugene Thach presented the invocation.

### **C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **D. CITIZEN REMARKS**

Supervisor Allen Latimer asked if there was anyone present who wished to address the Board of Supervisors regarding an item not listed on the Agenda. No one came forward.

### **E. CONSENT**

The Board of Supervisors considered the items on the Consent Agenda.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as follows:

#### **1. Make Part of Minutes**

**a. Memorandum of Agreement with Wildlife Mississippi - Holly Springs Road Wetlands Mitigation**

**b. Interlocal Agreement between the City of Southaven and the City of Olive Branch for 2011 Edward Byrne Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)**

#### **2. Office of Finance & Accounting: Budget Amendments - Detailed in Exhibit D**

#### **3. Office of Procurement: Solicit Bids for Excess Copiers**

<b>BRAND</b>	<b>MODEL</b>	<b>SERIAL #</b>
Ricoh	Alpicio 3025	K8564903052
Imagistics	im2520	5120082
Imagistics	im3511	6020310-Printer; 6010589 Scanning Module
Imagistics	im4511	6040156-Printer; 6010598-Scanning Module
Imagistics	im3511	6020315-Printer; 6040598 Scanning Module

**4. Chancery Clerk Allowance (1) - \$1,550.00    \$1,250.00**

**5. Inventory Control Dispositions-Final**

**a. Circuit Court Administrator**

<b>Asset #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reason for Disposal</b>	<b><u>Location at Preliminary</u></b>
32447	215593	Lanier Ecorder &	Repairable/Broken	Circuit Crt Adm

**b. Chancery Clerk Court**

<b>Asset #</b>	<b>Serial #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reason for Disposal</b>	<b><u>Location at Preliminary</u></b>
40158	S72L8YHR	Lexmark Monochrome Laser Printer	Broken	Courthouse Record Room

**c. Sheriff’s Department**

<b>Asset #</b>	<b>Serial #</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Reason for Disposal</b>	<b>Location at Preliminary</b>
30966	N/A	Kenwood Radio	Broken	DCSO
31039	867SXX8089	GTX Radio	Broken	DCSO
31774	STH22G290WK	HP Printer	Broken	DCSO
33072	867SXX8021	GTX Radio	Broken	DCSO
33251	0045152803743	Computer DR845M	Broken	DCSO
33264	3340994	Minimate Recorder	Broken	DCSO
33272	XADV41409	Canon Printer	Broken	DCSO
34564	40200561	Motorola Radio	Broken	DCSO
34884	CN65NFG046	HP Printer	Broken	DCSO
34889	28429	Tactical Repeater	Broken	DCSO
35410	8200310042	Street Thunder	Non-Inventory Item	DCSO
35425	682FXJ2820	Motorola Radio	Broken	DCSO
35432	682FXJ6079	Motorola Radio	Broken	DCSO
36287	TWO4E64112B001 B61569	Dell Laptop	Broken	DCSO
36440	2FAFP71W11X177 750	2001 Ford Crown Vic	Wrecked/Parts Only	Cent. Maint.
36618	D2001658309	Compact Refrigerator	Non-Inventory Item	DCSO
36835	353263020288483	Tundra Cell Phone	Broken	DCSO
36921	010712007678665	Nokia Cell Phone	Burned (Car Fire)	Cent. Maint.
36925	APF550025	Acer PC	Broken	DCSO
38347	PSP4206011729011 542714	Acer PC	Broken	DCSO
39786	354831014789796	Nokia Cell Phone	Broken	DCSO
39829	2FAHP71W77X128 120	2007 Ford Crown Vic	Wrecked/Parts Only	Cent. Maint.
40580	2FAHP71W07X157	2007 Ford Crown Vic	Wrecked/Parts Only	Cent. Maint.

	782			
33148	2FAFP71W1X153916	2001 Ford Crown Vic	Wrecked/Parts Only	Cent. Maint.
30949	3516290	Encoder Transponder	Non-Inventory Item	DCSO
30455	00800589	Kenwood Radio	Broken	DCSO
30776	722AAQ2061	Motorola Radio	Burned (Car Fire)	Cent. Maint.
32116	921TCQ0187	Motorola Radio	Broken	DCSO
32406	N/A	ECG W/BP/SP02	Broken	DCSO
32719	890NV58	Lexmark Printer	Broken	DCSO
33209	10429	Sportys Air Band Radio	Lost	See Attached “A”
33988	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34006	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34013	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34677	2FAFP71W44X131656	2003 Ford Crown Vic	Wrecked/Parts Only	Cent. Maint.
35138	LB89	Lightbar	Burned (Car Fire)	Cent. Maint.
35149	2FAHP71W15X121371	2005 Ford Crown Vic	Burned (Car Fire)	Cent. Maint.
36171	CN4B9C51SY	HP Printer	Broken	DCSO
36286	TWO04E64112B001B11148	Dell Laptop	Broken	DCSO
36514	FCF13BV353	Snap Server	Broken	DCSO
37112	000649	Fujitsu Scanner	Broken	DCSO
38043	CN68SDE1XW	HP Printer	Broken	DCSO
38477	PSV5406004B120934E2701	Acer PC	Broken	DCSO
38718	355085028795112	Blackberry Cell Phone	Broken	DCSO
39457	007051	Fujitsu Scanner	Broken	DCSO
39822	CN0KJ4230S008164G0036	Dell TV	Broken	DCSO
39853	29927	Cig Pack Transmitter	Broken	DCSO
40216	KCTKT94316536	Kodak Camera	Broken	DCSO
40283	KCTKT94326128	Kodak Camera	Lost	See Attached “B”
40286	KCFHX80503456	Kodak Camera	Lost	See Attached “C”
33985	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
33995	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
33996	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34001	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34004	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34017	N/A	Lightbar	Old/outdated	Cent. Maint.
34673	2FAFP71W54X155500	2004 Ford Crown Vic	Wrecked/Parts Only	Cent. Maint.
40278	151129	Dewalt Drill	Broken	DCSO
8256	466AUQ0252	Motorola Radio	Lost	See Attached “D”
36371	N/A	Point Blank Armor	Lost	See Attached “E”
39815	9113533	Safariland Body Armor	Lost	See Attached “F”
36294	0107898349890528	Dell Laptop	Lost	See Attached “G”
38605	145542	Sony Camcorder	Lost	See Attached “H”
39206	682FKJ6071	Motorola Radio	Broken	DCSO

The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO

Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES

Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

See Exhibit E

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Williams Scottsman Lease Agreement

County Administrator Michael Garriga said that they were able to locate two FEMA trailers on site for the EMS staff to sleep in at the Eudora Station. Mr. Garriga said this lease agreement is for a storage unit for the site.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve a lease agreement between DeSoto County and Williams Scottsman, Inc., for a storage unit as detailed in Exhibit F.1. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

See Exhibit F.1

2. Facilities Management: Authorization to Solicit Architectural Services for Eudora Fire Station Renovation

County Administrator Michael Garriga said he sent three memos to the Board of Supervisors over the past month to update them about the situation and conditions at the Eudora Fire Station. He said the first step in the process to update the building is to authorize to obtain services for an architect for the building. Mr. Garriga said then we will start to seek a long-range plan for the building.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin asked what year the last addition was done to the building. Mr. Garriga said he was not sure. He said the building has been added on to many times without being looked at as a whole to determine the best way to add on and or renovate.

Supervisor Bill Russell asked who owns the building. Mr. Garriga said DeSoto County wholly owns the building.

Supervisor Medlin asked if Mr. Garriga thought there would be other County buildings in this same shape. Mr. Garriga said he did not think any other existing buildings are in this shape. He said there were issues with the Ability Works building and the County put a new roof on it.

Mr. Garriga said he believes the County needs to have agreements with the Fire Departments to define the responsibilities of all parties in regards to the buildings and keep unauthorized work from being done without the County’s approval.

Supervisor Russell asked if the Fire Department pays rent. Mr. Garriga said no. Supervisor Russell said the entire fire department building situation needs to be evaluated. He said some departments own their buildings and do not ask for any money from the County. Other fire departments exist in County buildings and have been able to get new buildings and renovations.

Board Attorney Tony Nowak said the County has service agreements with each of the Fire Protection Districts. He said, generally, the County deals with the Districts and the Districts then have separate arrangements with the volunteer fire departments.

Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if there is money in the budget for this building. He also asked if it could be done without raising taxes.

Mr. Garriga said there is money in the budget for the architectural evaluation. He said there is \$250,000 in this budget and the Board may need to add more to that amount.

Supervisor Russell said he is not sure if someone needs to go to the site and evaluate the needs before we begin work. Mr. Garriga said that is what he wants an architect to do.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Bill Russell seconded the motion to approve soliciting bids and qualifications for architectural services to plan for a renovation of the Eudora Fire Station EMS building. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer-----YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

See Exhibit F.2

3. Budget Session

County Administrator Michael Garriga presented the FY 2012 budget to the Board of Supervisors for their consideration. He explained that the general fund budget has a proposed positive spending difference between expenses and revenues. Mr. Garriga said the \$13 million beginning cash balance does not include interfund loans. He said we are not certain where the exact balance will be when the year ends, but the proposed budget should be close. He said everything is balanced and in order in the budget.

Chief Financial Officer Tom Arnold said some millage had been moved around, but the total millage is the same.

Mr. Arnold explained changes since the last meeting as follows:

<p><b>CHANGES ON 2012 PROPOSED BUDGET SINCE 8-15-11 BOARD MEETING</b></p>
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ACCT#	CHANGE
<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	
001-100-594	Reduced \$25,000 for deletion of fees for redistricting in the 2011 year.
001-165-550	Added line item for attorney fees for helping pro se cases prepare papers correctly. Judge Lynchard requested this to speed up the processing of cases due to a change in state law that allowed individuals to file their own cases.
Supervisor Bill Russell said, if this would cost the County more money, then he would like to look at it.	
The Board discussed the recommendation and the County’s responsibility toward the courts. The Board asked for more information from Judge Lynchard on this issue. It was noted this is for commitment proceedings only.	
001-240-915	This cost was moved to fund 380.
001-244-610	Line item reduced due to less grant money being awarded.
001-631-400's	Reallocated the salaries and reduced them for unfilled positions.
<b>ADULT DRUG COURT</b>	
FUND 026	Increased to absorb more of the costs of operations and to put less costs in the general fund.
<b>JAIL CONSTRUCTION PROJECT</b>	
FUND 370	Line items were adjusted and reallocated to reflect current needs.

Mr. Arnold noted the budget highlights as the Board reviewed the proposed budget as follows:

**FUND 001-GENERAL FUND**

(1) NOTE: In most departments, you will see that the budgets for workers compensation line item (467) are deleted. This is due to the new method we use to pay the workers comp premiums. To avoid having to post the transactions to many different departments, we moved the budgeted amounts to a separate workers compensation department and have to make just one posting for the general fund.

2) NOTE: The line item 465 (state retirement matching) is increased in all departments due to the increase in the percentage that the county will have to pay. Effective January 1, 2012, the matching percentage will increase to 12.93%. The amount used to calculate the budget was a weighted average of 12.75%.

**Revenues**

The large increase in the ad valorem taxes is due to the value for the Seven States being added to the regular tax rolls. In prior years Seven State paid a fee in lieu of taxes. The corresponding large decrease in the local in-lieu taxes is for the same reason.

**Dept. 107 and 108-Planning Commission and Transportation Planning**

The decreases were due mainly to the department not filling open positions and budgeting the current head-count in the department. Also, other line items were reduced due to the decrease in the number of building permits that have been issued in the last couple of years.

**Dept. 120-Administrative Services and Procurement**

**Dept. 121-Finance and Accounting**

The deletion of line 409 in department 120 and the addition of line item 409 in department 121 is due to the position of grant writer being moved to the Finance and Accounting Department (121).

Mr. Arnold explained that at the auditor's advice, the Grant Writer will move to the Office of Finance and Accounting. Mr. Garriga said they hope to have a new Grant Writer by October in anticipation of Mrs. Herring's move.

**Depts. 140-Human Resources**

The increases in line items 603 through 610 were due to the additional costs of more training materials and related items for training sessions for the next fiscal year.

**Dept. 151 – Facilities Maintenance**

Line item 402 is for a new position of assistant manager for the department.

Line items 510 and 673 increased for the utilities for the Ambulance Service locations that were paid out of department 240 in the current year.

Supervisor Bill Russell said the salary for the position of Operations Manager in Facilities Management needs to be evaluated. He said there have been four employees in the last two years to leave that position.

**Dept. 152 – Information Technology**

408 & 440 - The salary line item for 440 was reallocated to line item 408 to add a new position for the department.

The other increases and decreases in various line items were to reallocate the available funds to better reflect the overall needs of the department in the coming year.

#### **Dept. 154 – Veterans Service Officer**

Line item 465 was added to cover the retirement matching amount that we now have to pay on the CVSO due to a change in state law.

#### **Dept. 163 – Juvenile Court**

424 & 425-These line items were added to the Juvenile Court budget because the grant that was paying for these positions in the current year will not be awarded in the 2012 year due to cuts by the state. The county will now have to pay the full cost of the two positions.

The Board discussed looking at the County contribution to DHS.

Supervisor Russell said he would like to instruct the County Administrator to take out the salary for the Victims Witness and Intake Officer for County Court from the DHS budget money the County provides.

The Board of Supervisors instructed the County Administrator to talk to DHS to let them know the County may change their funding structure.

#### **Dept. 166 – Justice Court Clerk**

Line 404-This line item increased for new deputy clerk positions added to process the additional work created by the new judge and constable. The related matching line items also increased.

Supervisor Medlin asked how Justice Court would have more paperwork when they would have the same amount of cases. The cases would just be spread out among additional people. Mr. Arnold said every judge would have Clerk. Mr. Garriga said this budget includes a new position for Office Manager as well. Supervisor Medlin reiterated, the amount paperwork would remain the same and just be spread out over more people.

#### **Dept. 167 – Coroner**

Line 567-This line has been reduced due to a reduction in the number of autopsies.

Line 922-For the purchase and installation of a cooler to serve as a temporary morgue to handle an increased number of unclaimed bodies.

#### **Dept. 175 – Youth Court Victim Witness Coordinator**

This department has been eliminated and the cost of the YCVWC has been moved to Department 163, Youth Court.

#### **Dept. 178-Justice Court Judges**

The increases are for the addition of a fifth judge, for salary and fringes and all related expenses.

#### **Dept. 181 – County Registrar**

Line 924- For the purchase of electronic poll books for use at the voting precincts in future elections.

#### **Dept 200-Sheriff Administration**

Line 401-Deleted to eliminate the Chief Deputy position.

Line 404-To reallocate salaries to clerical positions.

#### **Dept. 202-Patrol/Law Enforcement**

Line 671 – Increase due to budgeting gasoline at a higher price in 2012.

Line 915 – Increase due to additional cars being purchased.

Supervisor Russell said it looks like there is a huge increase in gasoline. Sheriff Bill Rasco said they would look at those costs.

**Dept. 220-Custody of Prisoners**

**Line 402-To eliminate the Jail Administrator position.**

**Line 694-To account for increased costs of feeding prisoners due to higher food costs and increased inmate population.**

**The other increases and reductions in various line items are to reallocate funds as needed.**

**Dept. 222-Prisoners Medical Costs**

**Line 552-To account for increased medical costs due to increased inmate populations.**

**Dept. 240-Ambulance Service**

**Lines 402 to 440-To move personnel to different line items and to reflect the actual current head count for 434 and 440.**

**Lines 510 and 673 were moved to department 151-Facilities Management.**

**Line 915-To lower the cost of purchasing ambulances in the 2012 year.**

**Dept. 244 – Adult Drug Court**

**Line 403-for a new position to test program participants. Some line items increased and some decreased, but the total cost of the program is supposed to be reimbursed by the state.**

**Dept. 260 –Emergency Management**

**Line 901 and 922 were moved to Fund 380 for the 2012 fiscal year.**

**Dept. 262 – Constables**

**The increases in this department are for the addition of a new constable in January, 2012.**

**Dept 344-Environmental Services**

**The decreases in lines 401 through 468 are due to a reduction in staff by not filling open positions.**

**The decreases in the other line items are for related decreases because of the smaller staff.**

**Dept 450-DHS-Economic Assistance**

**Line 502-This line was increased to pay for the local telephone service charges in the budget so the county can be reimbursed a portion of the cost.**

**Dept. 452-Social Services**

**Line 754-The decrease is due to a reduction in the allocation to North Delta PDD.**

**Line 757-There is no planned allocation to Three Rivers in the 2012 fiscal year. They will not be working with the county.**

**Dept. 458-DHS- Child Support**

**Line 502-This line was increased to pay for the local telephone service charges in the budget so the county can be reimbursed a portion of the cost.**

**Dept. 460-Family and Children**

**Line 502-This line was increased to pay for the local telephone service charges in the budget so the county can be reimbursed a portion of the cost.**

**Dept. 467-Workers Compensation**

The 2012 budget includes the combined amount for the general fund to cover all departments as a lump-sum total.

**Depts. 531-535 District Parks**

The 2012 budgets are at a flat \$35,000 each. The 2011 budgets include carry-over funds from the 2010 fiscal year.

The Board discussed carrying over funding from one year’s park fund to the next year. Supervisor Russell said he had carried over money in his park fund and saved it to build the building at the Lake Cormorant Park. He said that is the only way he accomplished that project.

Supervisor Medlin said he is currently carrying over money toward a parking lot repair in his district. He said he would like to carry over the money.

Mr. Garriga suggested carrying the remainder of the park fund monies into another fund specifically for park expenses. This decreases the liability against the general fund.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to take remaining unspent money in the District Park Fund and move it to a separate account specifically for each district. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----NO  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer----- YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

**Dept. 800 – Debt Service**

The amounts for the debt on the bonds for the energy project were moved to a debt service fund.

**Dept 900 – Interfund Transactions**

This increase is due to:

- 1) the additional amounts the county will have to pay for various grant matching funds.
- 2) programs that were paid by grants in the past but no longer funded and the county now has to pay for them.
- 3) the amounts paid by the county for the circuit court reporters and administrators will increase next year due to the two new reporters and one new administrator, who will be hired for the new judge elected in the district. Also, the county’s percentage of the cost for the court district increased 14% for the 2012 fiscal year.

**FUND 002-ONE MILL MANDATORY FUND**

900-951 – The decrease in the amount of transfers is for the deletion of a \$1,250,000 transfer to the Jail Construction Project Fund during the current year to cover the purchase of the land for the new jail site.

**FUND 025-CIRCUIT COURT ADMINISTRATOR**

Line 401-The increase is due to the hiring of a new attorney to assist the judges in legal research.

**FUND 037-HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT**

The grant is complete and we are just waiting on the final reimbursement, which hopefully will be received this fiscal year.

**FUND 103-REIMB. FOR CITY PRISONERS**

The decreases are for a lower beginning cash balance and there are no expenditures budgeted for the 2012 fiscal year.

**FUND 104-LAW LIBRARY**

The law library will now be housed at and operated by the First Regional Library in Hernando. The funds collected for the law library will be forwarded to the First Regional Library and they will operate the law library. Therefore the only expenditure line item is for the allocation to the First Regional Library. The assessments collected in this fund will be sent to the Library each month.

**FUND 105-SOLID WASTE**

**Dept. 340**

Lines 401 and 466 were deleted due to the elimination of an open position.  
Line 554 was deleted since the RFP for garbage collection will not be needed in the 2012 year.  
Line 582 increased due to a 3% increase in disposal fees.

**Dept 341**

Line 582 increased due to a \$50,000 increase in disposal fees.  
Line 594 decreased due to less demand for hauling dirt to cover the rubbish pit.  
Line 900 was deleted since the land purchase is no longer needed.

**FUND 106-VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT.**

The revenue line item 390 and expenditure line item 251-766 are for the receipts from local volunteer fire departments and the payments for fire trucks through the county.

**FUND 107-JAG GRANT**

We will not receive the JAG grant for the 2012 fiscal year. It has been combined into the Youth Court budget. (001-163)

**FUND 156-ROAD MAINTENANCE**

Department 364 was moved from fund 380 into fund 156 for the 2012 fiscal year.

Mr. Arnold said the funds previously allocated for Horn Lake School Road from the bond account has been moved to the Road Department. Supervisor Latimer said this started years ago when the school was still at the railroad crossing. He said the County could build the road if the Board of Alderman and Mayor go along with their match for the project. He said they can check into it.

**FUND 160-BRIDGE AND CULVERT**

Department 351 was increased to \$4,000,000 for the total project.  
Department 399-line items 402 to 468 were adjusted to reflect the current head count and salaries. The various line items were adjusted to the current actual personnel costs plus a 5% variance.

**FUNDS 227 & 228**

These funds were added to service the debt for the two bond issues that occurred in the 2010 fiscal year.

**FUND 307-ENERGY GRANT-FEDERAL FUNDS**

This fund was deleted since the federal funds were all received and spent in the current fiscal year.

**FUND 311-E911 BUILDING PROJECT**

The fund was deleted since the project was completed during the current fiscal year.

**FUND 380-2012 CAPITAL EXPENDITURES**

**Dept. 120-This is for the replacement of all the flooring in the Administration Building.**  
**Dept. 152-This is for the development of a new county web site and other information technology projects.**  
**Dept. 240-To plan for the future purchases of ambulances to replace the current fleet.**  
**Dept. 260-For the renovation and expansion of the Emergency Management building in Nesbit.**  
**Dept. 301-This project has been completed.**  
**Dept. 302-For a new training center for employees of businesses in the County.**  
**Dept. 353-Project completed.**  
**Dept. 358-These funds are covered in fund 308.**  
**Dept. 364-This project was moved to fund 156.**

Mr. Arnold noted the total for line item 179 was incorrect. He said this line item amount would change to \$140,000 to cover the higher costs for court transcripts. The Board agreed that the budget reflects \$130,000, but should be \$140,000 for this line item.

Mr. Garriga said they are starting to send money to a capital expenditure account for future capital expenses.

Supervisor Bill Russell said, “first, I would like to thank Michael, Tom, and all the Department Heads and Elected officials for their diligence and hard work on the budget so far this year. Because our revenues have remained somewhat flat and our expenses for the most part have increased, there have already been cuts to most budgets from last year in order to avoid any hint of a tax increase and I recognize and appreciate that. This is absolutely, not the time to consider any tax increase on our citizens.

Our cash balance should remain near \$15 million enabling us to maintain our AA credit rating, which will in turn help maintain our low interest rates and borrowing power. While it is tempting to consider using some of this healthy cash balance for employee raises, I do understand why that would not be necessarily proper or wise. Salaries are reoccurring expenses and should be paid for out of re-occurring revenues.

That being said, I am still convinced that our employees both need and deserve a raise for the coming year and it is imperative that we all re-examine this budget and perhaps our priorities to see if we can find a way to make that happen.

There are a couple of reasons I feel so strongly about raises this year:

#### **ARGUMENT #1 -**

AP ARTICLE DATED TUESDAY AUGUST 23:

“IN THE 12 MONTHS THRU JULY, PRICES FOR CONSUMERS HAVE RISEN 3.6%”  
 “THE AVERAGE SALARY INCREASE FOR U S COMPANIES FOR 2012 WILL BE 2.8%”

Safe to say prices for consumers rose at least 3% per year for 2009 and 2010 making a 3 year’s total of at least 10%

For 2010 and 2011 our employees have received a 2.2% increase (\$0 in 2010 and 2.2% in 2011) and that was simply to help offset the increase in payments to the retirement fund dictated by the state.

**IF WE CAN’T FUND RAISES FOR OUR EMPLOYEES FOR 2012 THEY WILL HAVE LOST AT LEAST 10% OF THEIR BUYING POWER OVER THE PAST 3 YEARS**

#### **ARGUMENT # 2 –**

Insurance premiums for dependent coverage went up 20% and breaks down as follows:

42 employees with children coverage went from \$165 to \$198 per month  
 67 employees with spousal coverage went from \$185 to \$222 per month

116 Employees with family coverage went from \$205 to \$246 per month

Total impact on 225 employees with children, spousal, and family coverage is \$103,452 per year or an average of \$38 dollars per employee per month.

50 of these employees actually pay an additional \$138 per month because a \$100 surcharge was placed on employees with spousal coverage available through other source, but opting for DeSoto County coverage. Average of 50 employees impacted generated \$30,450 in a six month period.

**Note:** We have 535 total employees. To be totally accurate the other 310 employees did not receive an increase in their premiums. But, are affected by higher deductibles and co-pays. AND we already know this will probably have to increase again this year in order to simply “maintain” the county’s Self-Funded Insurance Fund.

According to Tom Arnold:

Cost to County Budget for a 1% salary increase across the board is \$220,000  
(.5% of General Fund budget)

Cost to County Budget for a 2% salary increase across the board is \$440,000  
(1% of General Fund budget)

Cost to County Budget for a 3% salary increase across the board is \$660,000  
(1.57% of General Fund budget)

These costs include both salaries and fringes.”

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion to instruct the County Administrator to revisit all Department Heads and Elected Officials to promote the need for salary increases and solicit their help to reduce budgets if possible and find \$660,000 to accommodate this request for a 3% raise for each employee this year.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said the Department Heads and Elected Officials have already been asked to provide a bare bones budget to the County. Supervisor Medlin said he hoped that would have been done on the front end.

Supervisor Russell said he does not disagree. He is just asking them to look at it one more time.

Supervisor Latimer said the County employees are deserving of raises. He said it is the Board’s responsibility to vote on it. He agreed with Supervisor Medlin that they are asking them to do something they have already done.

Supervisor Russell said we have allowed our cash balance to build but we do not need all of it.

Supervisor Latimer said we are going to have to operate a new jail next year and do not know about the price of fuel. He said he does not want to leave a bad situation for the new Board to inherit.

Supervisor Thach said he is not going to vote for a raise. He said we asked for a bare bones budget and that is what the Board should work from.

Supervisor Medlin said, according to the figures, a 1% increase is \$220,000. He said the retirement match would cost the County a lot of money.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion to cut the budget by 1.57% and give that money to the employees as a 3% raise.

The motion died for lack of a second.

Southaven Mayor, Greg Davis, appeared before the Board of Supervisors regarding Fund 103 which is the reimbursement for city prisoners that are housed in the County Jail. Mayor Davis said the County has \$900,000 that is being saved which was collected from the cities for housing their prisoners. He said, originally the Board said that money was needed to house prisoners and operate the jail. Mayor Davis said we need to come to an agreement to eliminate those payments. He asked if the County could do a non-binding referendum. Board Attorney Tony Nowak responded yes. Mayor Davis said he thinks DeSoto County residents feel the same about locking up criminals as they do about educating our children.

Mayor Davis said he also wanted to discuss the solid waste fund. He said the City of Southaven does curbside recycling. He said recycle is saving over 150 tons of what used to go into the landfill. He said he wishes the Board would sign an agreement to give the City of Southaven some of their money back since they are not putting as much in the landfill. He said he is asking for a reimbursement to go back into the recycling program.

Supervisor Bill Russell said the fees the County gets are based on millage and not what actually goes into the landfill.

Mr. Garriga said he does not see how the County could rebate money that is levied for a specific purpose. He explained how the County incurs costs and revenues.

Supervisor Russell said he is not opposed to looking at it. He is not opposed to see if it is legal to do so. Supervisor Russell said, while the tipping may be less, the cost may also be going up.

Mr. Garriga explained why money is being set aside for the jail and the rubbish pit.

Mayor Davis said he did not expect the Board to approve it, but he wished they would let the taxpayers make the decision.

Supervisor Latimer asked if they could get an Attorney General opinion about the reimbursement of the solid waste millage funds to the City.

Mayor Davis said you get around the millage issue with an agreement.

Mr. Nowak asked if they were talking about a tipping fee or millage. He said it could mean they would have to rebid the garbage collection and/or solid waste disposal agreements if there are going to be changes to those services. Mr. Garriga noted these services are not the subject of Mayor Davis’ comments and would not be affected.

Supervisor Russell said, if the money collected is in excess of the County obligation that is something the Board can deal with.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked if the rebate applies to all the cities. Mayor Davis said yes.

Supervisor Bill Russell made the motion and Supervisor Allen Latimer seconded the motion to authorize the Board Attorney to get an Attorney General’s opinion about the County’s authority to rebate funds collected from the solid waste millage to the municipalities. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----NO  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----NO  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer----- YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----YES

**G. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The executive session portion of these minutes is recorded under the portion of the minutes called “Executive Session”.

**H. OTHER ISSUES**

**1. Homestead Deletions**

Chancery Clerk Sluggo Davis said the Board previously voted on a homestead deletion list in January, but it was never signed by the Board President. He asked for the Board President signature on the document and the Board of Supervisors agreed.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess the meeting until September 6, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. The motion passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----YES  
Supervisor Eugene C. Thach-----YES  
Supervisor Bill Russell-----YES  
Supervisor Allen Latimer----- YES  
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----ABSENT

THIS the 29<sup>th</sup> day of August 2011, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Allen Latimer, President  
DeSoto County Board of Supervisors