

March 21, 2023

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**STATE OF GEORGIA
COUNTY OF HENRY**

The Henry County Board of Commissioners held a Special Called Budget Workshop *in-person* on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 5:00 p.m., at the Henry County Administration Building (Community Room), 140 Henry Parkway, McDonough GA. HenryTV also streamed this live online at its website, as well as Charter/Spectrum Channel 180 and Facebook Live.

Carlotta Harrell, Chair
Johnny Wilson, District 1 Commissioner
Dee Anglyn, III, District 3 Commissioner
Vivian Thomas, District 4 Commissioner
Kevin J. Lewis, Vice Chair/District 5 Commissioner

Also in attendance: Cheri Hobson-Matthews, County Manager; Nancy Rowan, County Attorney; Stephanie Braun, Clerk, Henry County; Jasmin Head, Deputy County Clerk

NOT PRESENT: Dee Clemmons, District 2 Commissioner

HENRY COUNTY CODE OF CONDUCT

(Sec. 2-2-128: Conduct during public meetings)

CALL TO ORDER

Carlotta Harrell, Chair, announced the Called Budget Workshop of the Henry County Board of Commissioners for Tuesday, March 21, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. to order.

BUDGET BRIEFING

This is a Budget briefing for the Board of Commissioners (BOC) regarding FY2023-2024

Bernita Campbell, Budget Director, approached to give the briefing for the Board; displays were provided for the Board and public viewing. Ms. Campbell reminded that no departmental heads will be speaking today; however, their requests have been submitted and recommendations are being presented for the Board's review and approval by May 31, 2023. Once the presentation has been completed, the Board may then ask questions.

Ms. Campbell highlighted the process and timeline for the Budget and how to go about obtaining department requests, reviewing same and making recommendations for the upcoming fiscal year budget cycle. In the General Fund, the following uses have been identified and separated into departmental countywide needs – Class & Comp Implementation, Pension Funding and Insurance Increases - were identified as Board Priorities, while Departmental/Countywide Needs identified were the Food and Medical Contracts for the Jail (Henry County Sheriff's Office), Countywide Technology Contract Increases and Court Reporter and State Contracted Attorney Fees. The proposed Budget for FY2023-2024 is in the amount of \$232,011,000, up from the previous year of \$216,907,158, a year-over-year increase of 7%. She explained that suggested Digest growth (preliminary) is between 11-14%. There are several other departmental needs that are unable to be addressed in this Budget, specifically adding more personnel, they will be revisited at a later time during this cycle.

Ms. Campbell then highlighted that the Budget is balanced without increasing the millage rate or using any Fund Balance. County priorities are being focused and resources are utilized towards those needs versus the “wants.” The County is also supporting community organizations such as, The Boys & Girls Club, A Friend’s House, Haven House and the Henry County Library System. The Budget is based upon the current millage rate of 12.733, with an assumption of a 9% year-over-year growth in the property tax revenue and a 3.5% year-over-year growth for sales tax revenue.

Ms. Campbell then presented some expenditure items which are included in the Budget, and displayed same for the Board and public viewing. The FY2024 summary, based on the current millage rate, was then displayed. The bulk of the requests are from Public Safety (at 50%), from General Government (at 25%) which covers the Countywide contracts and Elections expenses. Ms. Campbell then displayed a graph representation of the summary previously displayed. The largest source of revenues for the County comes from property tax revenues (at 54%) followed by sales and use tax revenues (at 31%).

Ms. Campbell then stated that in accordance with the Henry County Ordinance, the Budget must be adopted by May 31, 2023 and provided a proposed timeline as follows:

- The BOC is to notify the Budget team of any changes to the current recommendations for the Budget by *March 30, 2023*
- Public Hearing must be advertised for the proposed Budget by *April 12, 2023*
- The proposed Budget Summary for FY2024 must be advertised by *April 15, 2023*
- Public Hearing #1 would be held at 9:00 a.m. on *May 2, 2023*
- Public Hearing #2 would be held at 6:30 p.m. on *May 16, 2023*
- After the 2nd Public Hearing the BOC will be expected to vote upon the presented Budget on *May 16, 2023*

Vivian Thomas, District 4 Commissioner, referenced Public Safety and asked if this includes all departments within Public Safety; **Ms. Campbell** responded that all departments falling under the Public Safety category are included. The District 4 Commissioner then referenced the Judicial System and asked if that includes the D.A.’s Office; Ms. Campbell responded in the affirmative and added all of the Courts, judges and the Solicitor General are included. The Commissioner then stated that any further changes or questions she wishes to outline will be sent to her in accordance with the timeline given.

Chair Harrell remarked that there are departments that requested several needs and because of the way their budgets are trending – if that is a reason why certain things were not funded. **Ms. Campbell** explained that the current trends were reviewed as part of the budgeting process to examine the historical spending patterns were for the last 2-3 years and how the current trend is running. If a department is currently on track to stay within its budget and no new programs are coming online, the recommendation was not to add more dollars to the budget for those particular departments. The Chair then remarked that departments that were given increases were for expenses, such as the Jail’s renewal of its contract had an increase in medical costs, increase in food costs as well, were funded; Ms. Campbell affirmed same and added that any contract increases required for funding were also reviewed and is included in this Budget. The Chair asked that when the midyear is presented, what would be determined at that time. Ms. Campbell explained that revenue collections up to that time will be reviewed to give a better idea of where the revenue will come in around the December-January timeframe. Any personnel requests previously submitted would be reviewed in February for the FY2024 budget to see if they can be funded at that time.

Dee Anglyn III, District 3 Commissioner, referenced line item #4 on the Summary (Class & Compensation Plan Payout) and noted that it has the amount of \$10,304,938. At the Regular Meeting to

be held later this evening, the amount was actually \$8,587,000 (est.) and asked about that amount. **Ms. Campbell** explained that the figure represented on the Summary includes the taxes, while the amount stated by the District 3 Commissioner to be discussed at this evening's meeting is only the salary cost.

Commissioner Thomas referenced personnel increases and asked if this presented Budget includes personnel requests; **Ms. Campbell** stated it does not and in the original request, it would include about \$4.1 million dollars' worth of requests, but those departments were asked to hold any personnel requests until the Budget year reaches the midyear to ensure that collections are coming in as expected; they will then be addressed. The District 4 Commissioner further remarked that some departments were asked to reduce their budgets by 5%; Ms. Campbell affirmed same. The Commissioner asked where that 5% will be redirected. Ms. Campbell stated that most departments did not submit a 5% reduction and is therefore not included in the recommendations presented. There is no 5% reduction anywhere in this presentation. The Commissioner explained that she knows there will be some personnel requests because of the growth in Henry County and she wondered if those will be asked to wait, specifically in Public Safety, to midyear. Ms. Campbell affirmed same and added that there are currently vacancies listed and all departments are asked to fill those vacancies and in midyear, requests will be revisited for personnel needs.

Chair Harrell asked for the total number of vacancies; **Ms. Campbell** estimated 239 vacancies throughout all departments.

Vice-Chair Lewis asked if the extra personnel requests are being held off till midyear and they are then presented, if the County is waiting to see how much revenue is collected at that time to see if those requests can be filled without going in to Fund Balance; **Ms. Campbell** explained that the County needs to be sure that the revenues are coming in as expected, to see if the current vacancies are filled and how the Class & Comp Study is of benefit as far as recruiting and retaining employees.

Chair Harrell then stated that any additional questions or concerns should be sent to either Ms. Campbell or Mr. Smith by March 30th.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Henry County Board of Commissioners at this time **Chair Harrell** adjourned the meeting. *Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.*

Carlotta Harrell, Chair

Stephanie Braun, County Clerk