

CLEVELAND COUNTY BUDGET BOARD MINUTES

May 13, 2013

The Regular Meeting of the Cleveland County Budget Board was called to order at 10:30 a.m. this 13th day of May, 2013 in meeting Room 200 of the Cleveland County Office Building by Rod Cleveland, Chairman. Tammy Belinson, County Clerk/Secretary, called roll and those present were:

Rod Cleveland, Chairman
David Tinsley, Vice Chairman
Tammy Belinson, Secretary
Rhonda Hall, Member
Undersheriff Rhett Burnett, representing Sheriff Joe Lester, Member
Jim Reynolds, Member
Darry Stacy, Member
Rusty Sullivan, Member

Sheriff Joe Lester, Member, was absent.

Also present were: Assistant District Attorney James Robertson, Melinda Duke, Christi Morren, Anette Pretty, Jim Williams, Mary Francis, Eve Spaulding, Dave Spaulding, Sophia Spaulding, Melania Spaulding, Patricia H. Wiggs, Lisa Winters, Sharon Thompson, Rachel Spaulding, Pat Spaulding, Shilah Baumann, Shawnda Baumann, Caylon Donn, Melissa May, Bonny Green, Margaret Kochert, Troy Lynn Willard, Jenna Nepu, Lauren Yates, Emily Mick, Debra Carrick, Dennis Winfrey, Deborah Winfrey, Nadine Jewell, Charles Wesner, Lyntha Wesner, Julie Morris, Lynne Miller, Rhonda Baldwin, Terran Manning, Troy Green, Barbara Bowman, Gregg Fryday, Sarah Iselin, Wanda Danley, Karman Scott, Catherine Butler, Anthony Stafford, Jonnina Benson, Ursula Carter, Christabel Suthers, June E. Tyhurst, J. David Rambo, John Hancock, Bruce Parker, Suzette McDowell, Toby Thomas, Rachel Smith, Alecia Horner, Christina Owen, Stephen Tyler Holman, Alison Christian, Timothy Lars-Rodriguez, Vivian Y. Gibson, Carolyn Deatherage, Lisa S. Hilbert, Keith Shackelford, Verne Horsley, Linda Atkins and Peggy Laizure.

After the reading of the minutes of the meeting of April 8, 2013, and there being no additions or corrections, Rusty Sullivan moved, seconded by Jim Reynolds, that the minutes be approved.

The vote was: Rod Cleveland, yes; David Tinsley, abstain; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rhonda Hall, yes; Rhett Burnett, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Darry Stacy, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes. Motion carried.

Chairman Rod Cleveland called for Public Hearing on Cleveland County Fiscal Year 2013/14 Budget at 10:32 a.m. and asked that all phones be turned off and that each one wishing to speak sign up to do so.

The first speaker was Rhonda Baldwin, who expressed her concern and support for Crossroads Youth and Family Center. She said that as a member of the Board of Directors and knowledge of the organization, she could say that every dime is needed and is accounted for. Adding that there are more children than there are places open to them. She said they are doing a good job and admires the staff at Crossroads. She concluded by saying the Board should reconsider funding Crossroads because it is all about the children and not anyone else.

Others speaking on behalf of Crossroads Youth and Family Center were as follows: June Tyhurst, J. David Rambo, Christabel Suthers, Julie Morris, Alecia Horner, Lyntha Wesner, Terran Manning, Melissa May, Patricia Wiggs, Ursula Carter and Christina Owen.

Norman City Councilman for Ward 5, Dave Spaulding said that from all he has heard Crossroads Youth and Family Center is a quality organization. They help children and do great things and they work hard. He said that with regards to whether or not this organization should be funded with county money is irrelevant, because lots of people do great things by providing help for various facets of society. Mr. Spaulding explained that this is not a county organization; instead it is a 501C3, which is a private charity. He wished to applaud the Budget Board for having the foresight and the courage to stand up and do what is right and encouraged all in attendance to fund it privately. He stated that there are charities he donates to and Commissioner Stacy does have the right to reach into his pocket and take his money and then give it away to whomever he chooses. However, Mr. Stacy can take that money and go build a bridge, because that is his job. Mr. Spaulding commended the Board for doing what one guy thinks is the right thing.

Also expressing the same sentiments were, Bruce Parker and Eve Spaulding.

Lisa Winters, executive director at Crossroads said she had addressed the Board many times and was there to answer any questions that the Board Members may have.

Chairman Rod Cleveland closed the Public Hearing at 11:04 a.m.

Jim Reynolds moved, seconded by Rod Cleveland, to approve the Requested Transfer of Appropriations regarding the following:

- a. From FF2, Fair Board, \$600.00; to FF1C, Fair Board, Travel, \$600.00; SF1A, Free Fair Travel, \$600.00.
- b. From T2A, Unrestricted Highway, Maintenance & Operations, \$250,000.00 to T3, Unrestricted Highway, Capital Outlay, \$250,000.00.
- c. From SL2, Election Board, Maintenance & Operations, \$207.88, and SL3, Election Board, Capital Outlay, \$242.12; to SL1C, Election Board Travel, \$450.00.
- d. From CFBRE2, Sheriff, Revolving Personal Services, \$15,000.00; to CFBRE1C, Sheriff, Revolving Travel, \$15,000.00.

The vote was: Rod Cleveland, yes; David Tinsley, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rhonda Hall, yes; Rhett Burnett, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Darryl Stacy, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes.

Motion carried.

Rusty Sullivan moved, seconded by Darry Stacy, to approve the request by County Assessor David Tinsley to extend the Board of Equalization to June 30, 2013, due to the availability of Board members.

The vote was: Rod Cleveland, yes; David Tinsley, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rhonda Hall, yes; Rhett Burnett, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Darry Stacy, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes.
Motion carried.

Board Members Discussion:

Rod Cleveland said there is legislation pending that would move a District Judge from Seminole County to Cleveland County and asked that everyone contact their Legislature because Cleveland County needs another District Judge.

Chairman Cleveland called for Public Comment: Debra Carrick said that she did sign up to speak in the Public Hearing and appreciates the opportunity to speak in order to express the fact that she is very upset with the salary that the director of Crossroads Youth and Family makes a year for this charity. Ms. Carrick said she would be happy to do the job for half that amount and if she did it for more it would be like taking advantage. After going to their website, she learned that they had bought Smart Boards for \$8,000.00. At that price, she said that one could have bought computers. She said the waste of money this charity has done while claiming “it is all for the children” speaks to her it is not. She questioned why they have \$829,000.00 placed in miscellaneous and added that as a bookkeeper since 1980, one doesn’t throw items that large into miscellaneous. Ms. Carrick said she would like to give to her own charities and doesn’t think that this Board has the right to give taxpayers money to anyone. It is the county’s job to fund our schools, build our bridges and roads. She said Ad Valorem Tax has doubled in the past five years and the price of her house has gone down, yet they want her to pay for this when she doesn’t even have a job.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Jim Reynolds moved, seconded by Rusty Sullivan, to adjourn at 11:10 a.m.

The vote was: Rod Cleveland, yes; David Tinsley, yes; Tammy Belinson, yes; Rhonda Hall, yes; Rhett Burnett, yes; Jim Reynolds, yes; Darry Stacy, yes; Rusty Sullivan, yes.
Motion carried.

(Clerk’s note: Agenda was posted May 10, 2013 at 9:05 a.m.)