



MIAMI-DADE COUNTY FINAL OFFICIAL MINUTES

Board of County Commissioners Committee of the Whole First Budget Meeting

Stephen P. Clark Government Center
Commission Chambers
111 N.W. First Street
Miami, Florida 33128

September 1, 2015
As Advertised

Harvey Ruvin, Clerk
Board of County Commissioners

Christopher Agrippa, Director
Clerk of the Board Division

Mary Smith-York, Commission Reporter
(305) 375-1598



CLERK'S SUMMARY AND OFFICIAL MINUTES
Board of County Commissioners' Committee of the Whole
Fiscal Year 2015-16 Budget
September 1, 2015

The Board of County Commissioners convened as the Committee of the Whole on September 1, 2015, at 3:06 p.m., in the Stephen P. Clark Government Center, 111 N.W. 1st Street, 2nd Floor Commission Chambers, Miami, Florida 33128. There being present Chairman Jean Monestime, Vice Chairman Esteban Bovo, and Members Bruno Barreiro, Daniella Levine Cava, Jose "Pepe" Diaz, Audrey Edmonson, Barbara Jordan, Dennis Moss, Rebeca Sosa, and Xavier Suarez (Commissioners Heyman and Zapata were absent).

In addition to the members of the Committee of the Whole, the following staff members were present: County Attorney Robert Cuevas; First Assistant County Attorney Abigail Price-Williams; Office of Management and Budget Director Jennifer Moon; and Deputy Clerks Christopher Agrippa and Mary Smith-York.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez was also present.

County Attorney Cuevas stated the purpose for today's (9/1) meeting was to review and discuss the Mayor's proposed budget and any proposed amendments to such budget as set forth in the Mayor's Memorandum related to information for the First Budget Public Hearing.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez informed Board members that staff met with individual Commissioners, conducted eight town hall meetings countywide, and held social media town hall meetings via Facebook and Twitter, to discuss the proposed budget and received a positive response from the community. He welcomed any questions or concerns the Board members wished to have staff address.

Chairman Monestime opened the floor to members of the Committee of the Whole, and the following concerns, regarding the Mayor's FY 2015-16 Proposed Budget, were presented:

Commissioner Sosa presented the following questions and comments regarding Fire Rescue / Police / Libraries:

Would the Fire Units be affected by the proposed budget? Did the proposed budget take into consideration the resolution, adopted by this Board, requesting more police officers be hired and positioned in areas with higher crime rates? Would 100 police officers be sufficient to address the loss of hundreds of experienced officers due to attrition? Were the proposed extended library hours specific to the four main libraries? Was this Fiscal Year's budget still proposed with a flat rate? Requested a map identifying all regional libraries that were open seven days a week and those branches that were being extended from five to six days.

Mayor Gimenez stated all firefighter positions were budgeted; the proposed classes would address attrition; all rescue and firefighting units would be in service, and additional funds were available to add additional fire boat service to the southern part of the County.

Mayor Gimenez explained 100 previously vacant positions would be filled and at least four classes would be held for officer training to address attrition. A Succession Planning Program was being implemented; an additional 100 police officers should be on the streets by this time next year, and the Department Director would determine how the officers were allocated to the districts. The department utilized the Computer Comparison Statistics (COMSTAT) Process to determine specific concerns within each district and to allocate resources to address those concerns. The four classes would not only fill 100 current vacancies, but would also address the positions of retiring officers.

Mayor Gimenez stated the five regional libraries were currently open seven days a week year round; however, an additional day was being added to ten branch libraries, extending the days open from five to six.

Mayor Gimenez agreed to provide Commission members with a map detailing the locations and hours of each library.

Mayor Gimenez affirmed, at this time, this year's budget was proposed with a flat rate.

Commissioner Edmonson presented the following questions and comments regarding Community Based Organizations (CBO) / Small Business Development:

What was the status on the proposed CBO funding for FY 2015-16 and would the funding be on time? Why no responses to the directions regarding the Small Business Disparity Study, including ramping up the Small Business Development (SBD) staff, increasing the department's budget, and assigning staff to manage the Small Business Bonding Assistance Program credit line? Would work with the Mayor to include the Little River Library in next year's budget since the property had been purchased. Asked for consideration of placing the SBD Department under the Mayor's purview, as recommended in the Small Business Disparity Study, and if this could not be done, provide a report explaining the reason.

Ms. Jennifer Moon, Office of Management and Budget Director, said a draft of the Request for Proposals (RFP) would be available on the County's Website this week for the CBO's review, after which staff would present it to the Board for approval. The list of CBOs in the first change memorandum represented continuation funding allocated for seven months to allow time for the new solicitation process and for the agreements to be executed in May.

Commissioner Moss presented the following questions and comments regarding Police / Park, Recreation, and Open Spaces / Federal Funding / Elections / Courts / Aviation:

Would the 100 police officers replace retiring officers as well as add additional officers to the force? Requested consideration of funding, in addition to the \$500,000 funding allocated to South Miami-Dade County, for police coverage during events and for tree planting to create a

canopy. Requested a map identifying the locations of trees be created and provided to Board members and the federal government be urged to fund additional slots in the Summer Youth Employment Program; Requested the proposed Elections funding be characterized; Would a group be convened to address the issues related to the Elections process and attrition within the department? Were funds allocated to the Courts budget to address the issues identified in the report on today's (9/1) agenda? Were funds in place to address the issues related to the South Dade Justice Center? Requested additional funding to support improvements at the Miami-Homestead Airport, similar to those being made at the Miami Executive Airport (formerly Tamiami Airport).

Mayor Gimenez stated the classes would train a total of 270 officers, which would cover every retired police officer and fill 100 vacant positions.

Mayor Gimenez advised the following: the existing Mayor's Elections Advisory Group would reconvene to address any concerns regarding the upcoming elections; additional funding had been allocated to Elections Department for next year; ten additional early voting sites would operate 8 hours per day for 14 days prior to, and including the Sunday before Election Day; re-precincting was currently underway for approximately 13 percent of voters; 21 additional voting sites have been established to reduce overcrowding; Electronic Identification (ID) and Signature systems have been implemented; and additional outreach activities have been planned. A dry-run of operations would occur during the presidential primary in March 2016 and the County's primary election in August, which should serve to alleviate any problems. Additionally, once the precincts closed, the election results would be electronically transmitted directly to Elections Headquarters, making the voting experience better for citizens of this community.

Mayor Gimenez stated funds were allocated in this year's budget to address the courts' issues, adding that the courthouse was currently being sealed and the 50,000 square feet of vacant space on the third floor of the Cultural Center Facility was being considered for use as courtrooms. The quest for solutions to civil and criminal courthouses and the criminal justice system continued and consideration of the recommendations by the P3 Task Force was underway.

Ms. Tara Smith, Internal Services Department (ISD) Director, indicated some minor issues were found in the courthouse section of the South Dade Government Center during the health and safety inspections performed at all courthouse facilities, and funds were allocated to ISD's budget to address those recommendations.

Commissioner Moss asked Ms. Tara Smith, ISD Director, to provide him with a report indicating the timeline for the scheduled activities addressing those issues.

Ms. Smith stated most of those issues were currently being address and that she was in the process of developing a matrix and meeting with each building manager for the facilities to ensure they were aware of the findings from the inspection and how to address the issues. Availability of this matrix was anticipated within the next 30 days.

Mayor Gimenez said he would communicate Commissioner Moss' request to the Aviation Director and would ensure improvements were done to make the Miami-Homestead Airport a first class facility.

Commissioner Levine Cava presented the following questions and comments regarding County Employees / Animal Services / Libraries / Sea Level Rise:

Would the employee recognition fund be restored for non-bargaining unit employees? Would enhanced funding be available to continue addressing the No Kill Plan goal, specifically for spay and neuter services? Would the hours of operation be extended for the Regional Libraries? Requested consideration of extended hours of operation on the days the regional libraries closed early. What was being done with respect to sea level rise issues related to the County's forthcoming major infrastructure investments?

Mayor Gimenez explained that the Employee Recognition Fund was applicable only for employees at a certain level and those above that level (higher paid employees) were ineligible to receive the fund.

Mayor Gimenez informed of continued efforts to identify additional funding to provide free pet adoptions and, subsequently, for spay and neuter services. Additional monies were allocated to the Animal Services Budget this year to fund the opening of a new shelter next Fiscal Year, increasing the capacity for cats by 50 percent and dogs by 25 percent. Programs to partner with non-profit organizations to provide spay and neuter services at a lower cost and to facilitate clinics in underserved areas were funded in this year's budget.

Ms. Gia Arbogast, Miami-Dade Public Library System Director, stated the regional libraries were open seven days a week; however, they closed at 6:00 p.m. two evenings per week. Years ago, the regional libraries were open until 8:00 p.m. on four days.

Mayor Gimenez noted the County Commission directed staff to take sea level rise into consideration within the planning for every County capital project, which was being done with this year's largest capital project with the Water and Sewer Department.

Commissioner Jordan presented the following questions and comments regarding Police / Fire Rescue / County Employees / Parks, Recreation, and Open Spaces / Transit / Small Business Development:

Would new positions be opened within the department? Would the succession plan, implemented by the former director, be implemented to maintain diversity in leadership within the department? Requested restoration of the Miami-Dade Fire Training Academy in partnership with the Miami-Dade Public School System be reconsidered. Were reserve funds in place for those bargaining units that had not yet reached agreement with the County? How would the current application for firefighter classes, that did not require applicants to be certified, compare to the previous application that required certification, with respect to diversity? How would the budget be impacted if the agreement reached with the five unions provided for retroactivity?

Requested that North Glade Park be included as number 12 in the budget line item for \$3 million allocated to 11 parks in high crime areas. Recommended increasing the number of bus maintenance/technicians to maintain the aging and/or new fleet of buses and keep the fleet up-to-date. A commitment should be made by all departments involved with major construction/goods and services contracts, to include a liaison position responsible for collecting the necessary information. Consider making Small Business Development a County department in itself; Asked that she be provided with a report on the number of positions the Small Business Development Division needed to support increasing the contract monitoring from eight to 50 percent.

Mayor Gimenez explained 270 police officers would be hired to fill the 100 currently vacant positions and replace the 170 officers lost through attrition. Current Director J.D. Patterson understood that succession planning on the hierarchy of the Police Department was essential in hiring the best and the brightest for the job and in mirroring the community.

Chief David Downey, Miami-Dade Fire Rescue (MDFR) Director, stated two to three classes were planned for this 2015-16 FY Budget year and the current eligibility list would expire December 1, 2015. The advertisement for new positions, which was non-certified, received over 9,000 applicants. The MDFR Department was developing a plan within the collective bargaining agreement, similar to the Police Department, which that moved into leadership positions people to shadow those retiring, based on relative timelines.

Mayor Gimenez stated the budget anticipated reaching the same type agreement with those units as with the five units with which agreements had been reached. The proposed budget would support the five unions ultimately not reaching agreement and eliminating the savings in healthcare; however, if the Board approved different agreements for certain bargaining units, the budget might not be able to support the changes.

Mayor Gimenez stated the restoration of employee benefits was always based on the savings generated from the employee healthcare plan: therefore, the benefits were effective from the date the agreement was signed. The Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) was attached to the property tax roll growth.

Chief Downey recalled discussed by the Metropolitan Services Committee relating to consideration of partnering with the School Board's on the Emergency Medical Technician training. He indicated this approach would probably provide the most cost effective way to develop high school students to move into fire rescue services.

Mayor Gimenez acknowledged the request to include North Glade Park as number 12 to the 11 parks in high crime areas for the \$3 million allocation and stated it would be implemented into the budget.

Mayor Gimenez noted funding was provided for the technology needed to make a uniform set of data among departments and for a training program so all departments could input the necessary data for the Small Business Disparity Study. Expressed opposition to creating a new department; however, staff would explore the option to include liaisons in each department.

Agreed to research and bring back a report indicating the total number of positions within the Small Business Development Division supporting the increased monitoring.

Commissioner Diaz presented the following questions and comments regarding Police Department / Miami-Dade Fire Rescue / Animal Services / Transit / Military Affairs Board / Emergency Reserves:

Were the proposed recruitment classes all for lateral positions in the Police Department and how many police officers were being recruited? What was status of proposed fire boats? What was the status of the No Kill Initiative? Provide information on funding for Miami-Dade Transit and the People's Transportation Plan (PTP). Stressed the importance of the military as a strong economic engine and the need to strengthen the County's Military Affairs Board (MAB). Provide information on the County's Emergency Reserve Funds and whether that account was governed by the State of Florida's rules requiring three months of operating funds.

Ms. Jennifer Moon explained six classes were scheduled between now and the end of next Fiscal Year and would be a combination of lateral and new positions.

Mr. J.D. Patterson, Miami-Dade Police Department Director, clarified regular and lateral classes were being planned, with one lateral scheduled to start this month and one regular started a few months prior. He noted additional regulars and laterals would be planned.

Mayor Gimenez said considerable additional resources were allocated into public safety, including 100 officers to fill the vacancies; replacing the officers leaving by attrition; approximately 200 Correctional Officers would be added; additional resources were being added to the Fire Rescue Department and Marine Rescue; enhanced technology and equipment were being implemented to protect police officers; and 1,000 new cars were also being added to the fleet.

Mayor Gimenez stated the three fire boats consisted of one fully staffed fire boat in operations at the beginning of the year; a second fully staffed fire boat being added; and the City of Miami's fire boat. The City of Miami Beach was discussing having its own fire boat, so the County needed to work with its municipal partners to ensure all the waters were protected.

Mayor Gimenez stated the County would enter into agreements with 501(C)3 nonprofit groups to perform spay and neuter services and to operate a clinic in Liberty City and in Homestead. The new state-of-the-art shelter being built was the first to open within the past 50 years.

Mayor Gimenez noted \$3 million that was taken from the PTP was put back into the PTP for operations; a debate surfaced regarding the PTP's portion of the tax that went to operations; the amount was originally \$133 million, but less the \$3 million was now \$130 million. The dependence on the PTP for operations was being decreased gradually to minimize the impact to the budget.

Mayor Gimenez indicated an additional position was included in budget for the Military Affairs Board.

Mayor Gimenez advised that for first time in five years, money was being placed in reserves and by 2020, the reserves amount would reach \$100,000,000.

Ms. Jennifer Moon said the rule was different for counties, and noted best practices required 5-7 percent in reserve funds. The State of Florida capped the required amount at no more than 10 percent in unrestricted reserves.

Commissioner Suarez referenced concerns addressed by Commissioners Bovo, Cava, and Jordan pertaining to the Mayor's proposed budget with respect to Police, Transportation and PTP, Housing, and Libraries, and recommended reducing public transportation fares.

Commissioner Barreiro stated he met with staff and all concerns addressed satisfactorily.

Commissioner Bovo made the following comments regarding Libraries/Parks/Police/Transportation:

Need more aggressive creation of libraries that were not storefronts and consideration for models for park use at police substations that would not take away from parks; should eliminate the use of PTP funds for operations.

Chairman Monestime made the following comments regarding UMSA / General Fund Budgets / Small Business Development / Transportation:

Concern regarding the lack of funds to support the Unincorporated Municipal Service Areas; vowed to continue conversations with the Mayor regarding the reserve funds for police officers; referenced his inquiry on a rate increase for lower paid employees; expressed concern with the living wage for County employees was \$9.00 versus Contract employees at \$12.46. Desired to see a more robust Small Business Enterprise Office and proposed having discussion on the feasibility of increasing the district allocations for Mom and Pop funding to \$100,000. Concerned with the Maintenance of Effort (MOE) for Transit and proposed pledging 3 ½ percent as done previously.

Mayor Gimenez noted all employees under Local Union 199 would receive a 1 percent increase because the threshold was met.

Ms. Jennifer Moon stated the increased amount would be calculated to provide the level of fiscal impact that adjustment would have on the budget.

Ms. Moon noted the memo distributed contained a comparison between a 2005 schedule that included the Maintenance of Effort requirement of 3 ½ percent and a schedule provided as part of the primary forecast for the FY 2014-15 Budget. The 2005 schedule took the subsidy for each year, beginning with 2005, and adding 3 ½ percent to it; however, it did not fund the needs for the Transit agency. Each fiscal year from 2012-13 forward, a large gap of unfunded need was tied to the schedule, indicating the Transit Agency would not be able to operate at its current service level unless there was an extraordinary increase to the MOE, the gas tax, or a significant

reduction in service to transit. FY 2014-15 schedule was included as part of the five-year forecast and shown, as funded, as part of balanced forecast assuming a 5.5 percent growth in the tax roll, based on last year's base, and fully funded the needs of the Transit agency moving forward, without the assumption of service reduction or increased gas tax or other source of revenue. This schedule was revised for FY 2015 -16 to accordance with the changes in the projected PTP growth, tax roll growth, and debt service obligations that were revised annually. Upon requesting the Citizens Independent Transportation Trust (CITT) delay the increase in the MOE, evidence of sufficient funding was shown in the five-year forecast that would more than make up for the 3 ½ percent loss in the MOE, because the debt service would outpace the PTP growth. The addition of the 15.5 percent and the 13.8 percent were not tied to replacing the 3 ½ percent increase; they were already included in the five-year forecast to keep Transit operational at its current level.

Chairman Monestime presented figures contradictory to Ms. Moon's comments, stating according to the referenced schedule, in 2014-15 there would be \$173 million; 2015-16 \$179 million; 2016-17 \$186 million; 2017-18 \$196 million; and 2018-19 \$203 million. He explained because the 3 ½ was not added last year, would be at \$173 million this year rather than last year; but next year would be at \$200 million, an increase of nearly \$27 million. Commissioner Monestime expressed concern with aggressively planning on money that was not in place and suggested planning more conservatively by adding \$6 million this year to provide \$186 million, rather than needing to come up with \$200 million next year.

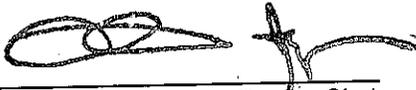
ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further discussion to come before the Committee of the Whole, Chairman Monestime adjourned the meeting at 4:50 p.m.



Chairman Jean Monestime

ATTEST: HARVEY RUVIN, Clerk

By: 
Christopher Agrippa, Deputy Clerk

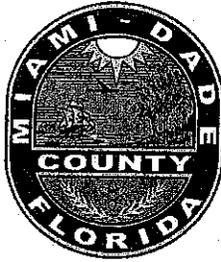


**Board of County Commissioners
Committee of the Whole First Budget Meeting
EXHIBITS
September 1, 2015**

Prepared by: Mary Smith-York

EXHIBITS LIST

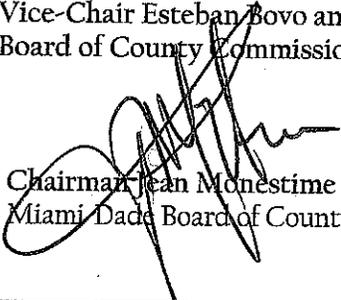
NO.	DATE	ITEM #	DESCRIPTION
1	9/1/2015		Memorandum from BCC Chairman Monestime RE: Transit MOE Pledge
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MEMORANDUM
OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN JEAN MONESTIME
Board of County Commissioners

TO: Vice-Chair Esteban Bovo and Members,
Board of County Commissioners

DATE: September 1, 2015

FROM: 
Chairman Jean Monestime
Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners

SUBJECT: Transit MOE Pledge

This year Miami-Dade County is experiencing a significant rebound in the taxable values of properties, and we are levying taxes on a substantial number of new properties. This Proposed Budget restores many services that were impacted by the steep tax cuts adopted in FY 2011-12. The Administration is to be commended for their efforts to provide a level of services the community expects and deserves. By making modest adjustments to this \$4.6 billion operating budget, the County Commission has the opportunity to address other important policy matters.

Traffic congestion and transit is on the top of everyone's agenda this year. The collective will to get something done is stronger than ever. A promise to increase general fund support to the Transit Department was deferred last year. We have the means to honor that commitment now, and should revisit that pledge this year. If we do not, another broken promise could be on the horizon. The schedule below highlights the funding variance embedded in the CITT agreement adopted by the Board of County Commissioners last year.

Transit Maintenance of Effort Pledge			
	July 7, 2005 Reinvestment Schedule (3.5% annual increases)	September 18, 2014 Modified Pledge	
FY 2013-14	167,869	167,869	
FY 2014-15	173,745	167,869	0.0%
FY 2015-16	179,826	173,745	3.5%
FY 2016-17	186,120	200,675	15.5%
FY 2017-18	196,634	228,368	13.8%
FY 2018-19	203,376	236,361	3.5%
FY 2019-20	210,494	244,634	3.5%
FY 2020-21	217,861	253,196	3.5%

In lieu of the promised 3.5% increase during the current year, a pledge was made to resume the 3.5% increase in the Proposed Budget and then provide extraordinary increases in the future (FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18). Our general fund remains under pressure from federal consent decrees, possible incorporations and annexations, and fluctuations in the global economy. The pending increases in the Transit maintenance of effort may be untenable in outlying years.

In order to avoid the likelihood of another possible broken promise related to Transit in the future, the County Commission should get back on track with the original commitment entered into in 2005. By allocating an additional \$6,081,000 to Transit *this year*, we will not need to dedicate an additional \$14,555,000 next year, and an extra \$31,734,000 in the following year. The compounding impact of these two extraordinary increases will then grow every year into the future. I would appreciate the suggestions of the Office of Management and Budget for closing this \$6,081,000 gap at our First Budget Hearing.

c: Hon. Carlos Gimenez, Mayor
Honorable Harvey Ruvin, Clerk of the Court
Robert Cuevas, County Attorney