

**NOTIFICATION TO COUNTY MAYOR OF COMMITTEE MEETING BY  
MEMBERS OF MAURY COUNTY COMMISSION**

The Special Called Budget Committee met on Thursday May 21, 2015 at approximately 4:30 PM in the Maury County Tom Primm County Commission Room with the following Committee Members present:

CRAIG HARRIS, SONNY SHACKELFORD, SUE STEPHENSON, STEWART PARKER  
DONNA COOK AND ERIC PREVITI

OTHERS PRESENT: Gerald Adkison, Ronnie Attkisson, Talvin Barner, Davis Burkhalter, Gwynne Evans, Mike Fulbright, Don Morrow, William (Tot) Roddy, Gary Stovall, Scott Summers, Debbie Turner, Theresa Weber, Linda Whiteside, Tommy Wolaver and Media.

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**MINUTES OF MEETING**

- I. CALL TO ORDER:**  
Chairman Harris called the meeting to order.
- II. OPENING PRAYER:**  
Commissioner Shackelford gave the opening prayer.
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MEETING AGENDA:**  
Chairman Harris asked Commissioner Previti to fill the vacant seat of Commissioner Kuzawinski.  
Commissioner Stephenson made a motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Commissioner Parker. There were no lights. All in favor. Motion Approved.  
Chairman Harris stated he wanted to summarize what was done with the budget at the sessions the Budget Committee has had. Chairman Harris stated he listened to all the budgets that were submitted and the Budget Committee took those budgets under advisement. Chairman Harris stated they asked Budget Director Weber to put those numbers that were under advisement together. Chairman Harris stated when it came down to a penny allocation it showed there was a 17 penny increase that would cover two things. The 17 penny increase would include 8 pennies allocation to the debt service fund and in addition to that there was approximately 8 cents from the budgets that were taken under advisement. Chairman Harris stated he made some changes in the overall budget. Chairman Harris stated his goal was to get down to the 8 cent number that was tied to the debt service. Chairman Harris stated he would go over some of the cuts that are in this budget that are different from what the committee and commissioners had denoted and were under advisement. Chairman Harris stated he removed \$20,374.00 off the County Commission pay and he did take that out of the line item budget. Chairman Harris stated the most significant cut was overtime in the amount of \$331,384.00. Chairman Harris stated he asked Director Weber to take that overtime and leave the line item in the budget to distribute that dollar amount throughout their budget. The next line item was in the Sheriff's Department and the Sheriff's Department took the bulk of the overtime. Chairman Harris stated in the Sheriff's Department he found the fuel expense was overstated and that was in the amount of \$60,000.00 and that was an additional cut.

Maury County Fire was cut \$44,000.00. Tourism was cut \$50,000.00. Chairman Harris stated the reason that Tourism was cut was because there was a good chance that Tourism could have some savings and Tourism could be consolidated with Maury Alliance. Chairman Harris stated he felt in donations there were two donations that were comprised of more than 60 to 70% of our total and those were in a donation of \$30,000.00 to the Spring Hill Library and \$39,600.00 to the Tennessee Vocational Training. Chairman Harris stated he cut and limited each one of those to \$15,000.00. Chairman Harris stated there is a total cut of \$24,600.00 between those two non-profits. Chairman Harris stated they listened to two departments, which were Circuit Court and Clerk and Master and they had asked to revisit their budgets. Chairman Harris stated he did ask Director Weber to allocate the cost of an additional employee to those two courts and there was a \$30,000.00 allocation of additional monies beyond what was taken under advisement to each one of those courts. Chairman Harris moved on to Solid Waste which was short with a deficit that was going to require 3 additional pennies of the 17 pennies that was discussed. Chairman Harris stated when the contract was bid with Waste Management that it increased approximately \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00. Chairman Harris stated when he looked at the revenues he felt that expense should be passed along. Chairman Harris stated back in February the commission passed the rate that was going to be increased and that increase was not reflected in the revenues for that. The Highway Department had one penny allocation and Chairman Harris stated he asked Director Weber to address this and reduce expenditures. He believes it is in the line item of fuel or some other operating expenses to not allocate an additional penny for the deficit they reflected in their budget. Chairman Harris stated of the 17 pennies that brought it down to 9 pennies. When the Central High School project was discussed with the \$47,000,000.00 it would require 8 pennies allocation to fund the debt service fund and when the bond was actually issued the rate came out at 3.05% instead of 3% and that difference required the commission to allocate rounded up to one more penny. Chairman Harris stated what you are looking at is 9 pennies toward the funding of the debt associated with Central High School. Chairman Harris stated the three things he took into consideration when this budget was finalized for presentation was that Commissioners for the majority wanted a balanced budget. Chairman Harris stated this is a balanced budget. Chairman Harris stated when they voted the new school in he took it the commission was going to fund the new school and the commission did with 9 cents additional and the third thing is that Chairman Harris stated he had heard from the Commission and his constituents that if Maury County wanted to approve new buildings and to continue on Maury County would have to maintain its buildings. The commission would have to provide for repairs and additional expenditures with equipment. Chairman Harris stated there is a five year plan for Capital Expenditures for the County. Chairman Harris stated the committee approved \$1,218,000.00 in Capital Expenditures and there was \$7,400,000.00 requested. Chairman Harris stated over the next five years under this Capital Expenditures plan there is roughly \$28,833,000.00. Chairman Harris stated the County is nowhere close to funding the Capital Expenditures and it is clear by what happened with Central High School the County is not maintaining their assets. Chairman Harris stated if the County dips into the cash reserves whether it be the 101 fund or other funds he thinks that would be the absolute worst thing that the commission

could do when Maury County is at the brink of significant growth. Chairman Harris stated he does not feel the Commission should take monies from the 101 fund and allocate those to longer term or set expenditures or long term debt. Chairman Harris stated when you have anomalies that take place or disasters and when you put that together with growth that is coming, there is no time to be putting the County's financial position in a weaker position. Chairman Harris stated if you weaken the cash reserves you lower your bond rating. Chairman Harris stated in this budget proposal he cut back from 17 cents to the debt service to the schools and the additional operating expenditures and he cut that back to 8 cents to cover the debt service. Chairman Harris stated he is asking for an additional 11 pennies totaling 20 cents increasing property taxes to set these funds specifically aside for capital expenditures. It will equate roughly to \$2,500,000.00 above what was approved this year. Chairman Harris stated he has been asked to consider the wheel tax and Chairman Harris stated he is in favor of a wheel tax but the wheel tax takes time to get in place and it also is restricted as the County would have to go through Private Act changes to redirect percentages of those funds or run the risk of those funds not being established at all.

- IV. DELEGATIONS:** Mr. Perry Coghlan is from District 5. Commissioner Sumner is from his district and he is from Taylorwood Lane and has lived there for 13 years. Mr. Coghlan stated that he had read in the newspaper on a number of occasions of commissioners making a statement linking the word investment with a raise in the property taxes. Mr. Coghlan stated an investment is when an individual or group of individuals voluntarily enters into an agreement into a business relationship or some other kind of financial relationship. Mr. Coghlan stated taxes are not an investment. The second point he wanted to bring up was the nature of going into debt and future obligations. Mr. Coughlan stated every time we go into debt or as a county we risk the death of our finances and the death of our prosperity.
- Mr. Scott Cepicky of 3937 Hopewell Road and his commissioners are Commissioner Shackelford and Commissioner Parker. Mr. Cepicky had a question. Mr. Cepicky stated he heard in his budget where the Tennessee Rehabilitation Center and the Spring Hill Library were cut. Mr. Cepicky asked was there a call made to let them know their budget had been cut because Mr. Mr. Cepicky stated he assumed they were looking to get the money they had asked for. Chairman Harris stated he did not make the call. Chairman Harris stated the budget has not been approved yet. Mr. Cepicky stated the reason he asked that was because they had set their budgets on appropriations and if they are going to count on getting money from Maury County and now they don't get it and they will not get an opportunity to come before the commission and defend their request because they would be allowed to speak like anyone else as a citizen under the resolution to request their money back. Chairman Harris stated constantly through the budget session and particularly with the 501C3 the donation request they were reminded their numbers were taken under advisement.

**V. RESOLUTIONS:**

- A. **Res. No 05-15-01S:** Resolution Approving The 2015-2016 Maury County Water System Budget. Commissioner Previti made a motion to approve. Seconded by

Commissioner Shackelford. Commissioner Shackelford asked if the Committee is approving the budget in total or are they approving the revenue. Director Weber stated they are approving the expenditures in total. The amount to be approved for the water department would be \$3,528,100.00. Commissioner Stephenson asked what the \$181,500.00 was and increase and who was that for. Director Weber stated she believes that is an overall pay raise of 4%. There were no lights. Chairman Harris called for the vote. Commissioner Parker aye, Commissioner Previti aye, Commissioner Shackelford aye, Commissioner Cook no, Commissioner Stephenson no. Chairman Harris, aye. Motion carries with 4 ayes, and 2 nays.

- B. **Res No. 05-15-02S:** Resolution Fixing the Tax Levy in Maury County, Tennessee For The Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015. Chairman Harris stated the two increases over last year was the Debt Service Fund and The Capital Projects. Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Stephenson. Commissioner Cook stated Chairman Harris spoke in his presentation about how much time the Commission doesn't have to take care of the Capital Outlay projects. Commissioner Cook stated the County does have time to properly manage this County budget and to properly manage and set a tax rate. Commissioner Cook stated the commission can approach the Representatives on the State level and achieve additional revenues from additional taxes that are already in place. Commissioner Cook stated she would urge this committee to not set a tax rate at 2.82 and to be reasonable and physically responsible and take their time and do what is right and approach other tax revenue streams which will take a little time but will not burden Maury County property owners. Commissioner Cook stated currently Maury County's tax rate is at 2.62 and there are cities that live inside Maury County and if you have a house that is in Columbia your rate is going to go up to 4.26 and Mt. Pleasant 4.44, Spring Hill 3.39 so Maury County tax rate at 2.62 does not demonstrate what individuals inside cities are paying. Commissioner Cook stated she would urge this committee to reconsider the tax rate increase from 2.62 to 2.82 and she would urge this committee to take the time and look at this correctly instead of moving forward with a 20 cent property tax increase. Commissioner Stephenson stated she is going to vote aye on this because she wants to make sure that it is going to move on to the full commission. Chairman Harris stated he thinks it is going to take an increase on the property tax increase plus a wheel tax to keep Maury County in front of the growth. Commissioner Shackelford stated the debt service rate is showing last year 33.47 and the capital projects allocation was .0554 and Commissioner Shackelford stated there was 11 cents and a 9 cents for debt service. The interest rate on the bond when it was issued was 3.05 and there was a premium on it. Commissioner Shackelford stated that 9 cents is not what it will take to finance a \$47,000,000.00 project. Commissioner Shackelford stated that number was probably on recommendation of the bond council and knowing there needed to be build room for other needs. The penny tax allocation for this year has been up more than it has been in the past. Commissioner Shackelford stating what was proposed is difficult for him but it is something that he will support because strategic investments and to take care of properties and this

will give flexibility and so the schools properties and Maury County's properties can be maintained. Commissioner Cook asked Director Weber what is Maury County's current debt. Director Weber stated it is \$63,000,000.00. That is the current debt without Central High School and with Central High School the debt would be around \$110,000,000.00. Commissioner Cook stated recently when she went into Director Weber's office asking you this question and she sent an e-mail which was ignored and Director Weber stated she did not ignore it. Chairman Harris stated those are matters of opinion from each individual. Commissioner Cook stated the Tennessee Comptroller's Office shows the debt at \$51,290,689.59 with Central High School the debt will be \$98,290,689.50. Director Weber stated the Comptroller did not have the \$12,250,000.00 debt series from last year. They would have the audited number from 6/30/14. Commissioner Cook stated there is no evidence to suggest that a tax increase is going to grow Maury County's economy and it has a negative effect when you increase taxes. Commissioner Parker called for the question to move this forward to the County Commission. Commissioner Stephenson asked Chairman Harris if after everything was cut and the adjustments and the number of cents for the Highway Department he ever came up with a total A little over 3 pennies was in Solid Waste because the revenues had to be increased. One cent with the Highway Department increase was not allocated additional pennies. Commissioner Shackelford stated looking at back at the last sheet in the 101 fund the County was down \$563,375.00 and that all went away but spending was increased. Spending in two of those accounts in the amount of \$60,000.00 so really what you are looking at is \$623,375.00 in deficit in the 101 fund. Chairman Harris stated he had that number totaled and it is \$615,908.00 and that equated about 3.76 pennies to the 101 fund. It was balanced out and ended up as a surplus. There were no lights. Chairman Harris called for the vote. Commissioner Parker aye, Commissioner Previti aye, Commissioner Shackelford aye, Commissioner Cook no, Commissioner Stephenson aye, Chairman Harris aye, Motion carries 5 ayes and 1 nay.

- C. **Res. No. 05-15-03S:** Resolution Making Appropriations For The Various Funds, Departments, Institutions, Offices And Agencies of Maury County, Tennessee For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 and Ending June 30, 2016. Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Previti. Commissioner Shackelford asked in the Highway Department if Mr. Boshers wanted to bring a budget amendment for fuel that could be done out of his fund balance. Commissioner Shackelford asked what changed in Solid Waste. Director Weber stated there was an increase in the Waste Management Contract, tipping fees and simultaneously the Committee had approved an increase in tipping fee charges which should have offset that. Chairman Harris stated the additional expense was estimated but the revenues were not. Commissioner Shackelford asked what amount was Solid Waste down. Chairman Harris stated it was 3 cents. Chairman Harris stated it was passed in February and the budgeting process had begun and when it was during that time and it was an honest mistake. There were no lights. Chairman Harris called for the vote. Commissioner Parker aye, Commissioner

Previti aye, Commissioner Shackelford aye, Commissioner Cook no, Commissioner Stephenson aye, Chairman Harris aye. Motion carries 5 ayes and 1 nay.

- D. **Res. No. 05-15-04S:** Resolution Making Appropriations To Non-Profits Charitable and Civic Organizations Of Maury County, Tennessee For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 and Ending June 30, 2016. Commissioner Previti made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shackelford. Commissioner Shackelford stated that he thought there were two line items that Rural Fire had. Director Weber replied insurance on the building and insurance on the vehicles. Director Weber stated they were approved in the General Budget. Commissioner Shackelford stated their allocation is exactly what they were given last year. The contribution and the insurance for the building, and the insurance for the equipment and vehicles. Director Weber stated it is on page 28 of the budget packet and it is under account code 54410. Commissioner Parker wanted to make a disclosure and stated his sister in law was the Director for CASA and Commissioner Parker stated he is not sure whether that impacts his ability to vote on this resolution. Commissioner Shackelford stated that is a clear separation for Commissioner Parker to vote. There were no lights. Chairman Harris called for the vote. Commissioner Parker aye, Commissioner Previti aye, Commissioner Shackelford aye, Commissioner Cook no, Commissioner Stephenson, Commissioner Stephenson recused her vote, Chairman Harris, aye. Motion carries.
- E. **Res. No. 05-15-05S:** Resolution To Approve School Fund/Food Service Budget For the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2015 and Ending June 30, 2016. Commissioner Parker made a motion to approve. Seconded by Commissioner Shackelford. Commissioner Shackelford asked that it be noted that \$86,106,574.00 is the Schools General Purpose Fund and \$6,636,569.00 was for the schools Food Service Fund. Chairman Harris stated there were no additional pennies allocated toward the schools. It remained the same as last year. The penny allocation towards the school system is the same as the allocation was last year. Chairman Harris stated this does not include Capital Expenditure request. The only Capital Expenditure request acknowledged was the purchase of the school buses. There were no lights. All in favor. Motion carries. 6-0.

Chairman Harris stated he would like to thank everyone for getting this budget completed. Chairman Harris thanked Director Weber for all her work on the budget. Chairman Harris stated this budget will be passed on to the full commission following this budget meeting. Chairman Harris stated one thing he failed to note was the cut for overtime. Chairman Harris stated one of the driving forces is for the Commission to adopt a very comprehensive comp. time policy. It can eliminate the cost of overtime. Chairman Harris stated Mayor Norman is to be commended on recognizing a bond issued with monies allocated to upgrade the HVAC system on the Courthouse and Mayor Norman saw alternative ways to do it. The possibility of addressing the Library System and whether the consolidation of that would be fair

to the taxpayers and still offer the services for the citizens. Chairman Harris stated he encouraged Mayor Norman and our leaders to go out and seek ways to continue to provide a good quality humane service to the Animal Shelter Operations but to try and do it in a more efficient manner. Chairman Harris stated Maury County needs to decide if it is going to be in the fire business county wide. Chairman Harris stated he thought there was room for consolidating the Tourism Department with Maury Alliance. Chairman Harris stated the Commission need to look at the health insurance. Chairman Harris stated he would ask Director Weber and HR Director Gibson and a third party to look at comparing the County's Health insurance to what the State offers and whether the County can participate in that plan. Chairman Harris stated that would have to be looked into and be voted on by this commission by November for it to go into effect next January. Chairman Harris brought up about insurance on cars and to see about physical damage insurance. Chairman Harris stated that may be something the County could be self-insured on. Chairman Harris asked Director Weber to accumulate some data on what the insurance is costing the County across the board for physical damage. Commissioner Shackelford stated it would be something to look into and Commissioner Shackelford stated he would like Commissioner Morrow to be involved with this because he has a good background and understanding how that works. Chairman Harris stated Sheriff Rowland took a lot of cuts in overtime it represented 3% of his budget. Chairman Harris stated he knows that Sheriff Rowland wants to streamline his operations and be efficient and affective and providing a better product than the County has ever had. Chairman Harris stated medical costs for prisoners are mandated through the State. Chairman Harris stated the cost is going to exceed \$600,000.00 this year. Chairman Harris stated they need to get with Mr. Watson and see some dialogue about working with the hospital with additional doctors and dentists. Chairman Harris stated the resolutions will go forward to the full commission meeting.

**VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Special Called Full Commission meeting to follow this meeting. The Special Called Full Commission meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

**VII. ADJOURNMENT:**

A. There was a Motion made to adjourn the meeting at approximately 6:00 PM.

APPROVED \_\_\_\_\_

Charlie Norman, Jr., County Mayor

SIGNED \_\_\_\_\_

Craig Harris, Budget Committee Chairman