

HARALSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

APRIL 6, 2022

RETREAT MINUTES

Chairman Ridley called the retreat to order. All Commissioners were present along with County Attorney Avery Jackson.

Item #1 – 2022-2023 Budget Requests

Sheriff

Sheriff Williams, Chief Deputy Sailors, and Major Cole came in to discuss their budget requests with the commissioners. They gave details and answered questions about the different items in their budgets and their reasons for asking for these things.

Two items that were removed from the General Fund budget are the 5 new cars and the Body Scanner for the jail. The board has already committed to purchasing 5 new vehicles from the ARPA funds and if the scanner is purchased, it would not come out of the general fund budget.

Tax Assessors

Chief Appraiser Bob McPherson, Chairman of the Board of Assessors Sandra Tant, and Board member Jerry Wright came in to discuss their budget. The allocation of an additional \$300,000 for this budget and the next budget to have GMASS do the field appraisals for the next three years was discussed in detail. They are currently behind in the field appraisals and do not have experienced staff to conduct them. The commissioners recommended the Assessors hiring a couple of experienced appraisers instead of contracting it out to a company so that this problem could be avoided in future years.

Fire

Chief Walker came in to discuss his budget requests. He stated that all the surrounding counties have a much better starting rate of pay and cheaper health insurance for their families, so he cannot keep employees. He is asking for an across the board \$2 per hour pay increase. Vehicle maintenance was also discussed in detail.

Employee Raises

The possibility of a COLA for employees was discussed. Don Johnson stated that there is \$400,000 in the contingency fund that can be used for this. The board will determine at a later date if this will happen and if it will be an hourly raise or possibly a bonus at the Holidays.

Item #2 – Executive Session

Chairman Ridley stated that the executive session was about a personnel issue.

Chairman Ridley adjourned the meeting.

Submitted by Alison Palmer
Certified County Clerk