

Macon County Commission second budget meeting 23Sep2019 9am in the annex

I learned some things during the second budget, Tuesday 25Sep2019 Annex, meeting need to provide clarification.

First, the second meeting was not as bad as the first, however the process so far looks as this budget is their first.

Background, the budget documents contain four columns for each line item, "Budgeted Current Year" (BCY), "Current Year [Year] to Date" (CYYTD), "2019-2020 Projected" (Projected), and "2019-2020 Proposed" (Proposed). There was no way to ascertain the expected revenue with Proposed being in some instances thousands of dollars higher than what is really expected – supported by historical data.

I noticed these major differences during the first meeting that lead me to ask which column will be considered for FY2020 budget. I was told the "Proposed". I believe I was the only one seeing the problem.

Therefore, using the Proposed column I spent 8 hours of research, assembly, and summary sheet was rendered useless when the commission woke up to the inflated revenue FY total during the second meeting.

At the start of the second budget meeting, Drew Thompson saw what I saw previously. A good 20 mins was needed for Maxwell to give-in to what Thompson was speaking to; I still am not sure if he understood. I was unable to fathom how a CEO of a \$5 million budget would be that lost in a budget process he should have been involved for most of his life at the trough.

The process was started over with examination of each line item.

Many of line items' Proposed amounts were "zeroed" out on the second run. For example, a grant with a Proposed revenue of \$6K was not received last FY and most likely not this FY but was included as revenue. Housing inmates from Notasulga (\$1,000), Shorter \$7,000, and Bullock County (\$2,000) when in fact NO revenue was generated for any of them in CYYTD. Furthermore, line item 40750, Animal Services, had again Proposed \$1,000, yet CYYTD was only \$140.

Using what Maxwell wanted before Drew intervened, the FY2020 column totals were BCY \$5,163,506.00, CYYTD \$3,752,506.93, Projected \$4,790,248.71 and Proposed \$5,173,161.00 putting the county in deeper debt by not being able to pay its bills. Basing expenses based on a false revenue amount is unbelievable.

I left the meeting during a noon break because what I was witnessing was a total waste of my time that should have previously been worked over in the courthouse. The incompetence for another half day would have been intolerable. Though a commissioner threatened to call law enforcement on me again, that was not my reason for leaving. Time for his 30 years at the trough to end.

The biggest question is what has the Chief Executive (CE) been doing with his time? Definitely, not county work or is old age kicking in. Before I was fired from the Personnel Grievance Board for challenging Mike Berry for office, I read the Grievance manual and compiled a page of inconsistencies, typos, non-compliance, conflicts, and suggestions of the manual. It was my intent to have the manual reviewed and updated – however the election got in the way. When I presented the page to the chair, he seemed surprised. I asked him had he read the manual to which he said “No.”

How is it possible for a CEO not having read the manual for its most valued asset, their employees?

How is incompetence spelled? If you are angry at what you have been reading – well remember, the voters have continuously put him back into office along with his teammates behind the dais.

What I learned during the second budget morning meeting.

1. The commissioners did not honor my request for them to reimburse me at the rate the county is charging me for documents at a \$1.00/electronic or printed page. No fair play in OUR sandbox when government sets the rules.
2. I will never again provide a document to the commission before the meeting; I thought it was the right thing to do to provide their review and ensuing discussion. When I refused to be silenced and sit down after being told I was out of order and Maxwell pounding his gavel, the Open Records Squad Leader, Mile Robinson, did not hesitate to pile on with his statement of calling law enforcement. He has called the sheriff department in the past having a deputy at the next several county meetings because of me.
3. Okay, my references account 218 Food & Food Prep of \$5,400, even causing a commissioner to question this money, is for feeding inmates. Suggestion, rename 218 to "Inmate food." The fact remains why was \$300 proposed for the Rec Center 2?
4. I was told by Berry, the \$500 allocated for “fuel, 212” for Rec Centers 2 and 4 (Berry’s district) is “probably” for cutting the grass. Maybe district 1 and 3 commissioners use goats to save on gasoline. I did not get to ask why RSVP has proposed \$1,600 for fuel – why not use the county tanks.
5. Frank Lee of EMA stating he knows the financial status of the county and when possible he wants uniforms for his department was the only department head to address my question to \$5,500 in accounts 237 and 259 for uniforms. The fact remains the Commission and Building & Grounds have \$100.00 and \$500 Proposed uniform expenses, respectively.
6. Wish I had learned something of the telephone expenses before leaving. In the past, Maxwell had monthly cell phone bills somewhere around \$500 to \$600 for many months before being outted by the Commissioner Berry. Has the chair slipped back to his old self? The disparities between phone money for the district rec centers is definitely questionable, Dist 1 \$3,100, Dist 2 \$1,000, Dist 3, \$400, and Dist 4 nothing. A little more 1/7 of the Proposed phone money (\$11,000) is placed with the commission office and building and grounds.

7. Commissioner Berry told me the cable at \$1,600 a year is necessary for the security system. Yes, the rec center has been broken into and so has District 2's. Where is their proactivity? Where is the county's proactivity in safeguarding the courthouse?
8. The Engineer told me it is necessary for the number of Road and Bridge vehicles to go home every night because when "on-call" it is costly to the county. When a need for an emergency response, J.D. begins calling his employees until one is able to respond. In his defense, he does run a good tight and will cut the truck from anyone establishing a trend of not wanting to respond. I was also reminded that those with county vehicles pay \$60/month to the county. I still feel 18 vehicles able to go home any given night is too excessive and needs to be addressed.
9. Commissioner Berry and the Engineer both said this picture and others of Buddy Ware, county compliance officer grocery shopping for about 45 mins while the county truck was running for the a/c to keep the cab comfortable for the passenger was taken on a Thursday. I said Saturday. The properties say the picture was taken on Saturday Sept 15, 2018 when he was not at work. County needs to control their vehicles.



