

MINUTES OF A BUDGET STUDY SESSION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE MACON COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT

March 20, 2019

PURSUANT to written notice given all members of the Board, the above meeting was called to order by President Jensen at 4:00 p.m.

Board members present: President Jensen, 1st Vice-President Parish, Secretary Johnson, and 2nd Vice-President Schneller

Board members absent: Treasurer White

Staff present: Director Marien, Shane Ravellette, Richie Wolf, Pam Smith

Comments from Audience: None

New Business:

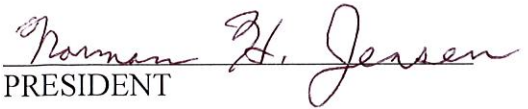
1. Budget Study Session:

Paul Marien explained that the budget process begins in October with all departments and supervisors providing input into the budget. The District has no debt and relies on the cash reserves until the tax levy distribution in late June or early July. He noted that a majority of the revenue generated is from property taxes. Paul stated that it is an aggressive budget. The District's budgeted expenditures this year has a 10% proposed increase over last year mainly due to several large grants such as the bicycle trail and the Cattail pond. Paul worked his way through the budget book answering questions as they were asked. Some of the areas highlighted were as follows:

- Nearing Trust income was decreased due to the sale of the farmland
- Interest income was increased due to better interest rates on investments
- Trustee Parish asked if minimum wage increase would create a problem for the District. Paul responded that the District was good for the budget fiscal year but will have to review salaries for the next budget year.
- Utilities have been increasing and the District is currently under a contract. Staff will be revisiting the utility expense.
- Office equipment expense increased due to the purchase of maintenance software and campground rental software
- Equipment replacement was discussed. Shane Ravellette explained the fleet reduction. Several of the fleet's vehicles are too small for the newer staff. Transit van will be purchased with funds donated to assist summer camp with transporting campers instead of outsourcing vans from Millikin.
- The volunteer/bus loop will be asphalted – currently it is rocked. No new drive will be created but just resurfacing the current parking with asphalt.
- There was some discussion concerning the location of the Kaufman property as well as plans for the piece of property. The donor did not want the property developed. Currently there is a parking lot and a sign. The property does back up to the lake but it's steep.
- Paul Marien explained that the Greenway Fund will be used to help fund the cost of the Sand Creek crossings.

Adjournment:

There being no further business, Trustee Parish made a MOTION to adjourn the Budget Study Session at 5:08 p.m. Trustee Schneller SECONDED the motion. All members of the Board present voted, "AYE". Motion carried.


PRESIDENT

ATTEST:


SECRETARY