

**ABBEVILLE COUNTY COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP
JUNE 13, 2005
MINUTES**

PRESENT: Chairman Gunnells, Vice Chairman Forrester, Councilman Thomas, Councilman Davis, Councilman Davis and Councilman Simpson.

ABSENT: Councilman Calhoun

OLD BUSINESS:

Chairman Gunnells requested input from Councilmen present:

Councilman Norris stated his outlook in regards to tax increase for fire trucks. The County needed to move forward instead of moving backwards which could happen if not approved. If approved could result in decrease for resident's fire insurance.

Councilman Davis in favor of bonus for county employees instead of merit pay raise, due to the fact that a pay raise was permanent.

Councilman Simpson stated that the budget was balanced now. Do not have any tax increase.

Councilman Thomas stated the council needed to look ahead and have a small increase now because next year would be a higher increase.

Vice Chairman Forrester stated the county needed to bite the bullet.

NEW BUSINESS:

Chairman Gunnells suggested a two (2) mill increase. One (1) mill for merit pay raises for County employees and the other for the general fund to help offset next years increase. Councilman Thomas suggested a two and a half (2 ½) mill increase. One (1) mill for pay raises and the rest for the general fund.

Dan Evatt requested to speak and stated that the morale with the volunteer fire fighters would suffer, if the fire trucks were not approved. Chairman Gunnells stated that the county has been hit hard in this economy and we needed to draw the line.

County Council agreed on the two and a half (2 ½) mill increase and requested that the County Director redo the budget to reflect this.


ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further items of discussion Chairman Gunnells adjourned the workshop.

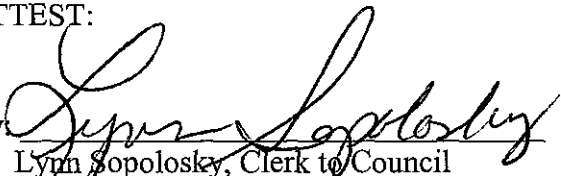
The workshop adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Done this 27 day of June, 2005

Abbeville County Council

By: 
Ray Gunnells, Chairman

ATTEST:

By: 
Lynn Sopolosky, Clerk to Council