



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

February 17, 2017

The Honorable Chairman and Board Members
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
20 North Main Street, Room 460
Brooksville, FL 34601

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I want to make you all aware of this disturbing situation regarding my most recent attempt to resolve my budget request/appeal at a local level.

This morning, February 17, at 9 a.m. Colonel Mike Maurer sent an e-mail to Tina Duenninger, the Board's Executive Office Manager. He wanted to request that we be on the upcoming agenda and wanted to request a slot via Minute Traq for the February 28, 2017 Board meeting. Ms. Duenninger instructed Colonel Maurer to complete the request for the March 14th meeting and she would move it to the February 28th meeting. Colonel Maurer completed the request, Minute Traq # 12926, at 11:10 a.m. Shortly thereafter, Colonel Maurer received an e-mail stating that the "last remaining slots on the agenda filled in the time" since her earlier email.

Please see the attached email string for more information.

In addition to today's denial to meet publicly on February 28, I have made offers through written correspondence on both December 9, 2016 and February 9, 2017. I would appreciate it if you would reconsider your decision not to put us on the February 28th agenda. I look forward to resolving this matter as soon as possible for the benefit of our citizens and the hard-working men and women of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Al Nienhuis".

Al Nienhuis
Sheriff

Attachment (7 pages)

cc: Katie Cunningham, Policy Coordinator for Governor Scott
Matt Dunagan, FSA Deputy Executive Director of Operations

From: Tina R Duenninger [<mailto:TRDuenninger@hernandocounty.us>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 12:33 PM
To: Maurer, Mike
Subject: RE: Minute Traq question

I am sorry, but the last remaining slots on the 2/28 agenda filled in the time since my first e-mail to you of this morning. I have added your agenda item to the March 14th agenda for discussion. My apologies for any inconvenience.

Tina R. Duenninger
Executive Office Manager
Hernando County Administration
(352) 540-6452 (Cisco Ext. 20124)

From: Maurer, Mike [<mailto:MMaurer@hernandosheriff.org>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 11:10 AM
To: Tina R Duenninger <TRDuenninger@hernandocounty.us>
Subject: RE: Minute Traq question

Tina,

I submitted Minute Traq #12926, if you would add it to the February 28, 2017 Regular BOCC Meeting it would be much appreciated.

Have a great weekend!

Mike

From: Tina R Duenninger [<mailto:TRDuenninger@hernandocounty.us>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:08 AM
To: Maurer, Mike
Subject: RE: Minute Traq question

Good Morning. The email I send out is for routing approval deadlines; I don't send out reminder emails to submit agenda items. Rule of thumb, agenda items for the next meeting are to be entered and submitted by 5:00 pm on the current BOCC meeting date (ex., 5:00 PM February 14 was submittal deadline for February 28). In any event, please submit your item for the March 14th agenda, email me the MT #, and I will move it to the 2/28 agenda. Have a good day!

Tina R. Duenninger
Executive Office Manager
Hernando County Administration
(352) 540-6452 (Cisco Ext. 20124)

From: Maurer, Mike [<mailto:MMaurer@hernandosheriff.org>]
Sent: Friday, February 17, 2017 9:00 AM
To: Tina R Duenninger <TRDuenninger@hernandocounty.us>
Subject: Minute Traq question

Tina,

I normally get an email notifying us of the deadline for future BOCC Regular Meetings. I went to add something to the February 28, 2017 but the next allowable is March 14, 2017.

Can you advise?

Colonel M. H. Maurer



Board of County Commissioners

Meeting: 03/14/17 09:00 AM

Department: Sheriff

Prepared By: Mike Maurer

AGENDA ITEM

Initiator: Al Nienhuis

DOC ID: 12926

Legal Request Number:

Bid/Contract Number:

TITLE

Sheriff's Workshop Follow-Up and Discussion

BRIEF OVERVIEW

Follow-up discussion regarding recent workshop and correspondence sent. With a resolution of our budget impasse promising, the Sheriff will make himself available for questions and/or requests for further information. As preferred by the Governor's Office and Cabinet, a mutual resolution is favored and in the best interest of all parties.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

LEGAL NOTE

RECOMMENDATION

REVIEW PROCESS

Mike Maurer	Pending
Al Nienhuis	Pending
Michelle Bishop	Pending
Pam Lee	Pending
Sue Bishop	Pending
Jenine Wimer	Pending
Leonard Sossamon	Pending
Tina Duenninger	Pending
Board of County Commissioners	Pending

03/14/2017 9:00 AM



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Chairman and Board Members
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
20 North Main Street, Room 460
Brooksville, FL 34601

Dear Chairman and Commissioners:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Board for holding, at the request of Commissioner Champion, Tuesday's workshop to discuss the budget needs of the Sheriff's Office. I regret that I was unable to attend, but I had complete confidence in my command staff's ability to address your concerns. I believe the information presented by my staff will help you understand both the challenges we face and our dedication to fiscal responsibility. I appreciate your positive response and the discussion of potential solutions to our current budget impasse.

One of the topics receiving much attention at the workshop was the idea of allowing me to spend the revenue generated by my Office on an ongoing basis. In practical terms, that has been the working arrangement between the BOCC and the Sheriff's Office for at least the past several years—my excess funds and generated revenue were returned to the Board at the end of the year and were usually returned to me to offset my budget needs for the next fiscal year. This process not only reduces the amount of additional funding the BOCC must provide to meet our needs, but it also allows County staff to plan your budget more accurately by anticipating an annual total of excess funds and returned revenue. As indicated by both your staff and mine, this practice has worked very well in most years but for some reason, the returned funds were not credited to my budget this year.

Fortunately, I believe the annual return of excess funds and generated revenue can once again help meet the current budget needs of the Sheriff's Office. As you are aware, for fiscal year 2016 my Office returned **\$385,162 in unspent funds** and **\$418,404 in revenue**. At the Board workshop on Tuesday, Budget Manager Pam Lee indicated that these funds were "sitting in Balance Forward Cash," meaning that the funds had not yet been spent or allocated. Therefore, in accordance with past practice and the recent and publicly stated intent of the Board, if these funds were simply returned to the Sheriff's Office, an initial portion of my requested 2017 budget could be met.

Additionally, it appears another funding opportunity exists to quickly and **completely resolve the current situation**. At the Board meeting of January 10, 2017, a budget resolution was approved regarding purchase orders carried over from last fiscal year. As part of that action, **\$452,992 was transferred into reserves**. This money was apparently not needed for pending purchase orders and is therefore available for use. Furthermore, I think you will find that current reserves exceed the required 18.5%, even prior to this additional increase, thereby freeing up this money for alternate allocation.

Combining all of the above available funding sources results in **a total of over \$1.2 million**. In my continuing effort to resolve the budget impasse and get the needs of the Sheriff's Office met, I would amend my prior written settlement proposals and *I would be willing to officially accept this entire amount as resolution of my FY2017 request*. I hope you will immediately verify this information with your budget staff and put forth a motion at the upcoming regular BOCC meeting to provide this funding and end this unfortunate saga.

I hope by way of this opportunity to resolve our budget issues **without raising taxes and using currently available funding**, that the board sees that I stand ready to meet and discuss solutions at any time. I hope the Board will take this opportunity to ask probing questions of staff, obtain facts, and allocate available funds to provide the hard-working men and women of the Sheriff's Office with the resources they need and deserve.

Respectfully,



Al Nienhuis

Sheriff

cc: Katie Cunningham, Policy Coordinator for Governor Scott
Matt Dunagan, FSA Deputy Executive Director of Operations



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

December 9, 2016

Chairman Nick Nicholson
Hernando County Board of County Commissioners
20 North Main Street, Room 460
Brooksville, FL 34601

Dear Chairman Nicholson:

Although I was in Tallahassee and unable to attend your recent meeting, I have learned that the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) has scheduled a workshop for February intended to address the budget needs of my Office. While I greatly appreciate Commissioner Champion's gesture in calling for such a meeting, and the subsequent support of his fellow Commissioners, I am disappointed that the first such discussion is some eight weeks away.

Because the budget needs of the Sheriff's Office are critical, and in a spirit of cooperation, I would like to update you on our status so that we can explore a more timely solution to this matter. As I know you are aware, I swore an oath that my original 2016-17 budget request was both reasonable and necessary for the responsibilities of my office. However, due to the unfortunate decisions by the former Board in September, and the subsequent delay in resolution, we are now in a position where some of the requested funds simply cannot be used. In addition, as a good faith effort to assist the BOCC in finding the necessary funding, I am willing to make some concessions.

Therefore, from my original budget request I am now able to reduce by \$119,000 the amount of needed funding for my requested new positions. This is money that now cannot be spent due to the delay in approval for this year's budget.

Additionally, and as a further concession, I am willing to reduce the amount of capital funds requested by \$250,000. While it is still imperative that the BOCC consider the ongoing capital needs of the Sheriff's Office, I offer to make do on those needs during this unique one-year period.

I hope that reducing my budget needs by the aforementioned \$369,000 will greatly aid us in securing the remaining needed funds and in moving past the current impasse. I look forward to working with the new Board in resolving this matter as soon as possible for the benefit of our citizens and the hard-working men and women of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully,



Al Nienhuis
Sheriff

AN/jdp

cc: Katie Cunningham, Policy Coordinator for Governor Scott
Commissioner John Allocco
Commissioner Steve Champion
Commissioner Wayne Dukes
Commissioner Jeff Holcomb (via e-mail)