

Shelby County Law Enforcement Personnel Board
Special Meeting
August 2, 2013, 4:30 p.m.

The main purpose of the special meeting was to further discuss the budget and testing.

Chairman Donaldson called the special meeting to order in the Johnny Lowe Conference Room of the Frank C. "Butch" Ellis, Jr. Community Services Building, asking Mr. Brasher to give the invocation.

Board members and staff present were Mr. Donaldson, Mr. Brasher, Mr. Martin, Mr. Morris, and secretary Lucy Womac. Guests present were Chief Samaniego and Capt. Chris George.

Chief Samaniego had asked if the Sheriff's Office could hire from the current Deputy list of eligibles to fill current Corrections Officer openings, as they have exhausted the C. O. list. This has been done in the past and the Board members had no objections.

Chairman Donaldson had asked Mr. Morris to figure out what the Board has spent and try to predict the numbers going forward. Mr. Morris presented the LEPB's budget figures, warning that anything used is only as good as the data supplied. The first page is a compilation of the numbers since the County Commission began using its current accounting system; the next several pages separate the categories of testing and administrators, etc. The data and pie charts show that between thirty-seven and fifty percent of all expenditures since 2008 have gone toward professional services. Approximately two-thirds of the budget is a fixed cost. Mr. Morris took all of those numbers and what has been spent year-to-date, and forecasted what fixed expenditures would be without professional services or legal fees. Adding in reimbursing the Commission for its loan over three years leaves only thirty thousand dollars per year for professional development. AUM's costs start in the range of fifty-nine thousand dollars per year, putting the Board substantially over budget.

Mr. Morris informed the members that there have been overages in many recent years, but lack of information being given to the Board to acknowledge that there was a problem presented a bigger problem. He reiterated that in his opinion, the Board members cannot sign an agreement with AUM for promotional testing unless the State Legislature raises the Board's budget. Mr. Martin agreed that nothing can be done until the Legislature goes into session again in January, 2014. Mr. Morris said at least we have the numbers to show the Legislative Delegation – in the worst year of expenditures, ninety percent of the budget is always being spent on law enforcement purposes, and we are trying to get more funding appropriated not for the Board, but to help the people who it truly impacts: the Sheriff's Office. Mr. Martin asked if it would hurt to have a reserve fund. Mr. Morris answered that it is his understanding that funds may be moved over to the next year for a period of time. Chief Samaniego said there is no mechanism in place to pay the Board, so the Sheriff's Office would have to pay AUM for services rendered. Mr. Morris asked and was

told when he started on the Board that once the LEPB overspends its budget, the Sheriff could step in but would have to allocate money to vendors through purchase orders.

Chairman Donaldson said the members did not have good information in 2007 when the State Legislature increased the LEPB budget. The amount is still less than one-half of the beer tax money collected in Shelby County. He asked Mr. Morris to put together a budget for Representative Mike Hill that shows the effort to manage the funding properly, which is what the State Legislature charged the Board with years ago. Mr. Donaldson told Chief Samaniego, "...to try to do what we have done with this department, the legacy you guys have created, we don't want to step back; but we don't also want to step out and operate in a way that they think we don't take seriously the role we have been given."

Mr. Martin thanked Mr. Morris for all the work he did to put together the information. He was also of the opinion that the Board needs to make a decision on AUM for this year, then go to the Legislative Delegation and do as Mr. Donaldson said for the future years. A special meeting was planned for the third week in August, contingent upon availability of all members; Mr. Martin said Mr. Weatherford needs to be informed, as it's not fair to the employees for their representative not to be there. The secretary was asked to contact the testing service for current costs of promotional written examinations. Chief Samaniego said that canned tests give the best student but not the best candidate; supervising in static conditions is easier than patrolling eight hundred square miles. Mr. Donaldson agreed, saying a better job needs to be done of educating the group outside of the Board.

Mr. Morris wants to have the Board put its best foot forward when asking the State Legislature to increase funding. He will see State Legislative members several times in the next month and can talk to them about the LEPB. Chairman Donaldson said the Board wants the best for the employees and the budget.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned on motion of Mr. Martin.

Minutes approved by:

Randall W. Donaldson, Board Chairman

Bill M. Martin, Board Secretary

Teddy R. Brasher

Kevin W. Morris