

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 11, 2003

COUNTY OF STOKES

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met in recessed session (recessed from the Monday, June 9, 2003 meeting) in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Wednesday, June 11, 2003, at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Sandy McHugh
Vice-Chairman John Turpin
Commissioner Howard Mabe
Commissioner Leon Inman
Commissioner Joe Turpin

Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board

Chairman McHugh called the meeting to order.

Finance Director Julia Edwards delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman McHugh opened the meeting by inviting the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

WORK SESSION-PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2003/04 COUNTY BUDGET

The Board discussed the following departments in the proposed county fiscal year 2003-04 budget:

Solid Waste

Increase in budget of estimated \$36,000 for opening sites 6 days a week – 7 am to 7 pm. Increase in \$52 per ton for contractors, cost of removal, and a flat fee of \$5.00 for others.

Recycling Center

No Funding

Board would request Public Works Director Jay Kinney to talk with City of King for possibly taking yard waste to the Recycling Center instead of citizens having to go to Winston Salem.

Planning and Community Development

Elimination of Assistant Planning Director per David Sudderth's request. Reorganization of staffing to help save funding.

Economic Development

Chairman McHugh would talk with Economic Director Ron Morgan concerning moving the Economic Development Office to Danbury from King. Moving office to Danbury would save funding in office space rent, utilities, internet services, and telephone.

Cooperative Extension

Lower budget than last year.

Natural Resources

District Supervisor James Booth requested the additional \$300 removed from the Natural Resources budget be reinstated into budget-department supplies.

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to reinstate an additional \$300 for Natural Resources for departmental supplies in the proposed fiscal year 2003-04 budget.

Second: Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Commissioner Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

Family Health Center

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to reinstate a Social Worker I position back into the proposed Health Department Budget.

Second: Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Vice Chairman John Turpin and Commissioner Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

Discussed the eliminated positions in the Health Department.

Commissioner Mabe requested to revisit this department at a later time.

Home Health

No County funding – no cuts. Budget runs on revenue from services delivered by Home Health staff. No elimination of positions – Health Director did not request all positions from last year.

King Clinic

No County funding – no cuts

Mental Health

Discussion of decrease in funding. Discussed the reorganization of Centerpoint. Paces, per Ron Morton, would be eliminated for the upcoming fiscal year, not because of budget reduction. Commissioner Inman suggested closely watching the delivery of services to determine possibly additional funding during the upcoming fiscal year. Discussion of giving Centerpoint the opportunity to improve the delivery of services for Stokes County residents.

DSS

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to reinstate a Social Worker II position and an Office Support III position back into the proposed DSS Budget.

Second: Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Vice Chairman John Turpin and Commissioner Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

Discussed MOE (Maintenance of Effort) funding.

Former DSS Director had requested all eliminated and frozen positions be put back in the proposed DSS budget. Some frozen positions during the fiscal year 02/03 will be unfrozen upon approval of budget for fiscal year 2003/04.

Discussed TANF.

Commissioner Inman requested to revisit this department at a later time.

Public Assistance

Funding changed due to funds being moved to DSS-Administration to help pay for the two reinstated positions (Social Worker II and Office Support III).

Medical Assistance

Medicaid Program Cost.

Federal government passed legislation to give counties more funding for Medicaid.

Projected to spend less on Medicaid.

Discussion of current year's spending. \$95,569.68 remaining in the budget for this fiscal year.

Aid to the Blind

Same as last year.

DSS-Day Care

Revenues are projected to be higher than original request.

Veterans

\$4 increase due to county's contribution to retirement increased.

Senior Services

Additional positions of Office Support III and Nutrition Site Manager for Walnut Cove due to Nutrition Site Manager becoming Senior Center Director.

Transferring Walnut Cove Center Senior Center Operations to a separate fund.

Added NCDOT-Transportation Grant to Senior Services budget.

Discussion of Block Grant Funding.

Libraries

Per Joan Sherif, libraries are content if hold harmless funding is received by the County.

Parks

Part time worker needed to close gates during summer months.

Salary for full time park attendant transferred to Public Buildings.

Recreation

Contract with YMCA terminates on 12-31-04.

Discussion of programs being provided by YMCA.

Arts Council

Discussion of local funding to Arts Council compared to other surrounding counties.

To discuss at a later budget work session with information concerning the amount other counties fund locally.

Discussion of programs provided by the Arts Council.

Sheriff's Department

Discussion of Sheriff's Dept.'s budget.

Sheriff Mike Joyce requested to remove the additional officer and \$55,524 until after the hold harmless funding is received from the State from proposed Sheriff's Dept. budget.

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to remove the bailiff transportation officer from the proposed Sheriff's budget for the time being and budget \$55,524 from hold harmless frozen and contingent upon receiving the hold harmless money.

Second: Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Jail - Sheriff's Department

Discussion of Jail budget.

Sheriff Mike Joyce requested to remove the additional officer and \$23,145 until after the hold harmless funding is received from the State from the proposed Jail budget.

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to remove the bailiff transportation officer from the proposed Jail budget for the time being and budget \$23,145 from hold harmless frozen and contingent upon receiving the hold harmless money.

Second: Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Solid Waste

Discussed the greenbox sites being opened on holidays.

Discussion of opening sites without operating the trucks-garbage piles up at sites creating more trips the next opening day.

Discussion of opening on holidays that Forsyth Landfill is opened.

Discussion of placing stickers in tax property bills and vehicle bills which would allow Stokes County taxpayers to bring garbage to the greenbox sites.

Would help eliminate out of county usage.

Water coolers being placed at greenbox sites.

Tax Administration

Discussion of a new vendor for billing tax bills that could possibly save the County an estimated \$11,000.

Discussed Revaluation.

Finance-Refinancing of Bonds

Finance Director Julia Edwards presented information concerning the refinancing COPS issuance (1991 Certificate of Participation which was originally refinanced in 1999) for the building of the DSS building, Jail, and improvements at the Old Courthouse and (1999 Certificate of Participation) for the Administration Building with BB&T due to the current lower interest rates.

Director Edwards presented spreadsheets concerning refinancing for an additional 5 to 7 years. Refinancing of both Certificate of Participations (1991 & 1999) would lower the payments \$225, 847 for fiscal year 2003/04 and \$357,130 for fiscal year 2004/05 with refinancing 5 additional years plus savings from a lower interest rate.

Director Edwards would present additional information concerning refinancing, if a Public

Hearing would have to be held, bond attorney, and further information for refinancing at the next work session.

The Board discussed the possibility of refinancing the 1991 & 1999 Certificate of Participations and its savings for the County.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman McHugh moved to recess the meeting until Wednesday, June 18, 2003 at 6:00 pm.

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

Darlene Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Sandy McHugh
Chairman