

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS

)

STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT

COUNTY OF STOKES

)

DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA

)

JUNE 24, 2003

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met in recessed session (recessed from the Monday, June 23, 2003 meeting) in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Tuesday, June 24, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED WATER RATE INCREASE-DANBURY WATER SYSTEM

Chairman McHugh reconvened the Public Hearing for the Proposed Danbury Water System-Water Rate Increase to order (recessed from the Monday, June 23, 2003 meeting).

There were no public comments concerning the Proposed Danbury Water System-Water Rate Increase.

Mayor Jane Priddy-Charleville reiterated the following information given to the Board at the May 27th meeting:

- Water System is owned by the County
- Town of Danbury leases the water system from the County
- The County must approve any water rate increase
- Accountant had recommended a 5% increase each year for the next 4 years
- Increase needed to cover net loss during the last 10 years
- Water system is 23 years old
- Last water increase was November 18, 1993
- Lines and meters need repairs/replacement
- Town of Danbury proposed a 12 % increase

Mayor Priddy-Charleville concluded that the Town of Danbury had received no negative feedback.

Chairman McHugh adjourned the Public Hearing on the Proposed Water Rate Increase with the recessed meeting to reconvene at 6:30pm.

The meeting reconvened at 6:30pm from the Monday, June 23, 2003 meeting. Ms. Darlene Nelson, Senior Services, delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman McHugh invited the citizens in attendance to join the Board with the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-TOWN OF DANBURY-WATER RATE INCREASE

Commissioner Inman moved to approve the proposed 12% water rate increase for the Town of Danbury effective July 1, 2003.

Commissioner Mabe seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-SENIOR SERVICES TRANSPORTATION-RURAL OPERATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM-TITLE IIIB MEDICAL/GENERAL TRANSPORTATION

Services Support Supervisor Danny Stovall and Accounting Tech. Lynn Martens returned to the Board with additional information pertaining to the Senior Services – Transportation that was originally presented to the Board on Monday, June 23, 2003.

Mr. Stovall stated that he contacted all three contractors pertaining to the concerned issues and all three contractors are willing to meet the County's demands. All contractors are working on the \$2 million general liability insurance policy, worker's compensation, and would purchase additional vans if needed (within thirty days).

Ms. Martens explained to the Board that routes had been evaluated using large vans versus two small vans, and using two small vans would work. With using small vans, clients could be crowding, but contractors have agreed to purchase a large van if complaints are received.

Chairman McHugh, with full consent of the Board, agreed to use multiple contracts for the most economical savings and to provide the best transportation services to the residents of the County.

WORK SESSION-PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2003/04 COUNTY BUDGET

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

Information Systems

Director Diana Fulp requested the Board transfer \$5000 from training to Professional Services due to the type of professional training that must be maintained by the staff.

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to transfer \$5000 from training to Professional Services in the Information System proposed budget for fiscal year 2003/04.

Second: Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Tax Administration

Chairman McHugh informed the Board that the Tax Administrator had been in the position six months with his salary at the minimum of the grade level and had collected an estimated \$600,000 over the projected tax revenue for fiscal year 2002/03.

The Board discussed the salary increase, collection rate, and the additional duties with the elimination position of the appraisal supervisor.

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to increase the Tax Administrator's salary to \$50,000 to be effective with the fiscal year 2003/04 budget.

Second: Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried 3-2 with Commissioners Mabe and Inman voting against the motion.

Arts Council

The Board discussed the Arts Council funding compared to other counties, funding from hold harmless, the Arts Council attachment to the proposed Visitor's Center, and that the Arts Council provide half of the Director's salary. Commissioner Joe Turpin suggested possibly establishing a match for the Arts Council, which would give the Arts Council more incentive to provide more programs for the County residents.

Motion: Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to change the revenue wording- Arts Council to Arts Council Match \$20,312.00.

Second: Commissioner Mabe seconded and the motion carried 4-1 with Vice Chairman John Turpin voting against the motion.

Schools-Current Expense and Capital Outlay

Chairman McHugh presented a spreadsheet detailing the federal, state, and local funding of current expense and capital outlay for the proposed fiscal year 2003-04.

The Board continued the discussion of the school budget, lack of supplies for schools, and hold harmless funding being \$544,333.

Chairman McHugh submitted the following proposed changes for the school budget: transfer teacher supplement and additional funding back to 6200, 6400, and 6900 with an additional \$200,000 extra for textbooks and supplies.

Motion: Chairman McHugh moved to adopt the submitted proposed changes to the school-current expense for the proposed fiscal year 2003-04 budget.

Second: Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Mountain Rescue

The Board discussed the confined space rescue search currently being provided by Mountain Rescue.

Motion: Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to fund the \$10,000 (Fire Marshal's Budget) for confined space rescue for Mountain Rescue from hold harmless and if funding is not received from hold harmless the \$10,000 would be contingent on Mountain Rescue providing the confined space rescue.

Second: Commissioner Inman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman McHugh presented the Board with updated Revenue and Expenditures Summary reflecting the amendments to the proposed fiscal year budget of \$33,330,571 with hold harmless funding being \$1,058,025.

Chairman McHugh requested any further amendments or concerns to the proposed fiscal year 2003-04 County Budget.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 COUNTY BUDGET

Chairman McHugh entertained a motion to adopt fiscal year 2003-2004 Stokes County Budget with a tax rate of \$.62 per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation as amended. No motion was made to adopt the fiscal year 2003-2004 Stokes County Budget.

Commissioner Mabe reiterated concerns over the proposed funding for DSS, Mental Health, Health, cuts to In Home Aid, and requested additional time to review the amendments made to the proposed budget.

Commissioner Mabe moved to approve the funding for all the requested 55 positions proposed in the DSS budget.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion failed 2-3 with Chairman McHugh, Vice Chairman John Turpin, and Commissioner Joe Turpin voting against the motion.

Commissioner Inman expressed concerns for the proposed funding for Health Department and DSS (Maintenance of Effort) and requested additional time to review the amendments made to the proposed budget.

Chairman McHugh requested any further amendments or concerns to the proposed fiscal year 2003-04 County Budget.

ADOPTION OF FISCAL YEAR 2003-04 COUNTY BUDGET

Chairman McHugh moved to adopt fiscal year 2003-2004 Stokes County Budget with a tax rate of \$.62 per one hundred dollars (\$100) valuation as amended.

No motion was made to adopt the fiscal year 2003-2004 Stokes County Budget.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Inman moved to recess the meeting until Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at 12:00 noon.

Commissioner Joe Turpin seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Sandy McHugh
Chairman