

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a scheduled budget work session for the proposed Fiscal Year 2004/05 County Budget in the Council Chambers of the Administrative Building, located in Danbury, North Carolina, on Friday, June 4, 2004, at 6:00 pm with the following members present:

Vice-Chairman John Turpin
Commissioner Howard Mabe
Commissioner Joe Turpin

County Manager Richard Morris
County Attorney Jonathan Jordan
Darlene Bullins, Clerk to the Board

Chairman Sandy McHugh - absent
Commissioner Leon Inman - absent

Others in Attendance:
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Assistance Finance Director Lisa Lankford
Mr. Jack Veit - Stokes Intern

Vice Chairman John Turpin called the meeting to order.

Vice Chairman John Turpin noted that Chairman McHugh would be delayed due to attending a funeral visitation and Commissioner Inman was absent due to attending a family wedding.

Finance Director Julia Edwards presented corrected copies of the following proposed budgets:

Environmental Health
Revaluation

Fire and Rescue
Revenue and Expenditures Summaries

Social Services - Administration Services

DSS Director Jan Spencer
Accounting Tech III Patti St. Hilaire

DSS Director Jan Spencer presented justification information for the following reclassifications:

Social Worker III - Office of State Personnel has performed a statewide child welfare crisis and compensation study to recruit and retain child welfare crisis Social Workers. Office of State Personnel recommends classification upgrades. Director Spencer noted 6 positions, 2 which would be salary increases, 1 currently vacant, 3 are trainees that would not require salary increases this fiscal year. Request reclassification of current grade 68 to grade 70. Additional cost of county funding for the two current employees - \$2269 - Proposed effective date - July 1, 2004

Social Worker II Supervisor - Reclassification of Social Worker III to Social Worker II Supervisor. Currently, DSS has one Supervisor for 10 social workers in child welfare, State mandates one Supervisor for 5 social workers in child welfare. Request reclassification of current grade 68 to grade 70. Additional cost of county funding for reclassification - \$1,024. Urgent need for supervisors in the field with trainees.

Administrative Officer I - Reclassification Accounting Tech. III to Administrative Officer I. Duties has increased drastically - personnel, payroll, accounts payable, 1571, budget responsibilities - critical position for obtaining reimbursement from State and Federal funding. Reclassification of current grade 63 to grade 67.

Income Maintenance II - New position - Position would perform Program Integrity and Foods Stamps. Revenues continue to decrease - 2002= \$84,000 2003 - \$27,000 and 2004 = \$17,000 (5 months). 12% increase in Food Stamps caseload size in the past year. Failed the zero tolerance level in Food Stamps Program three months during the past year. Proposal - 50% Program Integrity and 50% Foods Stamps Program, estimates the collection in Program Integrity would cover the cost of the County share.

Chairman McHugh entered the budget work session at 6:40 pm.

Ms. Betty Arrington, Food Stamps Supervisor, explained the Food Stamp Process.

The Board discussed the food stamp process, fraud system, collection of overpayments, food stamps recipients in Stokes County, federal funding, etc.

Vice Chairman John Turpin turned the Chair over to Chairman McHugh.

Other items discussed in the proposed Social Services budget:

- Professional Services -HCCBG
- Professional Services -Tanf Child Enrichment
- Professional Services - Personal Care Services
- Telephone and Postage - Separation of telephone and postage this fiscal year
- Utilities - Transferred from Public Buildings for reimbursement purposes
- Advertising
- Independent Living Services
- Equipment - Non Capitalized - Funding request no longer needed due to extra funding available for computer purchases in this current fiscal year 2003/04.
- Auto Supplies - Increase in gasoline prices
- Food Stamp Issuance
- Foster Care
- Sources of Revenue

Chairman McHugh moved to transfer the following DSS Budget items:

Transfer From: Social Services Administration
\$3500 Postage - 100.5310.321
\$3500 Telephone - 100.5310.320
Transfer To: Social Services Medical Assistance
\$7000 Medicaid - 100.5450.000

Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Commissioner Inman absent.

Other proposed budgets reviewed by the Board:

- Social Services - Aid to Blind
- Social Services - Day Care Services
Smart Start - With budget amendments final for 2003/04 was \$230,000
Maintenance of Effort discussed
- Social Services - Medicaid
- Medicaid continues to increase, possible legislative changes could hopefully decrease the county's share. One of two states (NC and NY) left that has to share Medicaid's cost.
- Social Services - Public Assistance Programs
Maintenance of Effort discussed
- Increase for Emergency Assistance needed
- Increase in Adoption Assistance
- Budget also includes direct pay from State
- Discussed IV -E and IV- B funding sources
- Teen Pregnancy

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Joe Turpin moved to adjourn the budget work session. Vice Chairman John Turpin seconded and the motion carried (4-0) with Commissioner Inman absent.

Darlene Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Sandy McHugh
Chairman