

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 7, 2006

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Public Hearing to discuss the proposed Stokes County Fiscal Year 2006-07 Fiscal Year Budget in Courtroom "A" located in Government Center in Danbury, North Carolina on Wednesday, June 7, 2006 at 6:30 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Leon Inman
Vice-Chairman Joe Turpin
Commissioner Sandy McHugh
Commissioner John Turpin
Commissioner Jimmy Walker

County Personnel in Attendance:
Clerk to the Board/Interim County Manager Darlene Bullins
Budget Director Dennis Thompson
Finance Director Julia Edwards
Assistant Finance Director Lisa Lankford

Chairman Leon Inman called the Public Hearing to the order.

Commissioner Walker delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

PUBLIC HEARING – PROPOSED FISCAL YEAR 2006-07 COUNTY BUDGET

Chairman Inman welcomed those in attendance for the Public Hearing.

Chairman Inman opened the Public Hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2006-07 County Budget.

The following spoke at the Public Hearing:

Dr. Larry Cartner

132 KirkLeigh Court

King, NC 27021

RE: **Education – Current and Capital Outlay Proposed Budget**

Dr. Cartner presented Board members with information for the Public Hearing on Commissioner's Proposed Budget, which will be retained by the Clerk. Dr. Cartner spoke on behalf of the Stokes County Board of Education. Dr. Cartner noted the following regarding current expense and capital outlay:

Current Expense

- State of North Carolina acknowledges that funding from the State is not adequate for the sound basic education required by the Leandro lawsuit- additional funding is the responsibility of local government
- 49% of the local budget request is beyond the control of the Board of Education
- Since the submission of the proposed budget, projected salary increases for certified employees has increased from 5% to 8%; projected salary increases for non-certified employees has increased from 3% to 5% (supplied by NCDPT)
- Maintaining a zero growth budget, cuts to existing programs and personnel will be required in order to meet the state mandated salary increases for local employees
- With the exception of two items (postage and custodial supplies) the requested increases are directly related to training and retaining a quality work force of educators
- Impact of a zero growth budget will result in a reduction of \$719,761 in instructional programs and instructional support
- Impact funding directly to the classroom and schools through:
 - Elimination of contract positions such as middle school SRO's
 - Elimination of a nurse position
 - Elimination of the library book allotment
 - Reduction in supply and materials funds for schools
 - Reduction in school non-capitalization equipment
 - Elimination of additional maintenance position
 - Reduction of contracted maintenance services to schools
- Impact funding directly to the classroom and schools because funding must be provided to:
 - Meet substitute costs for teachers
 - Pay for increasing Utility costs
 - Meet insurance and charter school requirements

- Meet increasing salaries and benefits as set by the state will increase associated supplement costs which are on a percentage basis

Capital Outlay

- Potential effects of the proposed Capital Budget that will affect the schools:
 - Elimination of all grounds money for schools
 - Elimination of most school exterior and landscaping projects
 - Elimination of all vehicle purchases except for one mini-activity bus
 - Eliminates boiler replacement of NSHS and SSSHS
 - Limits flexibility in use of funds, as state ADM fund must meet stricter requirements – the majority of school capital requests cannot be provided through ADM funds
 - ADM funding is very restrictive –(broilers and roofs) the majority of schools needs cannot be done through ADM funds

Conclusion

- Stokes County spends \$318 per student or \$8268 less per classroom less than the state average
- Stokes County is well below the state average of \$342 per student
- The six year average of debt service per student in Stokes County is \$181
- This reflects a gap of \$161 per student over the last six years.

Dr. Cartner encouraged the Board on behalf of students and employees of Stokes County Schools to reconsider a zero growth budget which will dramatically harm the instructional program in the school system and the cuts to the capital budget will greatly impact the buildings in which Stokes County students go to school in. Dr. Cartner expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. Joe Hopper

1247 Dodgetown Road
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
RE: DSS – COLA

Mr. Joe Hopper, DSS employee, commented on Dr. Cartner's remarks regarding the education in Stokes County. Mr. Hopper spoke on the work being done by the Department of Social Services, the misunderstanding of the role of the Department of Social Services in the Community, employee turnover rate at Social Services, employees leaving to work for adjacent counties for higher wages, dedicated employees at Social Services, and the need for a COLA for Stokes County employees.

Chairman Inman expressed appreciation to all those in attendance.

Chairman Inman closed the Public Hearing.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner John Turpin moved to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner McHugh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman