

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 14, 2007

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Budget Work Session regarding the Proposed Fiscal Year 2007-08 County Budget in the Commissioners' Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administrative Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Thursday, June 14, 2007 at 2:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Leon Inman
Vice-Chairman Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Ron Carroll
Commissioner Ernest Lankford
Commissioner Stanley Smith

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager K. Bryan Steen
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Leon Inman called the meeting to order.

Vice Chairman 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.

Budget Work Session

County Manager Bryan Steen presented the Board as requested at the June 12th budget work session a proposed budget with a \$.60 tax rate and a proposed budget with a \$.62 tax rate.

Manager Steen noted the following items in the proposed budgets:

- Proposed budget with a \$.60 tax rate
 - Ad Valorem Taxes = \$18,619,330
 - Hold Harmless appropriation for expenditures = \$1,680,710
 - Fund Balance from Hold Harmless = \$138,387
 - **Expenditure Reductions/Elimination**
 - Contingency- Personnel Cost = \$100,000 – proposed original budget allocated \$300,000
 - Environmental Health – Overtime Pay = \$7,764
 - Finance – File Cabinet = \$1,850
 - Governing Body – Defibrillators (2) = \$3,344
 - Health Department – Exam Tables = \$2,225
 - Parks – Zero Turn Lawnmower = \$5,500
 - Public Buildings – E911- Building Roof = \$16,500
 - Public Buildings – Ice Guards/Booth Mtn. = \$6,000
 - Public Buildings – Courtroom C = \$100,000
 - Register of Deeds – Additional Hours P/Time = \$2,223
 - DSS – Social Worker II – Adult Services = \$34,871
 - Superior Court – Furniture = \$3,000
 - Solid Waste – Green Boxes = \$13,100
 - Total Decrease - \$296,377
 - \$1,587 Change due to RGP Transportation Funding

- Proposed budget with a \$.62 tax rate
 - Ad Valorem Taxes = \$19,239,975
 - Hold Harmless appropriation for expenditures = \$1,060,065
 - Fund Balance from Hold Harmless = \$759,03287
 - **Expenditure Reductions/Elimination**
 - Contingency- Personnel Cost = \$100,000
 - Environmental Health – Overtime Pay = \$7,764
 - Finance – File Cabinet = \$1,850
 - Governing Body – Defibrillators (2) = \$3,344
 - Health Department – Exam Tables = \$2,225
 - Parks – Zero Turn Lawnmower = \$5,500
 - Public Buildings – E911- Building Roof = \$16,500
 - Public Buildings – Ice Guards/Booth Mtn. = \$6,000
 - Public Buildings – Courtroom C = \$100,000
 - Register of Deeds – Additional Hours P/Time = \$2,223
 - DSS – Social Worker II – Adult Services = \$34,871
 - Superior Court – Furniture = \$3,000
 - Solid Waste – Green Boxes = \$13,100
 - Total Decrease - \$296,377
 - \$1,587 Change due to RGP Transportation Funding

The Board discussed the following items regarding the proposed \$.60 tax rate budget submitted by Manager Steen:

- Hold Harmless allocation
- Contingency – Personnel Cost reduction from \$300,000
- Ad Valorem Tax revenue
- Revenue changes due to elimination of DSS Social Worker
- Estimated Fund Balance projection – probably no substantial increase with a \$.60 tax rate
- Fund Balance allocation in 2006-07 = \$303,680
- Disappearance of hold harmless revenue projected in 2012-2013
- Proposed Election Director trainee position
- Contingency = Personnel Cost
- Reductions and eliminations included in the proposed budget
- Future Bond referendum for school construction along with County’s current bond rating

The Board discussed fund balance appropriation from Hold Harmless revenue in order to get ready for future bond referendum for schools.

Chairman Inman noted the significant changes would have to be made to the proposed \$.60 tax rate budget if additional expenditures were added.

Finance Director Julia Edwards noted a recent conversation with Local Government Commission (LGC) in which LGC noted that the fund balance needed to be at least 50% of the average of comparable counties. The current average of counties is 27%; therefore, the County’s fund balance should be at least 13-14%. LGC also noted that the County would need to sit down with LGC to further discuss the issue.

The Board discussed school capital outlay, school current expense, E911 ice guards for building roof, and renovation to Courtroom “C”.

Chairman Inman polled the Board regarding their thoughts about Hold Harmless appropriation to Fund Balance:

- Commissioner Carroll = approximately \$800,000
- Chairman Inman = approximately \$300,000 - \$400,000

- Vice Chairman Walker = approximately \$300,000 - \$350,000
- Commissioner Lankford = approximately \$420,000
- Commissioner Smith = approximately \$500,000

The Board discussed proposed budget items: E911 – ice guards for building and the renovations for Courtroom “C”.

The Board discussed the proposed budget items: Contingency – Personnel Costs – original proposed budget = \$300,000, COLA, and salary schedule study.

Commissioners Lankford and Carroll both stated the proposed study’s intention is to bring parity to the current system – fair and equitable. The proposed budget allocation would be used to implement the study. Vice Chairman Walker expressed the need to have a professional neutral objective salary classification/compensation study performed before any salary schedule is implemented. Commissioner Carroll reiterated the proposed study will be a set standards used to determine salaries when hiring, promoting, demoting, etc. that will be fair and equitable to all employees.

Chairman Inman suggested the Board possibly consider a one-time bonus for employees.

Chairman Inman directed Commissioners to have any concerns ready for discussion for the next work session on Monday, June 18th.

The Board continued discussion regarding the following:

Emergency Medical Services

- Increase in Part time wages due to historical data
- Wireless charges for EKG transmittal to ERs
- M & R to Equipment – no vehicle currently available that would not have to have immediate modifications to the unit
- \$56,000 allocation in capital reserve for major repairs- if not used it will remain in capital reserve for future purchase of a new ambulance – currently having issues with the motors in the recent purchased Ford ambulances
- Current EMS fees
- Convalescent care

- Reducing M&R for auto to \$30,000

Economic Development

- Possible putting \$100,000 in Economic Development

Environmental Health

- Part time –overtime – to be used to help reduce waiting time for citizens requesting a permit
- Vacant position

Finance Department

- Bank Charges – credit card services – certain departments accept credit card payments

Governing Body

- Dues and subscriptions
- Retirees insurance

Commissioner Carroll recommended that the Board meet with the Fire Commission regarding their recommendations for the Fire Service District Budget.

The Board discussed the request to meet with the Fire Commission at a future budget work session.

Commissioner Carroll moved to schedule a time to meet with the Fire Commission regarding their budget recommendation for the Fire Service District. Commissioner Smith seconded the motion. The Board further discussed inviting the Fire Commission to the next budget work session to discuss the Fire Service District. The motion failed 2-3 with Chairman Inman, Vice Chairman Walker, and Commissioner Lankford voting against the motion.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Inman entertained a motion to adjourn the budget work session.

Commissioner Lankford moved to adjourn the budget work session. Vice Chairman Walker seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

J. Leon Inman
Chairman