

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 6, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Public Hearing regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-12 County Budget in Courtroom "A" in the Government Center located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, June 6, 2011 at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Ernest Lankford
Vice-Chairman J. Leon Inman
Commissioner Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Ronda Jones
Commissioner James D. Booth

County Personnel in Attendance:
Interim County Manager Rick Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins
Finance Director Julia Edwards

Chairman Lankford called the meeting to order.

Commissioner Booth delivered the invocation.

Chairman Lankford welcomed those in attendance and expressed the Board's appreciation to those who have taken their time to come to take an interest in county government.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Public Hearing

Chairman Lankford opened the Public Hearing.

The following spoke during the Public Hearing:

Steven Roberson
302 W King Street
King, NC 27021
RE: **Fire Tax Increase**

Mr. Roberson noted the following comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget:

- Appreciated being allowed to speak tonight
- Presented a brief history of the county's fire tax
- Citizens of the county actually voted in the fire tax
- King Fire Service District tax is currently six and a half cents
- Only the citizens in the King Fire Service District would pay the proposed increase
- Respectfully request a one cent fire tax increase for the King Fire Service District – not a county wide request
- City of King held a Public Hearing in February 2011 to hear comments regarding a proposed one cent fire tax increase
- Numerous citizens spoke in favor of the one cent fire tax increase at the Public Hearing
- City of King officials have not received any negative comments regarding the proposed increase
- Increase would be used to try to reduce the fire insurance rating which will put money back into the citizens' pocket (could be anywhere from \$200-\$300 savings)
- Trying to reduce the 9 rating outside the city limits
- Part of the funding from the increase would also be used to purchase new viper radios for the 2013 mandatory communications upgrade
- Request the Board consider the request for a one cent fire tax increase for the King Fire Service District

Diane Oakley
117 Ridge Road
Walnut Cove, NC 27052
Re: Budget

Ms. Oakley noted the following comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget:

- Concerned about the loss of jobs proposed in the Fiscal Year 2011-12 budget
- Expressed appreciation to the Interim County Manager and the Health Director regarding the concerns

- Try to stay out of the Environmental Health issues, but felt it necessary to speak tonight
- Future son in law (Kenneth Michaud) received a reduction in force letter indicating his position had been recommended by the Interim County Manager to not be funded in the upcoming proposed F/Y 2011-12 budget and that his last day of work could possibly be 06-30-2011
- Historically in Environmental Health, the workload is up and down
- Concerned that if one position is eliminated, when the economy picks up, it will increase the waiting time to get a permit
- Concerned that even though Kenneth is the last hired, he is more qualified than the individual hired before him who has not passed their boards and does not have experience
- Kenneth has four years experience and his fully qualified
- Find it hard to believe that a person who is fully qualified would be let go before someone who is not fully qualified
- Understand that the Administration Staff is looking at a vacant position for Kenneth
- Concerned the position may not be funded due to the position being federal funding – request the Environmental Health position be frozen if the position is reinstated in the budget or until notification is received that federal funding will be available for the position
- Would like to see all the jobs kept in order to continue services to the citizens
- Expressed appreciation for being allowed to speak and the Board's consideration

Steve Shelton

602 N Main Street
 Danbury, NC 27016
 Re: Budget

Mr. Shelton noted the following comments regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2011-12 Budget:

- Appreciate the opportunity to speak
- Here in support of the schools
- Have not seen the school budget, but support the school budget
- Board of Education in the past has submitted extremely responsible budgets to the Board of Commissioners
- Both Boards have worked extremely hard together on some very important projects
- Sat in a lot of meetings with the financial planner who explained that the current building program could be done with the proper pacing with no tax increase, hope that is still true
- Not advocating no tax increase
- Advocating that if there is a tax increase, it is not blamed on school construction
- Asking that the schools be treated fairly in the discussion when it comes to talking about taxes and tax increase
- A lot of people are wondering about the ongoing capital needs of the schools

- Board of Commissioners have built up the Fund Balance in order to be able to borrow funding for school construction
- Lottery, dedicated for school construction, was used for another good cause (bond debt)
- Hope there will be honest discussion regarding the budget, no finger pointing
- As a former member of the Board of Education, felt responsible if I passed a budget that required a tax increase
- Do not want to pay more taxes, but am willing to so for the good of the county

There being no other citizens to speak, Chairman Lankford closed the Public Hearing.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Lankford entertained a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing.

Vice Chairman Inman moved to adjourn the Public Hearing. Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Ernest Lankford
Chairman