

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
)
COUNTY OF STOKES)
)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 5, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Public Hearing for the proposed Fiscal Year 2017-18 Budget in Courtroom "A" of Government Center Complex located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday June 5, 2017 at 7:00 pm with the following members present:

Chairman Jimmy Walker
Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford
Commissioner James D. Booth
Commissioner Ronda Jones
Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Richard D. Morris
Clerk to the Board Darlene Bullins

Chairman Jimmy Walker called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

INVOCATION

Vice Chairman Ernest Lankford delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Public Hearing

Chairman Walker noted the following:

- Each speaker will have 3 minutes (consistent with our Public Comments at regular meetings)
- Purpose of tonight's Public Hearing is to hear comments related to the FY 2017-18 County Budget recommended by County Manager Rick Morris
- Please limit comments to the proposed FY 2017-18 County Budget

Chairman Walker opened the Public Hearing.

The following spoke during the Public Hearing:

Jan Cox

2263 Brown Mountain Road

Pilot Mountain, NC

Re: **Fiscal Year 2017-18 Proposed Budget**

Ms. Cox presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- I am from the Nancy Reynolds area
- I may be speaking a little bit of what does not concern the proposed budget, but I feel like, as I have let Dr. Rice know, that I need to let the Board of County Commissioners know
- I am a member of the Concerned Citizens Group of Stokes County
- I have a couple of questions that I want to throw out to not only the Board of County Commissioners, but to everyone here tonight
- I don't want anyone to answer me, I just want you to simply listen
- Here are my questions:
 - Do you know or love someone with an addict?
 - You may be blessed to not know someone
 - I am telling you that I do
 - I have a loved one that has an addiction
 - Have you or someone you know lost a loved one to an overdose or suicide?
 - Fortunately, I have no family member in that category
 - Unfortunately, I have a friend that lost her daughter to an overdose
- I am saying this simply because I realize I am a Christian and I did not realize that until this became an issue, personally, I did not know what it really meant
- If you are fortunate enough to not have anyone in either of these categories, I want you to realize just how fortunate you are blessed
- As part of the Concerned Citizens Group, God has been leading me to speak up and to be a prayer warrior
- I have finally accepted this calling after two years of struggling
- I am in the process of organizing a group that is trying to unite all our churches in Stokes County
- We have mailed out 274 letters
- We received 26 responses to a meeting we recently had a couple of months ago
- Drugs and suicide can only be conquered through faith
- I believe that God is calling our churches to unite and all prayer warriors to rise up
- We need you, as commissioners, to also seek God's guidance and to truly understand the dire need of the things that I am going to ask for Fiscal Year 2017-18
- I know we are all Godly people, but I know how I struggled with God's calling for me until I began to do what God was calling me to do
- I am requesting you to approve funding for Sheriff Mike Marshall's two new requested positions:
 - One Narcotic Officer
 - One DARE Officer

- I would also like to see the DARE Program include an educational program for parents because they may not know as much as I do about the issues
- I am also asking for an assistant for the new liaison position recently approved by the Board and the person must be able to relate to addicts – someone who has been there, done that, and through God’s help has overcome the addiction

Three minute time limit called

Becky Boles

1095 Phoenix Rising
Germanton, NC

Re: **Fiscal Year 2017-18 Proposed Budget**

Ms. Boles presented the following comments to the Board of County Commissioners:

- Thank you for this opportunity to stand before you
- You all have been excellent stewards of the county’s money
- You have been there for the school system and we appreciate it very much
- I know we have a joint meeting on Wednesday, June 14th
- I know we will be discussing a lot of things pertaining to the budget
- The only thing I want to say tonight pertains to the list of 35 things that were the Board of Education’s top priorities
- I just want to you to reconsider some of those things on the list that have to do with safety and the maintenance of our schools
- With our current ADM declining, we are fighting to put forth the best image we can that would entice and encourage people to come into our schools
- It is just like going down the road, you may see a house that is not cared for or been through hard times, then you might see a house that is cared for and everything around it is manicured
- There is a different impression between a house that has not been cared for and a house that has been cared for
- When you come to our schools and you see that the tennis courts and/or the track are cracked, the buildings need painting, or the tiles in the bathrooms are coming off, it leaves a bad impression
- We need to take these things very serious
- It is all about image
- We can attend the Early College Award Ceremony and hear that our students received \$3.5 million in scholarships and we know we are doing a great job
- When people are looking at a community to see what kind of community it is, they are looking at how things are being taken care of
- I wanted to take a few minutes to just ask you to reconsider the list and see if some of those things on the list were in your home, would you let them go or fix them?
- Those things on the list need to be taken care
- Those things put forth a bad image
- Just like what Chairman Walker did about the sidewalk at the Old Courthouse, it was all broken up and a hazard
- Someone was going to fall and get hurt, I was afraid that might be me

- The next thing I know, I am coming to a Board meeting and there are new sidewalks
- Thank you Jimmy
- That new sidewalk gives a great image to people coming to the Board of Education or to a meeting in the historic courthouse
- Thank you all for what you are doing
- I hope you will take into consideration what I have asked
- I know that you are going to do the best you can

With no others signed up to speak, Chairman Walker closed the Public Hearing.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Walker entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Mendenhall moved to adjourn the meeting. Vice Chairman Lankford seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Darlene M. Bullins
Clerk to the Board

Jimmy Walker
Chairman