

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA)
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COUNTY OF STOKES)
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OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONERS
STOKES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
DANBURY, NORTH CAROLINA
JUNE 18, 2018

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for Budget Work Session in the Third Floor Conference of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Monday, June 18, 2018 at 1:00 pm with the following members present:

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

County Personnel in Attendance:
County Manager Jake M. Oakley
Clerk to the Board Shannon Shaver
Finance Director Julia Edwards

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

INVOCATION

Chairman Mendenhall delivered the invocation.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT-GOVERNING BODY-PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Mendenhall invited those in attendance to join the Board in the Pledge of Allegiance.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT – GOVERNING BODY – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chairman Mendenhall entertained a motion to approve or amend the June 18th Agenda.

Commissioner Jones moved to approve the June 18th Agenda as presented.

Commissioner Lankford seconded the motion.

Chairman Mendenhall opened the floor for discussion.

With no discussion, the motion carried unanimously.

FISCAL YEAR 2018-19 BUDGET

Chairman Mendenhall turned the floor over to Interim County Manager Jake Oakley.

Interim County Manager Jake Oakley presented the Fiscal Year 2018-19 Budget Overview to the Stokes County Board of Commissioners.

Interim County Manager Oakley noted that today the presentation would start with expenditures where the previous budget work session from June 6th left off, and that he would be happy to answer any question during the power point presentation.

Overview of FY 2018-19 Budget

Health Department and Health Title XIX Medicaid Fund

Health Department budget increased \$15,245/2.03%

(4) Computers for the WIC program, software upgrade, and state will not purchase computers

Health Title XIX Medicaid Fund decreased (\$100,116)/ (7.70%)

County funding is \$587,777; may be reduced when we receive Medicaid cost settlement

Health net Grant was not funded

Physician Extender II and LPN position funds were not budgeted, when these positions are hired we will budget the funds. Personnel contingency has been funded for these positions

Processing Assistant IV will be unfunded

Finance Director Julia Edwards commented:

- Title XIX costs increased causing the increase.
- They also lost a grant.
- I actually ran the numbers again and am able to lower the county funding to \$387,777 from \$587,777.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- That is the trouble with grants sometimes.
- When they don't get them again, we have to cover the amount.

Information Systems

Budget increased \$29,751/11.07%

Maintenance contracts are on a rotation and this is the year that it increases due to the number of contracts due

Replacement of (2) switches

Jail

Budget increased \$375,330/21.19%

Jail expansion has begun

Reclassification of Jail Sergeant to Jail Lieutenant

(5) Jailers and (1) Jail Sergeant

(2) Jailers will be hired for 13 pay periods, (2) Jailers will be hired for 10 pay periods and (1)

Jailer and (1) Jail Sergeant for 7 pay periods

Computer

Spillman software upgrade

Intercom System (Existing Jail was not hooked up when built) violation received during state inspection

No new revenues were budgeted due to Jail will not open until February or March, 2019.

Saving from paying for Stokes County inmates to stay in other county jails.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I am not sure why they are adding so many supervisor roles.
- Not sure why it cannot stay how it is now.
- I don't go along with changing all of the classifications.
- This is happening in all departments with making people supervisors for pay increases.
- I want to know what the justification is on any kind of reclassification.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I liked how it was years ago when the department heads would come to our budget meetings.
- We have not done that in a few years.
- I like them to be present to answer questions when they arise.
- I have a high amount of trust and faith in our Sheriff.
- If he says he needs something I am inclined to go with that.
- I would like to see all of our employees rewarded for hard work.

Legal

Budget increased \$4,000/5.13%

Increase in services outside the retainer

Finance Director Julia Edwards commented:

- Should additional funds be budgeted for legal services in case issues with the hospital come about?

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- It seems at other times you have used funds from contingency if emergency situations like this were to arise?
- I believe Commissioner Booth had a good point concerning this a while back, what if we spend a lot of legal fees on something like this; does it really get us anywhere?
- I think deal with is as it comes.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I am good with contingency if this is needed.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I think contingency is fine.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I am good with contingency if it is needed also.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- It sounds like that question has been answered.
- I feel like we are all on board with using contingency if needed and not budgeting additional funds for legal services.

Library

Budget increased \$25,182/5.17%
4% COLA recommended
Increase in health insurance and retirement

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- Being that this is a regional library system, I believe we stay with a 2% increase for the library.

Medical Examiner

Budget decreased (\$60,000)/(58.82%)
Decrease is due to experience with cost in FY 2017-18
May have to add to budget during the year

Mental Health MOE Fund

Budget increased \$13,000/3.26%
New process for managing Maintenance of Effort (MOE) gives BOCC much additional discretion with MOE funding
Funding placed in a separate fund for accountability and tracking Youth Haven-Adult services and SA intensive outpatient services
Surry/Stokes Friends of Youth

\$160,000 was used from fund balance
Transfer from general fund \$248,820
Natural Resources
Budget decreased (\$40,610)/ (22.02%)
Carpet for office
Decrease due to grant not budgeted

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I am not convinced we are doing enough for mental health.
- I am also not convinced that we solely rely on Cardinal to take care of all the mental health needs in our county.
- All the years we were with CenterPoint, they said not only were the amount we were giving them not sufficient, they were funding our county from other place.
- CenterPoint was forced to reduce their fund balance at one time.

Finance Director Julia Edwards responded:

- When Cardinal took over CenterPoint they reimbursed the county for the left over money in the fund balance.
- This also happened with CenterPoint when they were required to reduce their fund balance.
- This fund is at the discretion of the County Commissioners.
- There is nowhere that says that you cannot use their fund balance to fund the current budget.
- They are still receiving the same amount as usual.

Vice Chairman Walker continued:

- I place a high value on mental health.
- I don't want money taken away from a service we need.
- I will probably speak with Ronda Outlaw and see if this impacts them.
- If they have a specific need they are building a higher fund balance for.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- When Ms. Outlaw was here and gave her presentation she said that Stokes County is on track.
- I am satisfied with how Cardinal is serving our county at this time and I believe the county and Cardinal are getting their fair share from the agreement.

Vice Chairman Walker continued:

- My question is with the \$160,000.00.
- I want to be sure we are doing the right thing.
- One thing I really want to be sure is taken care of is the Stokes Opportunity Center.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- I believe since this is at the discretion of the Board of Commissioners we are fine.
- I serve on that board and believe Cardinal is doing a good job.

Parks

Budget decreased (\$9,234)/ (28.34%)

No equipment requested for FY 2018-19

Planning

Budget increased \$9,886/2.47%

Director of Planning & Zoning position is no longer Interim Economic Development Director, Salary was reduced

Public Buildings

Budget decreased (\$40,754)/ (3.53%)

Decrease is due to not leasing the telephone system

HVAC replacement for IT funding from Capital Reserve Fund

\$350,000.00 set aside for this.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I would like to see that parking lots here repaved.
- I would like to see that done as soon as possible.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- We have been talking about paving for a number of years.
- I agree with Commissioner Lankford that this needs to be done.
- We should put some money back in for this.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- We need to wait until the jail is finished.

Commissioner Lankford continued:

- We can phase it in.
- We can get the bids in and start with areas not affected by the jail construction.
- I would like to see the money set aside.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- We would need to budget \$300,000.00 to \$400,000.00 for this.
- Just leave the road coming in and the area by the jail for last.
- Would need to do something over at the old school.
- That parking lot is in bad shape.

Purchasing

Budget increased \$12,543/14.82%
Reclassification of Support Service Supervisor
Reclassification of (25%) Finance Accounting Tech III

Recreation

Contract with the YMCA remains at \$117,484
Exploring YMCA options after building issues with the hospital location
Recreation Task Force to consider a facility on the northern side of County

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- No way have I supported this.
- I know we have signed a contract already.
- Out of that \$117,484 what are the people of this county really getting out of this.
- We need to take a portion of that money we are paying to the Y and put it towards our Recreation Center.
- We would need a person in house to be responsible for recreation.
- To me this is something that should have never been started to begin with.
- We would save a ton of money doing this on our own.
- The building at LifeBrite should have been utilized months ago and they state they are unable to use due to records stored in the building.
- I would like to see this Board get together and take charge of this.
- We need to get together and decide what we want, when we want it, and where we want it.
- I am strong supporter of this project.

Commissioner Booth commented:

- I would like our County Manager to get with LifeBrite and see why the building is not available to the Y when it was supposed to be already in use.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I would like to see our Economic Development staff do a survey with the people of the county to determine the use.
- Knowing that Tory has the ability to put together a survey, and check with 500 or so people on what the feeling is among the people of the county.
- We need to get Danny to check on an architect and put a plan together.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I am all for recreation.
- I know it takes a lot more than \$117, 00.00.
- I would like to be more pragmatic and expedient in getting it done.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- We talked about wellness and how that would help our insurance down the road.
- I would like to move on it.
- I think Tory is more than capable of producing this kind of survey.
- When I was Superintendent we did all kinds of our own surveys with the school system.
- If Tory could produce a survey and let us take a look at it before it goes out.
- Right now we have to take care of this budget and we need to take this up later.

Register of Deeds

Budget decreased (\$905)/ (.39%)

New Register of Deeds salary budgeted for the full fiscal year

Reclassification of Assist. Register of Deeds to Assist. Register of Deeds II

Reclassification of Deputy Register of Deeds to Assist. Register of Deeds I

Technology fund used for Website

Commissioner Booth commented:

- We are already planning a grade increase for every employee.
- It is going to cost the county taxpayers \$560,000.00 to give a grade increase.
- We don't need to do anymore reclassifications since that would cost \$60,000.00 more reoccurring.
- We need to be fair across the board.
- We did it three years ago for every employee along with three grade increases in EMS and the Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Lankford commented:

- I agree with what Commissioner Booth has said.
- We need to be fair and consistent.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I agree with what he is trying to do and he still has my support.
- He always has.
- There is however a system in place that we have to follow.
- I agree with fair and consistent.

Commissioner Jones commented:

- I support the COLA for the employees and that we have to continue to be fair and consistent.

Chairman Mendenhall commented:

- I am hearing all the Commissioners say they are on the same page with this item.
- I will not repeat what has been said.
- I agree with everyone's comments.

Adjournment

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

Commissioner Jones moved to adjourn the meeting.

Commissioner Booth seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board

Ronnie Mendenhall
Chairman