

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
TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2019

The Board of Commissioners of the County of Stokes, State of North Carolina, met for a Recessed Budget Work Session (from June 11, 2019) in the Commissioners’ Chambers of the Ronald Wilson Reagan Memorial Building (Administration Building) located in Danbury, North Carolina on Tuesday June 11, 2019 with the following members present:

Chairman Andy Nickelston
Vice Chairman Jimmy Walker
Commissioner Ronnie Mendenhall
Commissioner Rick Morris
Commissioner Jamie Yontz

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

Chairman Nickelston called the recessed meeting to order at 7:50 pm and welcomed those in attendance.

Budget Work Session - Continuation

Chairman Nickelston opened the floor for the continuation of budget deliberations.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I am not as far away as I was on reaching a final decision.
- With a little more work I can get there.
- I would like to take a brief look at what is between us and getting the budget approved.
- I think we are closer than we realize.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- We have to all take our positions on things and get this done.
- We are running out of time.

Finance Director Julia Edwards provided the Board with a budget scenario that would keep the fund balance at the requested 25 percent.

Commissioner Yontz commented:

- Would like to fund the current expense for the school system and make them whole.
- Plus, the 2 social workers for \$128,370.00.
- Would like to fund capital where they are now and ok with not appropriating the \$75,000.00 towards the track because I feel there are some things on there that will leave funds for that or something else could be cut.
- I have made myself clear that I am not a fan of Johnson Controls.
- The money in the budget to update that system seems like a lot to me.
- I am good with going through item 19.
- I am in support of the library pay raise.
- If we looked at not funding the whole

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I don't want to get caught like we did in the past with being told we didn't provide funding for something that I felt we did like the teacher's supplements.
- I am also in favor of the two social workers.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- In favor of funding them at \$180,370.00 which funds the Social Workers which I am in favor of and adds about \$60,000.00 more for school supplies that teachers are having to buy out of their own pockets or they can use it to fund other priorities from their list.
- We also need to decide if we are going to give them a fund balance.
- They need a fund balance in my opinion
- I am also in support of the library pay raise.

Finance Director Julia Edwards noted that at this point the Board is agreement to fund \$1,780,000.00 in Capital Expense and asked for clarification on Current Expense funding from the Board.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:

- I am not ready to comment on the Current Expense at this point but am okay with the Captial.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I am hesitant to call a 4 percent pay increase a COLA.

Commissioner Morris commented:

- I am in favor of the 4 percent to help offset the salary study and the increases that we will have to make when that is completed.
- There are some things that I have from the list that might help us to move forward.

The Board was polled on the following budget items with those being in favor noted beside the item:

EMS Station Walnut Cove- Nickelston, Yontz, Morris, Mendenhall, and Walker

Leave the sixth ambulance in to be financed and ready for the next budget

True time and a half- Nickelston, Yontz, Morris, Mendenhall, and Walker

Solid Waste Transfer Station- Walnut Cove- Nickelston, Yontz, Morris, Mendenhall, and Walker

Fuel Depot- All in favor of removing this from the budget this year

Scale House- Nickelston, Yontz, Morris, Mendenhall, and Walker

Storage Maintenance Building -Nickelston, Yontz, Morris, Mendenhall, and Walker

Water Project in Meadows- Nickelston, Yontz, Morris, Mendenhall, and Walker

New positions and reclassifications need to be decided on

Department Head adjustments need to be looked at further

4 percent COLA- Morris, Yontz, Nickelston, Mendenhall

2 percent COLA – Walker

Arts Council position request – 100 percent – Morris, Yontz, and Nickelston

Transferring half to the 4 cent fund in the amount of \$569,888.00- Morris, Yontz, and Nickelston

Chairman Nickelston noted that all of the answers given are still tentative at this point and that no final vote of any kind has been taken regarding the budget.

Commissioner Mendenhall commented:


- I know that I am at the point that I need to go home and do some studying on this and come back fresh ready to finish this budget.

Vice Chairman Walker commented:

- I am in the dilemma of looking at a budget I feel to be fat.
- I have never had this large of a budget in front of me.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Nickelston recessed the Budget Work Session at 9:10 pm until Thursday June 13, 2019.



Shannon Shaver
Clerk to the Board



Andy Nickelston
Chairman