

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 13, 2016

9:00 AM

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Jeff Rose
Vice Chairman Gary Roark
Commissioner Brien Richardson
Commissioner Larry Rhodes
Commissioner William Sands*

BUDGET SESSION**9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Present: 5 - Chairperson Jeff Rose, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Vice Chairman Gary Roark and Commissioner Brien Richardson

Governing Body

County Manager Sam Yearick explained that the commissioners' salary includes a base salary and benefits. The commissioners have the option to receive health insurance benefits or to take the equivalent amount in salary. Since the County has reduced the cost of employee benefits over the last two years, this has inadvertently affected the commissioners' salaries causing the salaries to be unstable. County Manager Yearick explained that the commissioners actually took a \$2400 per year pay cut when the County switched insurance carriers in April of this year. Vice Chairman Roark made a motion to place the commissioners' salary at a flat rate; base pay will be \$18,400 for members and \$19,600 for the chair. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Administration

County Manager Sam Yearick told the Board that he included a 2% salary increase for employees in the proposed budget. The 2% increase is equivalent to approximately \$200,000 which will be utilized from the \$400,000 health insurance savings realized when the County switched to the State Health Plan.

No changes were made to the proposed budget for Administration.

Finance

Commissioners discussed one reclassification in the proposed budget and Commissioner Richardson stated agreement with the salary reclassification. Commissioners Sands, Rhodes, Roark, and Chairman Rose then discussed the request made by the finance officer for reclassifications of three finance office employees and stated agreement with Finance Officer Sandra Long's recommendations. After further explanation, Commissioner Richardson stated agreement with the finance officer's recommendation.

Tax Administration

Commissioner Sands was in favor of waiting a year before creating a new position to collect past due taxes. Commissioner Richardson disagreed and made a motion to hire a new employee as tax collector. The motion passed 3-2, with Commissioners Richardson, Rose and Roark voting in favor. Commissioners Sands and Rhodes voted against the motion.

Legal

No changes were made.

Courts

No changes were made.

Board of Elections

No changes were made.

Register of Deeds

No changes were made.

Technology Services

No changes were made.

Public Buildings

No changes were made.

Emergency Management

Commissioner Rhodes requested that Teresa Richardson's position be reclassified to Office Assistant 4 at Grade 61, Step 5. The Board was in agreement with the recommended change. No further changes were made to Emergency Management.

Fire

County Manager Yearick explained a request made by the Pond Mountain Volunteer Fire Department for the County to fund a \$2300 expense to move a utility pole and have an architect approve the concrete for a new substation the fire department is building. The Board was in agreement for representatives of the fire department to talk with BREMCO representatives regarding the unexpected expenses and to notify the Board. No changes were made to the proposed budget for Fire.

Building Inspections

No changes were made.

Medical Examiner

No changes were made.

Ambulance Service

No changes were made.

Animal Control

No changes were made.

E911 Coordinator

No changes were made.

Airport

No changes were made.

Planning

*The Board was in agreement to change the Grade-Step for the planning director to 71-1.
No further changes were made.*

Economic Development

No changes were made.

Cooperative Extension

The Board agreed to provide a 2% salary increase to Cooperative Extension employees that receive partial or 100% county funding for salaries. No further changes were made.

Soil Conservation

No changes were made.

Human Services

The Board was in agreement to increase the appropriation for the Hospitality House to \$10,000. No further changes were made to Human Services.

Veterans

No changes were made.

Public Library

No changes were made.

Cultural Arts

No changes were made.

Parks and Recreation

No changes were made.

Debt Service

County Manager Yearick suggested that since Ashe County High School has been paid for, to utilize the Debt Service monies from the High School for the next three years to pay for the purchase of the land on which a new middle school will be constructed, 750 Chrombooks and carts requested for students in classrooms, and for needed paving at Blue Ridge Elementary School. The Board was in agreement with the recommendation.

Fund Transfers

No changes were made.

Environmental Services

County Manager Yearick told the Board that one convenience center lot will be paved each year until all convenience centers that are located on County-owned property have been paved.

No changes were made to the proposed budget for Environmental Services.

Recess

The meeting was recessed at 4:20 p.m. and will resume at 9:00 a.m. on June 14, 2016.

Jeff Rose, Chairman

Ann J. Clark, MMC, NCCCC
Clerk to the Board