

# Ashe County

150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 5, 2017

1:00 PM

Budget Work Session

Second Floor Conference Room

### County Commission

*Chairman William Sands  
Vice Chair Paula Perry  
Commissioner Jeff Rose  
Commissioner Gary Roark  
Commissioner Larry Rhodes*

**BUDGET SESSION****I. 1:00 PM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

*Chairman Sands called the Budget Work Session to order at approximately 1:00 p.m. in the second floor conference room at the Ashe County Courthouse.*

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Jeff Rose, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Gary Roark and Commissioner Paula Perry

**Opening Comments**

*Chairman Sands offered the opening prayer.*

*Next, Chairman Sands explained procedures followed by the Board during the Budget Work Sessions. Commissioner Sands contacted Frayda Bluestein, professor of Public Law and Government at UNC School of Government, for guidance on when Commissioner Roark should vote since he serves as a commissioner and is employed with the County as the maintenance director. Chairman Sands read Ms. Bluestein's response. Commissioner Roark cannot vote on an item that affects his salary or on the budget for his department, which is Public Buildings.*

*County Manager Yearick explained the 1/2% pay increase he recommended for County employees. He told the Board that health insurance for employees will probably increase approximately \$50 per employee, so the insurance increase and the 1/2% salary increase recommended would be the equivalent to a 1% salary increase.*

*The county manager also recommended that the County continue to provide the 1-800-WebMD program for employees.*

*County Manager Yearick recommended that if an employee wants to attend training offered outside of North Carolina that the request should be made to the Board. Commissioner Rhodes stated that an employee should attend classes within the State if offered. If air travel is required, the employee should present their request to the commissioners for approval.*

*The county manager told the Board that there has been a small increase in revenues over the past year and that the number of requests for building inspections is increasing.*

*No further comments were offered.*

**Governing Body**

*No changes were made.*

**Administration**

*The Board was in agreement to change the deputy clerk's grade/step to 63/1. No further changes were made.*

**Finance**

*No changes were made.*

**Health**

*Appalachian District Health Director Beth Lovette told the Board that the former mental health building located on Court Street has worked perfectly for use as the new dental clinic and the location has adequate parking available. In July, the Health Department will have integrated primary care, both health care and mental health care. Director Lovette explained that the budgetary request she made is a 5% increase over last year's appropriation from the County. She reviewed the Health Department's preliminary budget as of May 9, 2017, stating that the budget will not be finalized until the June 27, 2017 Appalachian District Health Board meeting.*

*County Manager Yearick told the Board that he placed a 1% budgetary increase in the proposed budget for the Health Department, however, he is suggesting a 2% increase bringing the amount to \$447,852. The Board was in agreement.*

**Legal**

*No changes were made.*

**Courts**

*No changes were made.*

**Board of Elections**

*No changes were made.*

**Register of Deeds**

*No changes were made.*

**IT**

*No changes were made.*

**Public Buildings**

*County Manager Sam Yearick recommended the following changes in the Public Buildings budget:*

- Remove the position of chief custodian upon the retirement of Jim Hamm*
- Reclassify Tony Little to grade/step 58/2*
- Reclassify Rodney Hopkins to grade/step 62/4*

*The Board was in agreement with the recommended changes. (Commissioner Roark was not involved in the "agreement" due to a conflict of interest because he is employed as the County's maintenance director.)*

*No further changes were made.*

**Law Enforcement**

*County Manager Yearick recommended the purchase of four police interceptor vehicles for Law Enforcement. A detailed discussion will be held during the budget work session tomorrow regarding Law Enforcement.*

## **Recess**

*The meeting was recessed at 4:00 p.m. and will continue beginning at 9:00 a.m. on June 6, 2017.*

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**William Sands, Chairman**

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