

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, June 7, 2017

9:00 AM

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

Chairman Sands called the Budget Work Session to order at approximately 9:05 a.m. in the second floor conference room at the Ashe County Courthouse.

Law Enforcement

County Manager Yearick told the Board that Sheriff Buchanan requested funding for four new positions in Law Enforcement, but the county manager recommended funding for only one position. Board members were in agreement to not add any new positions at this time. If needed, positions can be added in the future.

Next, County Manager Yearick spoke to the Board about the new vehicles requested in the budget. The county manager would rather keep patrol officers in the newest vehicles and utilize the older vehicles in other areas that do not require low mileage vehicles. He recommended four new vehicles in the proposed budget, specifically police interceptors for road deputies. In addition, he recommends that the four older vehicles be retired. The Board was in agreement with the county manager's recommendations.

The Board agreed that Equipment Expense and Computer Support would remain as recommended by the county manager and they were in agreement to not fund the additional walkie talkies, tazers, handguns, and AR15s.

County Manager Sam Yearick explained that Sheriff Buchanan requested to utilize \$10,000 from the Asset Forfeiture Fund for the purchase of non-lethal equipment for officers and for the County to increase funding for the officers to utilize training for the equipment. County Manager Yearick recommended increasing the line item for training from \$10,000 to \$24,000, with a new line item being added for training expense. Chairman Sands and Commissioner Rose told the Board that they have always received law enforcement training from Wilkes Community College. The Board was in agreement to increase the line item for training to \$24,000; Commissioner Rhodes asked that training be conducted as economically as possible and to utilize Wilkes Community College for training when possible.

No further changes were made.

Corrections

County Manager Sam Yearick stated that Sheriff Buchanan requested eight new positions in the Corrections Department. The county manager did not recommend the new positions. However, the county manager recommended that the Kitchen Manager be reclassified to pay grade 62 because he was able to save a repair expense of approximately \$250,000. He told the Board that scraps of metal were going into the wastewater supply causing problems at the wastewater treatment plant in Jefferson. To fix the problem, a grinder would have to be rebuilt to handle the type of waste being flushed into drains by inmates. The Chief Jailer and the Kitchen Manager came up with a plan to reduce the amount of waste the inmates have access to thus saving the cost to repair the equipment. The Board was in agreement with the recommended reclassification of the Kitchen Manager.

No further changes were made.

Parks & Recreation Department

County Manager Yearick told the Board that he shifted as much funding as he could to the Public Buildings budget to pay for remodeling at Family Central. Chairman Sands stated that he would like to see paving of the tennis courts included in the Parks and Recreation budget. Commissioner Rhodes provided history regarding the tennis courts. In 2009, the Board promised to restore the tennis courts but the County was not able to purchase property for the project. He believes we need to honor the commitment made by the commissioners in 2009. Commissioner Rhodes stated that lighting is needed for the basketball court and pickleball court. The Board was in agreement to add the \$60,000 back in the Parks and Recreation budget for tennis courts. In addition, the county manager recommends changing one part time employee to full time. There has been a reduction in part time expense that will allow the change to be made with no extra cost involved. The Board was in agreement with the change.

No further changes were made.

Debt Service

No changes were made.

Fund Transfers

County Manager Yearick told the Board that he recommends utilizing \$30,000 from the Capital Projects Fund to do repairs to the Daymark building. The Board was in agreement with the recommendation.

No further changes were made.

Environmental Services

County Manager Yearick recommended changes to the step/grade for three employees in the Environmental Services Department. The Board was in agreement with the recommendation.

No further changes were made.

E911 Special Revenue Fund

No changes were made.

Revenues

No changes were made.

Concluding Comments

Commissioner Rhodes recommended a total 1 1/2% salary increase for employees plus the estimated increase in health insurance which would be the equivalent of a 2% salary increase for employees. Commissioners Sands, Perry, Rhodes, and Rose were in agreement with the recommendation. (Commissioner Roark was not involved with the "agreement" due to a conflict of interest because he is employed as the County's

maintenance director.)

Commissioner Rhodes polled the commissioners to see if they would vote in favor of the budget as it currently stands. All members of the Board agreed to vote in favor of the budget.

County Manager Yearick asked the Board if the commissioners' salaries would be included in the increase for employees. The commissioners were in agreement that commissioners' salaries would not include an increase.

County Manager Yearick told the Board that he has not heard back from the Ford dealership on the price for a vehicle for Animal Control. The Board was in agreement to place \$35,000 in the Animal Control budget for a vehicle.

Commissioner Roark asked for thoughts on funds being placed in the budget for an appreciation meal for department heads. No changes were made.

Commissioner Rhodes brought up the issue of changing fees charged by the County. He would like for Planning Director Adam Stumb to research increasing permit fees for polluting industries.

Adjournment

Commissioner Rhodes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Commissioner Rose seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

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William Sands, Chairman

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