

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Monday, June 4, 2018

2:00 PM

Budget Work Session

Second Floor Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairman William Sands
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes
Commissioner Jeff Rose
Commissioner Paula Perry
Commissioner Todd McNeill*

BUDGET WORK SESSION

I. 2:00 PM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse

Chairman Sands called the FY2018/19 Budget Work Sessions to order at 2:00 p.m. on June 4, 2018 in the second floor conference room.

Present: 4 - Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Todd McNeill

Absent: 1 - Commissioner Jeff Rose

II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer

Commissioner Perry led the Pledge of Allegiance and Chairman Sands offered the opening prayer.

Opening Comments

Finance Officer Sandra Long provided opening comments regarding items included in the proposed budget. She explained that a salary increase of 1.8% was included for employees and retirement will increase by .25%. New rates for health insurance will go into effect on January 1, 2019. Funds have been included for the second half of the year if there is an increase in rates. There has been a pay increase included for part-time employees changing the hourly rate from \$9.50 per hour to \$9.75 per hour; certified part-time hourly rates changed from \$11.00 per hour to \$11.25 per hour. Ms. Long also told the Board that the proposed ad valorem tax rate remains the same as last year.

Human Resources Director Angie Eggers provided information on rates for vision insurance, dental insurance, life insurance, and rates for 1-800-WebMD. The Board agreed that insurance rates would remain unchanged in this year's budget.

Governing Body

Vice Chairman Rhodes would like to revisit the line item that includes employee appreciation awards.

Administration

The line item for Professional Services was reduced from \$3000 to \$0.

The salary for Adam Stumb who is temporarily serving as county manager needs to be revisited.

The Grade/Step for Barbara McCoy will change from Grade 63/Step 2 to Grade 63/Step 5.

No further changes were made.

Finance

The Grade/Step for Angela Eggers will be changed from Grade 70/Step 10 to Grade 75/Step 11.

No further changes were made.

Legal

No changes were made.

Courts

No changes were made.

Elections

No changes were made.

Register of Deeds

No changes were made.

Information Technology

No changes were made.

Public Buildings

Emergency Management Coordinator Patty Gambill provided information on property and general liability insurance. Due to the number of claims over the past three years, the County's current insurance carrier declined to cover our public officials and Sheriff's Department liability insurance. The County has been able to obtain property and liability insurance quotes through the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) which covers 67 out of 100 counties in North Carolina. It was a consensus of the Board to proceed with purchasing said insurance from NCACC.

The Board was in agreement to reduce the line item for Property & General Liability Insurance from \$500,000 to \$400,000.

Public Buildings will be revisited later in the work sessions.

Law Enforcement

Vice Chairman Rhodes spoke regarding school safety funding proposed in the State budget and the money being used to hire additional school resource officers. He would like to add one officer at the middle school, one officer at the high school, and additional officers at the three elementary schools. Vice Chairman Rhodes stated that he would advocate a 1/2 cent increase in the tax rate to cover the cost of adding school resources officers. There is the possibility that the County could receive funding from the school safety funds if approved in the State budget.

No changes were made.

Corrections

The Board was in agreement to remove \$40,000 in the Capital Outlay/Equipment line item

set aside for two water heaters and installation and place the funds in the Contingency Fund.

No further changes were made.

Emergency Management

No changes were made.

Fire

No changes were made.

Building Inspections

Chief Building Inspector Jeff Cornett spoke to the Board about updating permitting software for Building Inspections. He explained costs of the old software versus costs of the new software. The Planning Department will be able to utilize the software at no extra cost and there is no extra cost for unlimited users.

The chief building inspector told the Board that \$3000 needs to be subtracted from Computer Support Services; \$2,160 was removed from Telephone Expense for the three iPads that were recommended in the proposed budget.

Commissioner Perry would like to add \$20,500 for initial installation of the new software and increase the line item for Computer Software & Support from \$7,500 to \$10,500 to implement the new system and place it in the Capital Project Fund. A total of \$31,000 will be added to Capital for the software expenses. The Board was in agreement.

The Board discussed the recommended salary increase for Jeff Cornett moving from Grade 75 to Grade 76. Commissioner Perry was in agreement with the salary increase. Commissioners Sands, Rhodes and McNeill were in agreement to not increase the salary at this time due to the expense of a new inspector, a new vehicle, and new software in this year's budget.

III. Recess

The meeting was recessed at approximately 5:00 p.m.

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