

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

8:30 AM

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. 8:30 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Courthouse**

Present: 3 - Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner William Sands and Commissioner Todd McNeill

Absent: 2 - Commissioner Jeff Rose and Commissioner Paula Perry

PRES
18-249

8:35 AM - Economic Development - Cathy Barr

Economic Development Director Cathy Barr reviewed salaries of economic development directors in other counties similar in size to Ashe County. She also read a letter of recommendation to the Board sent by a local industry. She asked the Board to consider the requested increase in salary recommended in the budget. Ms. Barr also explained the request for \$5500 in the line item for Computer Support because Germain Media is handling the County's social media sites. In 28 days, there were 75,000 social media views and new videos of the County are posted weekly that are viewed by over 40,000 people. She believes social media is a critical means to reach the public. Ms. Barr suggested to reduce the line item for Contracted Services by \$4500 which would make the \$5500 request for the social media line item budget neutral.

No changes were made to the proposed budget for Economic Development at this time.

PRES
18-223

9:00 AM - Environmental Services - Scott Hurley

Environmental Services Director Scott Hurley spoke to the Board about adding a small section of fence at the Bare Creek Convenience Center which will help with debris at the dumpsters. He explained that the entire area does not need to be fenced. The proposed \$25,632 under Environmental Services (Collections) Capital Outlay/Other for fencing at Bina and Bare Creek can be reduced to \$5000. Mr. Hurley recommended to not purchase the Tarping System (\$39,200) and Odor Sprayer (\$4,100) under Environmental Services (Disposal) - Capital Outlay - Equipment. Also recommended was to remove \$4,000 from Environmental Services (Collections) - Professional Services/Other for Keep Ashe Beautiful signage for the recycling program.

No further changes were made to Environmental Services.

PRES
18-224

9:30 AM - Ashe Services for Aging - Patricia Calloway & Mary Owen

Patricia Calloway and Mary Owen with Ashe Services for Aging were present for a presentation to the Board by Ashe Services for Aging Board Chair Richard Blackburn. He presented the following information: the Ashe aging profile; percentage of the population that is disabled; poverty level of the elderly in our community; total number of residents served by Ashe Services for Aging; County funding statistics; Medicaid reimbursement trends; Ashe Services for Aging fundraising history; revenue sources for Ashe Services for Aging; a breakdown of costs to operate programs; and issues with workforce. A request was made for an appropriation increase of \$150,000 which will only be used for general operating expenses.

PRES
18-225

10:00 AM - A Safe Home for Everyone - Amber Dixon

Kim Barnes and Amber Dixon with A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE) made a request for an appropriation of \$30,000 for FY2018/19. Amber Dixon explained reasons for the request which include: increasing numbers of domestic violence and sexual assault cases; lack of affordable housing; transportation issues; the need for service providers; and financial costs to victims. Ms. Dixon also explained to the Board the impact that ASHE has on the economy. ASHE saves \$31,333 in victimization costs each year; ASHE brought in \$2,854,373 in state and federal funding last year; emergency shelters are provided to victims; emergency financial assistance is provided to victims; counseling services are available; community education is provided; human trafficking symposiums are provided; and child abuse recognition training is available.

PRES
18-250

Law Enforcement

Sheriff Hartley and Chief Deputy Bucky Absher spoke to the Board regarding the proposed budget for Law Enforcement. Chairman Sands explained that Vice Chairman Rhodes voiced concern earlier in the work session regarding the need for additional School Resource Officers (SROs). Vice Chairman Rhodes stated that there is a need for additional security at the middle school. He added that 2/10 or 3/10 of a percent in the tax rate could supply an additional two or three SROs. School Superintendent Phyllis Yates spoke to the Board at the work session yesterday and told the Board that the State may approve funding of \$10 million designated for schools and SROs. Vice Chairman Rhodes believes there is need for an additional officer at the high school and at the middle school. Chief Deputy Absher added that reports from school safety meetings identify a need at the middle school for additional officers due to multiple entries and handicapped requirements for doors to remain unlocked. Another issue is the distance of the school from Jefferson. A factor at the high school is the size of the facility and the number of students attending. A request has already been made for an SRO to accommodate the new Wilkes Community College early college program. Both Chief Deputy Absher and Sheriff Hartley stated that two additional SROs would be helpful. Commissioner McNeill asked if the Sheriff's Office could utilize two vehicles in the FY2018/19 budget that are being replaced to use for two new SROs since these officers will not be patrolling. Chief Deputy Absher was in agreement with the suggestion made by Commissioner McNeill.

PRES
18-251

Corrections

Chairman Sands stated that two additional employees were requested in the Communications budget and asked if this could be reduced. Chief Deputy Bucky Absher answered that they could reduce the line item for Salaries & Wages/Part-time by \$6450 to \$12,000.

PRES
18-252

Riverview Community Center

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$15,000 in the FY2018/19 budget for Riverview Community Center; \$3000 for the normal annual appropriation and earmark \$12,000 for flooring/heating system repairs.

PRES
18-253

A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE)

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$30,000 for A Safe Home for Everyone (ASHE).

[PRES](#)
[18-254](#)

Ashe Services for Aging

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$600,000 in the FY2018/19 budget for Ashe Services for Aging.

[PRES](#)
[18-255](#)

Homeless Coalition

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$2000 for the Homeless Coalition for FY2018-19.

[PRES](#)
[18-256](#)

Humane Society

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$1000 to the Humane Society for FY2018/19.

[PRES](#)
[18-257](#)

American Legion

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$1500 for the American Legion in the FY2018-19 budget.

[PRES](#)
[18-258](#)

Blue Ridge Resources, Conservation & Development

The Board was in agreement to appropriate \$3000 for Blue Ridge Resources, Conservation & Development for FY2018-19.

[PRES](#)
[18-259](#)

Ashe Developmental Day School

The Board agreed to place Ashe Developmental Day School in Public Buildings under the line item for Maintenance & Repair - Buildings & Grounds.

[PRES](#)
[18-260](#)

Health

No changes were made to Health.

[PRES](#)
[18-261](#)

Review

Governing Body - The Board discussed the line item for Food Provisions/Employee Luncheons. Vice Chairman Rhodes believes the County needs a program to recognize the length of service for employees. After discussion, the Board decided to not make a change to the Employee Appreciation Luncheon and Awards this year.

Administration - The Board discussed the temporary salary for the interim county manager. The Board was in agreement for the salary to be \$85,000.

Finance - The Board was in agreement to leave the appropriation for fire department

audits at \$8000.

Law Enforcement - The Board discussed the need for additional School Resource Officers (SROs).

Building Inspections - The Board agreed for the salary of the chief building inspector to remain at Grade-Step 75-5.

Ambulance & Rescue - The Board was in agreement for the appropriation for Ashe County Rescue Squad to remain at \$50,000.

Animal Shelter - The Board agreed that the animal control officers will move back to the Shelter location and the Shelter will be open longer hours. The Board also agreed that \$5000 will be removed from the line item for Salaries & Wages/Overtime.

Communications - The Board agreed to reduce the line item for Salaries & Wages/Part-time to \$13,000.

Economic Development - The Board was in agreement for the salary of the economic developer to remain unchanged. The line item for the Chamber of Commerce (Special Appropriation) will be appropriated as \$5000 from the FY2017/18 budget and \$5000 from the FY2018/19 budget. The appropriation for Arts Council will be \$10,000.

Social Services - The Board discussed the line item for Board Member Expense. It was agreed that each member of the Social Services Board, including the chairman, will be paid \$50 per meeting.

Public Library - The Board was in agreement to appropriate the requested 1/3 payscale increase as requested. Vice Chairman Rhodes would like to give Library employees a 2/3 payscale increase.

Finance Officer Sandra Long and Board members discussed Debt Service, the E911 Special Revenue Fund, and Revenues.

The meeting was recessed until June 12, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.

II. Recess

Citizens with disabilities requiring special needs to access the services or public meetings of Ashe County Government should contact the County Manager's Office three days prior to the meeting by calling (336) 846-5501.