

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Tuesday, June 4, 2019**

**9:00 AM**

**Budget Work Session**

**Second Floor Conference Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill*

*Vice Chair William Sands*

*Commissioner Larry Rhodes*

*Commissioner Paula Perry*

*Commissioner Larry Dix*

## BUDGET WORK SESSION

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

*Chairman McNeill called the Budget Work Session to order at approximately 9:00 a.m. at the Ashe County Courthouse.*

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Todd McNeill, Commissioner William Sands, Commissioner Larry Rhodes, Commissioner Paula Perry and Commissioner Larry Dix

### Warrensville Fire Department

*Rusty Zachary, Steve Turner, and Brian Ashley were present to explain a budget request for \$20,000 additional funding. In 2017, Warrensville Fire Department began providing backup ambulance service for Ashe Medics. This led to the need to add a second ambulance that was capable of transport. The cost to place a vehicle in service is \$54,000 and costs are increasing. The majority of calls received are for service outside of district lines for Warrensville Fire Department. In addition, Warrensville Fire Department is serving the Helton area since the closing of Helton Ambulance Service. Vice Chairman Sands stated that there is a \$13,000 savings in the budget from the closing of Helton Ambulance Service. Commissioner Rhodes suggested utilizing the \$13,000 excess funds resulting from the closing of Helton Ambulance Service and adding \$7,000 in the budget to fulfill the request for Warrensville Fire Department. The Board was in agreement with the total appropriation. The request was clarified to add \$20,000 in addition to the \$9,480 Current Year budget request to the proposed budget. The Board agreed to the appropriation for Warrensville Fire Department.*

### Soil Conservation

*No changes were made.*

### Health Department

*No changes were made.*

### Library

*County Librarian Suzanne Moore and Appalachian Regional Director Jane Blackburn were present to speak to the Board. The Library has received a \$100,000 grant for a bookmobile. The request being made is for the County to pay for the salary to staff the bookmobile. This would include one-half of staff salary and benefits for seven months or less for the first year. In the following years, the County would need to fully fund one full time staff person at \$37,816 in addition to maintenance, gas, and insurance for the bookmobile at an approximate cost of \$40,000 per year. Ms. Blackburn told the Board that the Library could pay the first year employee expense from Marsh funding that they received. Ms. Moore stated that two part time positions would cost approximately \$30,000 per year. If the bookmobile does not prove to be feasible, the Library could sell the bookmobile since there is not a penalty in the grant to keep it for any length of time.*

### Law Enforcement

*Sheriff Phil Howell addressed the Board regarding the Sheriff's Office budget. Replacement of three vehicles was recommended by the county manager, but a request*

is being made to replace a fourth vehicle under the Capital Outlay Vehicles line item. Sheriff Howell explained that several of their vehicles are nine years old. The Board was in agreement to add a fourth replacement vehicle to the proposed budget at a cost of \$32,000.

Next, Sheriff Howell explained his request to create a new administrative coordinator position that will serve as an agency training coordinator, an evidence technician, along with public information officer and supervisor to all office staff. The Board was in agreement to leave this position in the proposed budget.

The Board was in agreement to change the pay reclassification of School Resource Officer David Gambill to School Resource Officer Sergeant at Grade 65 Step 1.

## Corrections

Sheriff Phil Howell explained the need for new positions in the Corrections Department and the request that State jail inspectors made for the Sheriff's Office to add more supervision in this department. The budget request is to move a booking officer to a lieutenant position at an increase of \$2,910. By this move, Corrections will have two lieutenants on duty each day of the week. One detention officer position will be moved to a sergeant position. The Board was in agreement with the requested changes in positions in the Corrections Department.

## Communications

No changes were made.

## Veterans Service

No changes were made.

## Fund Transfers

No changes were made.

## Debt Service

No changes were made.

## Cultural Arts

The Ashe County Arts Council will receive an appropriation of \$35,000 in the proposed budget, Ashe County Civic Center will receive \$90,000, the 1904 Courthouse Preservation Organization will receive \$90,000, and the line item for Professional Services-Other will be decreased to \$14,000.

## Social Services

DSS Director Tracie Downer summarized highlights of her departmental budget requests. No changes were made.

## Education

*Board of Education Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron explained the request for \$97,942 to add an assistant principal position at Ashe County High School. When asked if the Board of Education could use their fund balance to pay for the position, the answer was they will spend \$350,000 each year from their fund balance using up the balance within nine to ten years. If the request is granted, it will allow for a full time athletic director and two full time assistant principals at Ashe County High School. The Board was in agreement to appropriate 50% of the salary for the position from the County Fund Balance and for the Board of Education to fund 50% to pay for the salary of the assistant principal position.*

### **Wilkes Community College**

*No changes were made.*

### **Human Services**

*Commissioner Rhodes suggested to increase the line item for BROCC Regular to \$1000 and the line item for BROCC We Care to \$4000. The Board was in agreement.*

### **E911 Special Revenue Fund**

*No changes were made.*

### **Parks & Recreation Department**

*No changes were made.*

## **II. Recess**

*The meeting was recessed at 3:30 p.m.*

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**Todd McNeill, Chairman**

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