

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Monday, June 1, 2020**

**10:00 AM**

**Budget Work Session**

**Agricultural Services Building Conference Room**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill  
Vice Chair Larry Rhodes  
Commissioner William Sands  
Commissioner Paula Perry  
Commissioner Larry Dix*

**BUDGET WORK SESSION****I. 10:25 AM - Meeting Called to Order**

*Chairman McNeill called the Budget Work Session to order at 10:25 a.m. at the Ashe County Agricultural Services Building Conference Room. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and Governor Cooper's Executive Order No.121 issued on March 27, 2020 limiting mass gatherings to no more than 10 people at a time, the public was not allowed to attend the meeting in person. The public had the opportunity to listen to the meeting via teleconference.*

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

**II. Pledge of Allegiance/Opening Prayer**

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

**III. Opening Comments**

*Chairman McNeill opened the floor for commissioner comments. Board members spoke regarding the uncertainty of how the coronavirus will affect revenues and expenses for the County during the upcoming budget year and expressed the need to remain conservative.*

**Governing Body**

*No changes were made.*

**Administration**

*No changes were made.*

**Finance**

*No changes were made.*

**Law Enforcement**

*Sheriff Phil Howell presented a budget request to replace four vehicles along with equipment to outfit the vehicles in this year's budget. Executive Assistant Jessica Vogler and Chief Deputy Danny Houck were also present to answer questions from the Board. Sheriff Howell told the Board that he wanted to add four patrol staff due to the increase in calls. The request was not included due to COVID-19 implications on the budget. Detailed information was provided on reasons for the request for vehicles which was included in the handout provided to Board members and staff. Sheriff Howell explained concerns he has for the age of their vehicles and the high mileage on many of the patrol cars which is resulting in expenses for repairs and unreliable vehicles. Jessica Vogler told the Board that the cost for one vehicle is \$44,080 and includes equipment, tax, and tag.*

*Chief Deputy Danny Houck told the Board that Judge Duncan requested an extra bailiff assigned to court due to requirements surrounding COVID-19. This will result in the need*

*to add \$6000 to the part-time salary line item. Since the expense is related to COVID-19, the County will be reimbursed by FEMA. No changes were made to the budget at this time.*

**Corrections**

*Jessica Vogler with the Sheriff's Office explained to the Board that they were notified by food vendors that prices will be increasing this year.*

**Communications**

*No changes were made.*

**Legal**

*No changes were made.*

**Courts**

*No changes were made.*

**Elections**

*The Board agreed to reduce the line item for Postage Expense to \$5000. No further changes were made.*

**Register of Deeds**

*No changes were made.*

**Information Technology Services**

*No changes were made.*

**Public Buildings**

*No changes were made.*

**Emergency Management**

*No changes were made.*

**Fire**

*No changes were made.*

**Building Inspections**

*No changes were made.*

**Medical Examiner**

*No changes were made.*

**Ambulance & Rescue**

*The Board discussed the need for an additional truck for Ashe Medics and the need to have an ambulance in the County at all times. No changes were made to the budget.*

**Animal Control**

*No changes were made.*

**E911 Coordinator**

*No changes were made.*

**Airport**

*The Board discussed removing \$28,200 from the Maintenance & Repair-Buildings & Grounds line item for hangar doors and well pump installation on a hangar. No changes were made to the Airport budget at this time.*

**Planning**

*No changes were made.*

**Economic Development**

*No changes were made.*

**Cooperative Extension**

*No changes were made.*

**Soil Conservation**

*No changes were made.*

**Health**

*No changes were made.*

**Human Services**

*No changes were made at this time. Representatives from Ashe Services for Aging will make a request at the budget work session scheduled on Tuesday.*

**Veterans Service Office**

*No changes were made.*

## **Public Library**

*County Manager Stumb told the Board that both Watauga County and Wilkes County have decided to delay the third year pay increase for Library staff due to revenue and expense uncertainties resulting from the coronavirus. After discussion by the Board, the decision was made to not fund pay increases for Library staff this year and to remove \$43,430 from the Appalachian Regional Library line item.*

## **Cultural Arts**

*No changes were made.*

## **Parks & Recreation**

*County Manager Adam Stumb recommended keeping \$41,000 in the Capital Outlay/Other Improvements line item for the Parks & Recreation Master Plan. No action will be taken on this item until spring 2021 and the funds can be removed from the Parks & Recreation budget at that time if it becomes necessary.*

## **Debt Service**

*No changes were made.*

## **Fund Transfers**

*No changes were made.*

## **Environmental Services (Collections)**

*No changes were made.*

## **Environmental Services (Disposal)**

*No changes were made.*

## **E911 Special Revenue Fund**

*No changes were made.*

## **IV. Recess**

*The meeting was recessed at 2:40 p.m.*

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