

Ashe County

*150 Government Circle
Jefferson, NC 28640*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Thursday, June 10, 2021

9:00 AM

Budget Work Session

Agricultural Services Building Conference Room

County Commission

*Chairperson Todd McNeill
Vice Chair William Sands
Commissioner Chuck Olive
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

BUSINESS SESSION**I. 9:00 AM - Meeting Called to Order at the Agricultural Services Building Conference Room**

Chairman McNeill called the Budget Work Session to order at 9:02 a.m. at the Ashe County Agricultural Services Building Conference Room. Commissioner Jordan left the meeting at approximately 11:15 a.m.

Present: 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

Governing Body

No changes were made.

Administration

Finance Officer Sandra Long told the Board that a 3% COLA increase was included in the salaries for all employees.

County Manager Adam Stumb left the room. The Board decided to increase County Manager Stumb's annual salary by \$5,000 for the completion of a master's degree in May 2021, per the stated agreement between the Board and Mr. Stumb at the time of his appointment as County Manager. He will also receive the 3% COLA as stated in his contract.

Clerk to the Board Ashley Honeycutt left the room. The Board decided to reclassify Ms. Honeycutt to Grade 66 Administrative Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board once she completes the UNC School of Government's Clerks Certification Class.

Finance

No changes were made. The Board requested that Brenda Miles be moved from the Administration Department to Finance in the FY 22-23 Budget.

Tax

No changes were made.

Legal

No changes were made.

Courts

No changes were made.

Board of Elections

No changes were made.

Register of Deeds

No changes were made. The Board committed to funding training for two to three months

for up to three new employees upon the retirement of any additional employees.

IT

No changes were made.

Public Buildings

No changes were made. The cost of the mowing contract for FY 21-22 had not been confirmed and may be adjusted before final budget approval.

Law Enforcement

The Board added one grade increase to all sworn law enforcement employees except for the Sheriff and Chief Deputy. This grade increase will be in addition to the 3% COLA for all County employees.

Corrections

No changes were made.

Emergency Management

Patty Gambill was reclassified to Grade 71 to make her grade more comparable with other department heads. Vice Chairman Sands also noted her heightened workload due to the COVID-19 pandemic and her extensive knowledge.

Fire

No changes were made.

Building Inspection

No changes were made. County Manager Adam Stumb noted that the new fee schedule approved by the Board during the regular session meeting on June 7, 2021, will take effect on July 1, 2021.

Medical Examiner

No changes were made.

Ambulance & Rescue

No changes were made.

Animal Control

Human Resources Director Angie Eggers noted that Joe Testerman is due for a longevity increase that was missed in the proposed budget and that would be corrected in the final budget.

E911 Coordinator

No changes were made.

Communications

No changes were made.

Airport

No changes were made.

Planning Department

No changes were made.

Economic Development

The Board decided to reduce Computer Support by \$4,000, which will be applied to Human Services to benefit the Ashe County Farmers Market.

Chairman McNeill requested close oversight of the social media management to ensure effectiveness.

The Board removed \$7,000 from Advertising & Marketing to be placed in the contingency fund for promotion of the Industrial Park after the Park's development is complete.

Cooperative Extension Service

No changes were made.

Soil Conservation

No changes were made.

Health

No changes were made.

Social Services

No changes were made.

Human Services

The \$4,000 reduction from the Economic Development departmental budget was added to Human Services for support of the Ashe County Farmers Market.

Veterans Service Office

No changes were made.

Education

No changes were made.

Public Library

The Board agreed to provide an additional \$6,165 to cover the state increase in employee benefits.

Cultural Arts

The Board requested that the Ashe County Arts Council's allocation be combined with the allocation for the Civic Center. The combined FY 21-22 allocation for the aforementioned will be \$150,000 from occupancy tax revenues. Chairman McNeill noted that as a result, the Arts Council's and Civic Center's County allocations would be completely funded by occupancy tax and tourism, and that the reorganization would save \$35,000 from the General Fund.

The Board budgeted \$108,666 from occupancy tax revenues for the 1904 Courthouse Preservation Organization.

Parks & Recreation Department

No changes were made.

Debt Service

No changes were made.

Fund Transfers

No changes were made.

Environmental Services (Collections)

No changes were made.

Environmental Services (Disposal)

The Board added \$50,000 to Capital Outlay/Equipment to replace the motor in the 826H Compactor.

E911 Special Revenue Fund

No changes were made.

Discussion

The Board shared much discussion on the proposed tax rate. The proposed 6.7 cent increase was agreed upon by the Board, due to the following factors: the new middle school project, for which financing requires 4 additional cents of tax; increases in State retirement rates over the last two years, contributing an additional 0.6 cents; and other costs attributed to the 3% COLA, grade raise for Law Enforcement employees, increasing fuel prices, and significant increases in foster care, resulting in a combined 2 cents. The proposed total tax rate is 51 cents.

II. Adjournment

Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:43 p.m. Commissioner Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Approved

For: 4 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands and Commissioner Powers

Excused: 1 - Commissioner Jordan

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Todd McNeill, Chairman

Ashley G. Honeycutt
Clerk to the Board