

## MINUTES

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF HENDERSON**

**BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MONDAY, JUNE 13, 2011**

The Henderson County Board of Commissioners met for a special called meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners' Meeting Room of the Historic Courthouse on Main Street, Hendersonville.

Those present were: Chairman Mike Edney, Vice-Chairman Tommy Thompson, Commissioner Bill O'Connor, Commissioner Larry Young, Commissioner Charlie Messer, County Manager Steve Wyatt, Attorney Russ Burrell and Clerk to the Board Teresa Wilson.

Also present were: Public Information Officer Christy DeStefano, Finance Director J. Carey McLelland, Planning Director Anthony Starr, Sheriff Rick Davis, Fire Marshal Rocky Hyder, Engineer Marcus Jones, Research/Budget Analyst Amy Brantley, Soil & Water Conservation District Director Jonathan Wallin, Library Director Bill Snyder, IT Director Becky Snyder, Code Enforcement Director Toby Linville, Public Health Director Tom Bridges, Chief Deputy Greg Cochran, Environmental Health Supervisor Seth Swift, Social Services Director Liston Smith, Assessor/Tax Collector Stan Duncan, Assistant Engineer Natalie Berry, Construction Manager David Berry, Erosion Control Technician Timothy Fox, Building Services Director Tom Staufer, and HR Director Jan Prichard.

### CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME

Chairman Edney called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance. He stated the purpose of the meeting is a workshop to review budget proposals.

### INVOCATION

Vice-Chairman Thompson gave the invocation.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag was led by Commissioner Young.

Liston Smith, Social Services Director provided brief comments on behalf of the Social Services Board. Their budget has been cut by 7.5% (\$591,000) by the county, and \$642,000 from the state. During their decision process it had been determined that the services of children and elderly persons or adults would be protected. The questions they asked themselves were:

- Is the service mandated? If so, was it health and safety?
- Is DSS the only provider by law or statute?
- Can it be outsourced?
- Are we competing with other providers in the community with the service?

DSS has privatized the group home, outsourced in-home aid services, consolidated their computer program with the county, realigned staff, and reduced around 18 staff to achieve the \$1.2 million. He is concerned with the aging in the community and recognizing the acceleration in their needs. The Board will be looking at the Healthy Aging Coalition and Council on Aging for the upcoming budget.

DSS Board Chair Lee Luebbe stated they had worked very hard to reach the 7.5% reduction. In more than one case this budget reflects shifting dollars to the private sector. In closing the youth home, 10 employees have lost their jobs. The main concern was the youth being placed into other facilities, but the DDS Board feels the youth will be equally served in the Black Mountain home of high quality. In caring

APPROVED: July 20, 2011

for the elderly, providing service in their homes is less costly than care in assisted living. Statistically it is 38% less expensive than the average institutionalized care, which translates into \$8,545.00 fewer dollars annually for one person. Rather than having the county be in competition with non-profits who provide the in-home care, this budget directs their dollars to the non-profits through contracts. There are 78 persons on a waiting list that cannot be served due to lack of funding. Ms. Luebbe asked the Commissioners to give whatever they could to keep the people at home. The need is \$150,000 to keep all 78 people at home. Any amount would help.

Chairman Edney referred to the Dues and Non-profit Contribution List. He feels Pisgah Legal Service does provide some benefit to our community but did not feel \$16,745 of benefit was offered.

*It was the consensus of the Board that funding of Pisgah Legal Services in the amount of \$16,745 be withdrawn from the budget.*

### **BOARD OF COMMISSIONER CHANGES TO PROPOSED BUDGET**

County Manager Steve Wyatt provided the following information:

#### **ADDITIONS**

Library – Reinstatement two part-time positions	+ \$ 61,072
Bus System – Maintain current hours and fare rates	+ \$ 17,376
EMS - Reinstatement three paramedic positions	+ \$ 139,169
Sheriff - Reinstatement three positions: Bailiff, Tele-communicator, Detective	+ \$ 166,044
Sheriff – Reinstatement Inmate Work Crew	+ \$ 9,900
Forestry Service – Add funding for vehicle and partial operations	+ \$ 14,586
Emergency Management – Reinstatement Equipment Maintenance funding for three repeater sites	+ \$ 17,100
<b>TOTAL ADDITIONS TO PROPOSED BUDGET</b>	<b>+ \$ 425,247</b>

#### **OFFSETTING REDUCTIONS**

Library – Reduction in adult publications	- \$ 30,536
Sheriff – Vehicle reduction	- \$ 83,785
Water Quality – Position reduced to half time	- \$ 28,607
Planning – Reduction of one FTE	- \$ 34,279
Property Addressing - Reduction of one FTE	- \$ 59,176
Revenue increase from Solid Waste for Inmate Work Crew	- \$ 9,900
Revenue increase for EMS from fees and debt setoff	- \$ 140,000
Revenue increase from ICE for Detective position	- \$ 64,315
<b>TOTAL OFFSETTING REDUCTIONS TO PROPOSED BUDGET</b>	<b>- \$ 450,598</b>

County Manager Steve Wyatt provided the following information received from the School Board. The following is a list of positions funded in the Local Current Expense Fund:

- 67 regular classroom teachers
- 2 special needs teachers
- 3.20 limited English teachers
- 7 media specialists (librarians)
- 15 guidance counselors
- 3 school-based psychologists
- 1 automotive tech teacher at Balfour
- 30 maintenance employees
- 27.87 teacher assistants/school-based instructional support
- 10 technology personnel
- 3.7 office support/clerical personnel
- 2.38 CSTOP positions
- 5.45 administrative positions
- 5 career/college advisor positions in the middle schools and at Balfour

Total of 182.6 positions

#### FEE SCHEDULE IMPACT

Total Estimated Financial Impact with proposed reductions + \$200,000

*Chairman Edney made the motion to adopt the revised fee schedule. The vote passed 4-1 with Commissioner Messer voting nay.*

Commissioner Messer did not feel that the Fee Schedule should be reduced during these economic conditions.

#### OFFSETTING REDUCTIONS

Building Services	- \$100,000
Recreation	- \$ 40,000
Environmental Health	- \$ 25,000
Code Enforcement	- \$ 35,000
Total Offsetting Reductions to proposed budget	- \$200,000

County Manager Steve Wyatt noted that the fee scheduled can be adjusted at any meeting. He also noted with the offsetting reductions, there was no promise of no loss of personnel.

Commissioner Young did not want to do away with the inspection fees for tattoo parlors and swimming pools.

*It was the consensus of the Board that the County manager works out the numbers for fee reductions.*

#### Public Schools Budget

County Manager Steve Wyatt stated the concepts that have been raised are:

- 2% increase for certain school classroom personnel
- No reduction from 215 days of employment for teacher assistants
- Increase for maintenance to \$2 (earmarked)

Chairman Edney provided his perception of the guidelines for the schools budget.

- Local supplements remain in place
- Increase of 2% for teachers, teacher assistants, librarians, people hands-on with the kids
- Funding for bus drivers and cafeteria personnel remain at the current level
- Teacher assistants receive funding for 215 days of employment
- Decrease \$2 million for maintenance to \$1 million
- Stay within the 7.5% reduction
- Promote more for the kids – middle school baseball is missing (add \$100,000 above the 7.5% reduction with the condition that a middle school baseball program be added)

Steve Wyatt stated with the proposed guidelines, the school budget is \$18,561,999 for current operating and adding \$1 million for capital is \$19,561,999.

**CLOSED SESSION**

*Commissioner O'Connor made the motion for the Board to go into closed session as allowed pursuant to NCGS 143-318.11 for the following reasons:*

1. 143-318.11 (3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body.

*All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

*Commissioner O'Connor made the motion that the Board go out of closed session and reconvene into open session. All voted in favor and the motion carried.*

Chairman Edney called the meeting back to order and noted that during closed session, the Board discussed the Management Agreement between the UNC Health Care, Pardee Hospital, and the Board of Commissioner in detail. No action will be taken but things are moving forward in a positive manner.

**Budget**

The Board was not ready to make a decision and the budget item was rolled until the June 15, regular meeting.

**ADJOURN**

*Chairman Edney adjourned the meeting at 9:05 p.m.*

Attest:

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Teresa L. Wilson, Clerk to the Board

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J. Michael Edney, Chairman