



## REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

ITEM NO. 15

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 6, 2016

**REQUESTED BY:** Randell Woodruff, County Manager

**SHORT TITLE:** Approval and Adoption of the FY 16-17 Budget Ordinance for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2016.

**BACKGROUND:** The budget preparation process began in January with budget instructions being sent to Department Heads, Outside Agencies and Fire Departments. A proposed budget was submitted to the BOCC on May 2, 2016. Budget work sessions were held on April 14, May 9, May 19, May 23, and May 31 (continued recessed meeting from May 23). The required public hearing was held at the beginning of this meeting. The proposed budget ordinance provides for a FY 16-17 property tax rate based on \$6,705,082,386.

**NOTE:** The FY 16/17 budget preparation process has been very positive and participatory. With the regional economy continuing to strengthen and move forward, Pender County is showing signs of sustained economic recovery with increasing revenue levels and significant growth in the County ad valorem tax base. This growth will potentially lead to a recovery with new investments made and jobs being created to energize the economy. Currently there are several economic development projects with exciting potential for job creation and tax base growth in the County. It is essential the County continue to move forward strengthening its financial position by both conservatively projecting revenues and managing its expenditures likewise. Following this path will allow the County a certain degree of flexibility in its budgetary decisions moving forward over the next two through four years while strictly adhering to its budget. However, it will be essential for the upcoming fiscal year that the County move forward on a path of conservative fiscal management so as to strengthen its financial position growing the fund balance. With the County's close proximity to the ports, ILM Airport, the Wilmington metropolitan area, I-40, US17, and US421, the outlook for the County during the next few years continues to be one of optimism, and transition to more urban growth.

The FY 16/17 Budget includes a 1.5% Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA). The COLA will be instituted July 1, 2016 with a pay date of July 7, 2015

The Pender County BOCC continues to strive toward success with its four core strategic priorities: A High Performing Organization; A Sustainable and Vibrant Economy; Excellence in Education; and a Diverse County with an Exceptional Quality of Life.

**SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:** To consider approval and adoption of the FY 16/17 Budget Ordinance as presented (or as amended at this meeting).