

**THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2011**

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in joint budget session with Pender County EMS and Pender County Fire Departments on Thursday, March 10, 2011 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425.

Commissioners Present: Chairman George Brown; Vice Chairman Jimmy Tate; and Commissioners F.D. Rivenbark and Chester Ward. Staff present: County Manager Rick Benton; Finance Office David McCole; Fire Marshal Charles Newman and Deputy Fire Marshal Tommy Batson.

Chairman Brown opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow for Pender EMS and the volunteer fire departments to present their FY 11-12 budget proposals to the Board of Commissioners.

Chairman Brown recognized Pender EMS to begin the presentations. The presentations were as follows:

Pender EMS: Woody Sullivan and David Stancil: requesting a 6.5 cents tax rate; the new station in Burgaw will be ready in August; and have 134 total employees and 8 stations.

Penderlea-Duplin FD: Bo Fussell: requesting a 4.9 cents tax rate; the Town of Wallace provides the service; and have one paid administrator.

Atkinson FD: Cary Rivenbark, Jason Turner and Mayor Jack Turner: holding their request until the revaluation process is more complete; may be close to revenue neutral; and have 21 volunteers.

NE Pender FD: Demetrius Batts and Mike Cross: requesting a 7 cents tax rate; have 30 volunteers; made 174 calls last year; and have 4 PT employees.

Maple Hill FD: Ken Jones and Chuck Watson: requesting to stay at a 7 cents tax rate, as well as the \$70,000 minimum threshold the County provides; and have 25 volunteers.

Sloop Point FD: Scott Sills, David Stancil and Ryan Johnston: requesting a 6 cents tax rate; are staffed full time with 2 employees and desire to add another person; had 700 calls last year; and offer a variety of emergency services.

Central Pender FD: Bill George: requesting a 5.4-5.7 cents tax rate; had 492 calls last year; the towns of Burgaw and St. Helena were served by the department; have 1 paid full time person and several temps; and \$60 million in tax value in the district is exempt from the tax.

Hampstead FD: Lynn Lanier and Bob Reid: requesting a 5 cents tax rate for Hampstead and Scotts Hill; wants to add one more person; had 688 calls last year; have 46 volunteers; and once the substation in Scotts Hill is operating, the next step is for the two districts to merge.

Al Freimark, an audience member, stated he would like to see district taxes applied differently to land versus buildings, since the County documents it in this manner. There was some discussion about the merits, practicality and legality of this idea.

Penderlea FD: Greg McNeil and Ivey Grey; requesting a 7 cents tax rate; have a substation in Watha; have 33 volunteers; responded to 167 calls last year; and they questioned the number of responses stated by Penderlea-Duplin, as it conflicted with the call reports.

Shiloh FD: William Rossell and Fred Simpson: requesting an 8 cents tax rate; responded to 175 calls last year; and have 23 volunteers.

Long Creek-Grady FD: Eddie Thomas and Jimmy Peays: requesting a 7 cents tax rate; have 34 volunteers; responded to 307 calls last year; and are planning for a substation along the US 421/Blueberry Road area in the near future.

Rocky Point FD: Josh Moss and Shannon Bennett; requesting a 7 cents tax rate; have 2 paid full-time employees; desire to add an additional part-time position; have 43 volunteers; responded to 440 calls last year; are planning for a substation on Shaw Highway in the near future.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board