

BUDGET WORK SESSION
MAY 16, 2011

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in a Budget Work Session on Monday, May 16, 2011 at the Pender County Public Assembly Room, 805 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina.

Chairman Brown called the Work Session to order at 1:10 p.m. In attendance were all Board members, with the exception of Mr. Tate who could not attend because of job obligations; and County Manager Rick Benton, Deputy Clerk Glenda Pridgen, other staff and members of the public and Press. Mr. Rivenbark made a motion to excuse Mr. Tate, Mr. Williams seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a 4-0 vote.

The following topics were discussed:

Review of Fire District/EMS Tax Rate Proposals

Emergency Management Director Tom Collins presented a summary of fire department and Pender EMS, explained each request and answered questions by Board members. Fire Department members and EMS representatives were also present to answer questions. The topics discussed and questions asked included: requested tax rates/revenue neutral tax rates; majority of departments needing increase because of increase in normal costs of operation, such as huge increase in fuel, insurance liability going up and most items they buy are made out of petroleum; Maple Hill revenue still under \$100,000; paid firemen vs. volunteers; all departments held public meetings with citizens; meetings with citizens one-on-one versus sending out cards/letters; fundraisers now having to be cut back because of stricter regulations; natural disasters; fire tax implementation; which district new water treatment plant falls under; grants, future finances, etc.; Fire Marshal liaison between fire departments/Fire Commission and Board of Commissioners; and mutual aid system and automated dispatch. Mr. Benton noted the Budget Ordinance that will be adopted on June 20th will need to have the fire and EMS rates, the same as it will have the County rates.

Review of Public Enterprises Budget Proposals

Utilities Director Michael Mack delivered a presentation entitled "FY 2011-2012 Budget-Enterprise Funds-Pender County Utilities & Pender Solid Waste." Mr. Mack explained each category and answered questions by Board members. The presentation included: Enterprise Revenues-There are only two ways to achieve and maintain self-sufficiency-Rates and Fees; Rate and Fee Analysis; Rate and Fee Analysis Results; Fund Changes from FY 10-11 Budget (Rocky Point/Topsail Water, Rocky Point/Topsail Sewer, Maple Hill WSD-Water, Maple Hill WSD-Sewer, Scotts Hill WSD-Water, Surface Water Treatment Facility, and Solid Waste); Water and Sewer Capacity Fees; Personnel Needs; and Capital Budget & CIP Funding – Water & Sewer. Some discussion included Coty's usage of sewer and Coty's closing; sewer capacity in Rocky Point; Surf City Water; the possibility of relocating the Hampstead Convenience Center to the former Annex site; and the possibility of relocating the Transfer Station to a more central location in Rocky Point.

Review of Board of Health Budget Proposal

Interim Health Director Amber Parker distributed a report for FY 11-12 which included all the divisions and programs. The report specifically highlighted: Animal Control being recommended to be transferred to the Sheriff's Department; programs that are essential; the Mobile Dental Clinic; number of FTE in Budget; number of FTE in essential budget; number of contracted employees in budget; number of contracted employees in essential budget; and total budget, recommended budget and essential services

budget. Specific items discussed and questions asked included: the Dentist and assistants; reducing contracted services helped to see decrease; and using mid-level services-FNP's and nurses-versus high cost doctors.

Review of DSS Budget Proposal

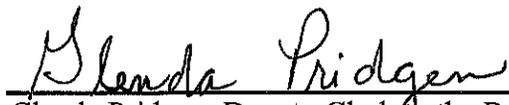
Social Services Director Dr. Reta Shiver presented a list of mandates by State and Federal Governments and explained some of them item-by-item. Items she explained included: Elimination of State Aid to Counties was imposed upon all 100 counties; CPS-SSBG Expansion-Reduction in Child Protective Services; and reduction in TANF Transfer to SSBG-temporary assistance for needy families. Mr. Brown asked if these are really State mandates and Dr. Shiver responded affirmatively. She said some of them are federal and said state and federal with mandates, you have to administer the program.

Review of General Fund Budget

Mr. Benton noted there had been some changes since the last workshop, including increased property insurance premium, additional funding from FY 10-11 Fund Balance Appropriation, and changes to the public schools spread sheet reflecting this. Other highlights and questions included: consideration of funding accrued employee comp time; Environmental health modular rehabilitation; and new General Fund funding requirements.

The Budget Work Session recessed at 3:30 p.m. The next one is scheduled for June 6th at 1:00, before the Board's regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Rick Benton, Clerk to the Board