

MONDAY, APRIL 16, 2012

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in joint budget session on Monday, April 16, 2012 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425 with the following Fire Departments Town of Atkinson, Surf City, Maple Hill, Sloop Point, and Town of Burgaw.

Commissioners Present: Chairman George Brown; Vice Chairman Jimmy Tate; and Commissioners F.D. Rivenbark, Chester Ward and David Williams.

Others present: Mickey Duvall, County Manager and Clerk to the Board; Butch Watson, Finance Director; Tom Collins, Emergency Management Director; Charles Newman, Fire Marshal; Tommy Batson, Deputy Fire Marshal; Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board; other staff; members of the Fire Departments; and members of the press and public.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brown continued the Board of Commissioner's regular April 2, 2012 meeting at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Fire Departments to present their FY 12-13 budget proposals to the Board of Commissioners.

INVOCATION

Commissioner Williams offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner Rivenbark led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The fire departments reported as follows:

Town of Atkinson

Chief Cary Rivenbark and Assistant Chief Jason Turner were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: Fire Tax Revenues from the Town, Pender County and Bladen County; statistics on equipment, debt, annual fund raisers and public service; contract with the County; and unfunded and uncontrolled financial burdens. Mr. Collins added based on Atkinson's current \$.048 tax rate, the new contract coming into effect on July 1, 2012 would put them under the \$100,000 thresh hold. Atkinson is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.048 to \$.07. There was discussion on public input about raising the tax; Mr. Turner said he hadn't gotten any negative feedback. He added the public doesn't respond.

Surf City

Chief Demetrius Batts and Lieutenant Matt Curran were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: All volunteer; does not have a full twenty-four hour a day staff; what services they provide; statistics on members; statistics on revenues and expenditures; discussion of 1st responders and EMS and fire departments working together; and statistics on savings on homeowners insurance because of better ISO ratings. Surf City is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.047 to \$.07. Mr. Ward said Surf City has some major needs and he is very supportive of this increase. Mr. Ward asked Mr. Batts to get together with the Finance Director and get together a scale of savings for people to see.

Maple Hill

Assistant Chief Chuck Wooten and Brian Knowles were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: An explanation of each line item of their expenditures; all volunteer; even if their tax rate goes to \$.07, it still won't bring them to the \$100,000 threshold; they want to expand but they don't know what they can do because they are in a flood zone; they currently have twenty-two volunteer members; and they will hold their community meeting on May 1st. Maple Hill is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.047 to \$.11.

Sloop Point

Chief Scott Sills and Ryan Johnson were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: Explanation of each line item; comparison with surrounding counties; ISO rating-goal is to get it down to a 4; better rating by having someone at the station all the time; average personnel is five; there are four paid positions, three full-time rotating 24 hours a day; community involvement; need for substation-area doubled in population in last ten years; 4.29 seconds response time; and 10-year plan. Sloop Point is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.044 to \$.065.

Burgaw

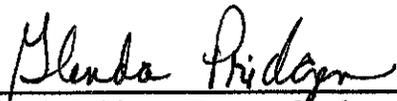
Chief Bill George was in attendance. Highlights of his presentation included: Assets from the Town of Burgaw; breakdown of calls volume per area in 2011; mutual aid trips to Maple Hill and Atkinson over fifteen minutes; need at least two substations on Highway 53-one towards Maple Hill and one towards Atkinson; Town of Burgaw pays all insurance, Workers Compensation, maintenance, and utilities; and statistics on 2011 Revenues for fire protection to State owned building, St. Helena, and Pender Central Fire District. Burgaw is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.054 to \$.07.

All Departments presented their FY 2012-13 Budget and their 5-year or 10-year Plan. Board members discussed and asked questions of each fire department.

ADJOURNMENT

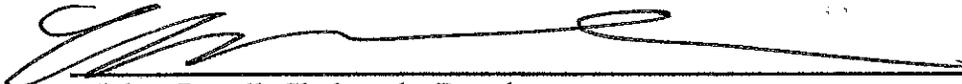
The meeting was dismissed at 4:00 p.m. and the Board went into its regular meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Mickey Duvall, Clerk to the Board