

## MONDAY, APRIL 17, 2012

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in joint budget session on Tuesday, April 17, 2012 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425 with the following Fire Departments Penderlea, Shiloh, Hampstead, Long Creek, Rocky Point, New Hanover County Fire & Rescue, and town of Wallace.

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 16, 2012 meeting at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the remaining Fire Departments to present their FY 12-13 budget proposals to the Board of Commissioners.

### **Penderlea**

Chief Greg McNeil and Dennis Mills were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: Discussion of equipment-trucks 33 and 37 years old; thirty-seven volunteers and no paid firefighters; 9 ISO rating; and explanation of some of the line items. Penderlea is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.051 to \$.07.

### **Shiloh**

Chief William Rossell was in attendance. Highlights of his presentation included: Needs an additional person-a part-time paid person; their oldest truck is a 1971; twenty-five members with one junior; meets every Monday night for three-hour training; and presented a budget with a proposed tax rate of \$.08 minimum and one with a proposed tax rate of \$.10. Shiloh is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.055 to \$.10.

### **Hampstead**

Chief Lynn Lanier and Treasurer Bob Reid were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: They currently receive operating income from the collected fire taxes of two fire tax districts -- Hampstead 100% and Scotts Hill 50%; one half of Scotts Hill's goes to New Hanover County; when they build a substation, all of Scotts Hill will go to Hampstead; bids are coming in for the substation; their ISO rating will come down once the first truck is in the new substation; discussion of possibility of Surf City Annexation; discussion of proposed 5-Year Plan; and discussion of rising costs of fuel and other expenditures. Mr. Ward was concerned if Scotts Hills residents are ok with raising their taxes to build a substation. Mr. Williams said all the feedback he had gotten was good. Mr. Ward asked about changing fire district lines and Mr. Lanier said moving main stations would not make things any better. Hampstead is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.039 to the old rate of \$.05. Mr. Williams said he is good with going back to \$.05.

### **Long Creek**

Chief Eddie Thomas, Jimmy Pea, and Ricky Odom were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: Objectives and purpose; history; fire prevention education; ISO rating of 6 results in savings on homeowners insurance; district benefits; short and long term goals; thirty-seven volunteers; need to hire three paid full-time firefighters to maintain ISO rating; defined request and return on investment; fundraisers, donations and matching grant; equipment; need two substations in future; and discussed buying trucks and interest rates. Long Creek is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.056 to \$.10. Mr. Brown and Mr. Williams indicated they support what Long Creek is requesting.

### **Rocky Point**

Chief Josh Joy was in attendance. Highlights of his presentation included: Two full-time paid positions and thirty-two volunteers; requesting another full-time person; ISO rating 6 and adding another paid position will maintain this rate; an extra 1.5¢ tax will help get an extra person and get the ball rolling on a substation; they own property on Shaw Highway for a substation, but there is not enough population there; and they are looking at putting a substation on Highway 133 near Paul's Place, where it is heavily populated. Rocky Point is requesting to raise their tax rate from \$.06 to \$.075. There ensued discussion concerning fire distribution centers, command centers and fire prevention centers for educating children.

### **New Hanover County Fire & Rescue**

Chief Matt Davis and Donnie Hall were in attendance. Highlights of their presentation included: They provide service to the Scotts Hill area from their Porters Neck station; the contract allows them to receive one-half of the taxes from that area; the contract is with Pender County; they only respond to structure fires; they provided fire, medical and emergency response in unincorporated areas of Northern New Hanover County and the Scotts Hill area in Pender County; they do not break out expenses for providing service in Scotts Hill; and they see no need to request additional funding. Mr. Collins pointed out that they need to agree with Hampstead's request because Scotts Hill is in Hampstead. New Hanover County Fire and Rescue is requesting to raise the Scotts Hill fire tax rate from \$.039 to \$.05.

### **Wallace**

Chief Chuck Farrior was in attendance. Highlights of his presentation included: They have mutual aid with Penderlea Fire Department in the northern part of Pender County; money from Pender goes to capital outlay projects; funding from Pender for FY 12-13 is projected to be \$12,440; their ISO rating is 5, which saves 40% in homeowners insurance; presented 5-year Capital Replacement Improvement Program; and they are not asking for a tax increase, which will keep them at \$.047.

Later, there was discussion of Penderlea's arrangement with the Town of Wallace. It was noted that Chief McNeil is not happy with the arrangement, the area wasn't feasible to build a substation, and the people in the area wanted the arrangement with Wallace because of the ISO rating. Mr. Brown said he wants to talk to the chief again before making a decision.

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 adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



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Mickey Duvall, Clerk to the Board