

MONDAY, APRIL 15, 2013

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in Budget Work Session with Fire Departments on Monday, April 15, 2013 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425.

Commissioners Present: Chairman George Brown; Vice Chairman Fred McCoy; and Commissioners Jimmy Tate, 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; Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board; and other members of Fire Departments besides the one listed below.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow the Fire Departments to present their FY 13-14 budget proposals to the Board of Commissioners.

Packets were distributed with information for each Fire Department. Dr. Duvall and Mr. Watson explained the first page in the packet which was a chart that gave FY 13-14/FY 12-13 information for all fire departments. The information consisted of: Fiscal Year Tax Values, Projected Total Tax Value; 1 cent/\$.100 Value, Proposed Rate, Proposed Estimated Tax Revenue, and Scotts Hill Substation Proposed Estimated Tax Revenue. Collection rate used for FY 13-14 is 96.0% and for FY 12-13 was 95.5%.

The fire departments reported as follows:

Town of Atkinson

Chief Cary Rivenbark and Assistant Chief Jason Turner were in attendance. The presentation and explanations included: Department Description and Personnel; Request for Fire Tax to Remain at \$.07; Debt Service; Unfunded and Uncontrolled Financial Burdens; Annual Fundraisers; Public Service; Annual Budget Revenues and Expenditures FY 11-12 and Requested FY 13-14; FY 13-14 Capital Budget Proposal; Breakdown by Major Incident Type; Detailed Breakdown by Incident Type; Average Response Time Per Station; Incidents by Day of the Week; and Incidents Per Hour. Mr. Williams said someone looking at the line item for barbeque supplies may question the amount and he would like it clarified for the record. Mr. Turner explained they use various utensils for barbecue fundraisers and said the funds that are raised far exceed the amount that is spent.

Surf City

Matt Curran, Pam Hulst, Will Tate and Paul Werkmeister were in attendance. The presentation and explanations included: Mission Statement; Department Description and Personnel; Five-Year Improvement Plan; Revenues & Expenditures for FY 11-12, FY 12-13, anticipated FY 13-14; and a Pie Chart with FY 11-12 Expenditures. A department representative told the Board that they may have to come back and ask for a \$.01 increase. There was discussion and questions concerning the \$.01 increase request. Mr. Williams asked if they didn't see this coming last year. He reminded them that Surf City received an increase last year and the Board was told there wouldn't be any need for an increase this year. He said it would have been better to all happen at once. Other Board members agreed with Mr. Williams. A department representative explained the increase is due to excessive increases in gas and fuel costs and other unanticipated costs. Mr. Watson was concerned about Surf City taking a ten year old fire truck and

using it for collateral for 20 more years. Mr. Watson said he is going to meet with Chief Batts this week to discuss this matter. Mr. Ward said he would like to join them.

Maple Hill

Assistant Chief Chuck Wooten and Brian Knowles were in attendance. The presentation and explanations included: Revenues and Expenditures for FY 11-12 and Proposed FY 13-14; explanation of line items; Maple Hill is all volunteer; update on vehicles; discussion of grants and Debt Service; and no major changes except \$30,000 set aside for new tanker.

Sloop Point

Chief Scott Sills was in attendance. The presentation included: Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual for FY 10-11, FY 11-12, FY 12-13, and FY 13-14; explanation of line items; Capital Budget Proposal Ten-Year Plan; explanation of services; four paid positions, three full-time rotating 24 hours a day; and community involvement.

Burgaw

Chief Bill George was in attendance. The presentation included: Annual Budget Estimate of Expenditures for FY 09-10, FY 11-12, FY 12-13, and FY 13-14; FY 13-14 Budget Proposal; types of equipment; FY 13-14 Capital Budget Proposal; and Budget Report by Account for FY 09-10, FY 10-11, FY 11-12, and FY 12-13. There was discussion of the need for a substation for Burgaw. Discussion then ensued concerning the number of substations over the county, types of loans, grants, and financing with United Financial versus banks.

Hampstead

Mark Covil, Theron Taylor and Jerry McCaskill were in attendance. The presentation included Proposed vs. Actual Operations Budget for Hampstead and Scotts Hill for FY 11-12, FY 12-13, and FY 13-14; explanation of each line item; budgeted income; and budgeted expenses. In response to questions concerning the medical testing line item, Mr. Covil said they do random drug tests. Discussion then ensued concerning drug testing. Mr. Matt Davis of the New Hanover County Fire Department noted his department does not perform drug tests.

Penderlea

Chief Greg McNeil and Dennis Mills were in attendance. The presentation included: Anticipated expenditures for 2013 through 2017; possibility of getting another substation at a cost of \$50,000; already have one substation in Watha; 36 firefighters - all volunteer; grant that was received; and one of the biggest expenses is \$10,000 increase in dry cleaning-the guy that was doing it for free went out of business. Mr. Tate said it is commendable that all their fire fighters are volunteer, and most of the time they have the truck ready in three minutes.

Long Creek

Chief Eddie Thomas and Jimmy Peay were in attendance. The presentation included: FY 13-14 Budget Proposal; this budget will pay one full-time administrator and two part time positions have three people Monday through Friday during the day time; the Five Year Budget shows they did get a 3,500 gallon tanker in 2012-13 and includes a five ton brush truck they are working on now.

Rocky Point

No one was in attendance from Rocky Point Fire Department.

Wallace

Chief Chuck Farrior was in attendance. The presentation included: Currently has a 35 person roster; ratings improved to Class 4 for commercial property owners; equipment; revenue sources; Five Year Capital Improvement Plan; and Five Year Capital Replacement/Improvement Program.

New Hanover

Chief Matt Davis was in attendance. The presentation included: Department Description, Personnel and Call Volume; FY 2014 Requested Budget; FY 2014 Position and Reclassification Requests; and FY 2014 Capital Items Requests.

Shiloh

Chief William Rossell was in attendance. The presentation included: FY 13-14 Budget Proposal; Five Year Capital Budget Proposal; Revenues and Expenditures for FY 11-12, FY 12-13, and Proposed FY 13-14; and explanation of line items.

Board members discussed and asked questions of each fire department following their presentation, some discussions of which have been aforementioned. With respect to the Fire Departments on the east side-Surf City, Sloop Point and Hampstead, Mr. Williams asked each if they had given any thought to all three stations consolidating/merging or any variation. The response was they would do what is best for the taxpayers/ community.

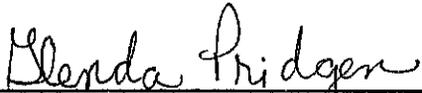
Board member expressed their appreciation to the Fire Departments for all they do for the County.

All presentations presented are on file with the permanent records in the Clerk to the Board's Office.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was recessed at 4:11 p.m. and the Board went into its regular meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Mickey Duvall, Clerk to the Board/Melinda Knoerzer, Deputy Clerk to the Board

