

BUDGET WORK SESSION
JUNE 3, 2013

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in Budget Work Session with County Departments on Monday, June 3, 2013 at the Pender County Public Assembly Room, 805 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina.

In attendance were: Chairman George Brown; Vice Chairman Fred McCoy; Commissioners Jimmy Tate and Chester Ward; County Manager/Clerk to the Board Mickey Duvall; Finance Officer Butch Watson; Deputy Clerk to the Board Glenda Pridgen; other staff and members of the Press and public.

Chairman Brown called the Work Session to order at 1:00 p.m. Dr. Duvall made opening remarks.

Each Department explained their various requests and needs for increases in Employees, Salary/Benefits, Operating and Capital. Dr. Duvall demonstrated and explained each line item for each department. The Board held discussion and asked questions after each department's presentation.

The following departments reported:

Tourism – Director Monique Baker. Discussion included: TDA Reserve Funding; Promotions; Longevity pay; Google account cut out; advertising in *Our State Magazine* and *Raleigh News and Observer*; room occupancy tax; need lodging in County; increase marketing; room occupancy tax on Topsail Island goes to beach renourishment; building hotel in Hampstead; social networking; Visitors Guide; and how we can better market historical sites.

Veteran's Affairs – Veterans Service Officer Roy Horne. Dr. Duvall said he recommended a position for Mr. Horne after Mr. Horne explained their increased work load. Mr. Horne explained he is asking the Board to increase his part-time person in Hampstead to full-time because the work load over there had increased tremendously. Other discussion included: Soldiers coming from different wars and different bases; injuries more traumatic; taking care of our Veterans; helping veterans get assistance; and injuries Veterans received. All members agreed to making the position full-time.

Utilities – Director Michael Mack. Discussion included: **Rocky Point/Topsail Water & Sewer District**-Overall 4% increase in budget; the need for a meter reader in the District; rate increase to customers; revenue projected to increase; number of customers growing; connection fees; impact fees; payment plan for connection fees; and creation of a formal financing policy for people who can't afford to pay the connection fee at one time. Discussion ensued concerning the meter reader position. Mr. Tate was concerned about hiring another meter reader at this time and having to purchase a vehicle for the person. In response to question, Mr. Mack said they are currently meeting the need in reading the meters, but he has to pull someone else from their job to help out. Mr. Brown said Mr. Mack did let the Board know last year that he may have to ask for an additional meter reader this year. Mr. Tate said he will support the Board but he wants the record to reflect that he thinks we should wait until next year to add another meter reader. After more discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to hold off hiring a meter reader at this time, and if the readings start falling behind, Mr. Mack can bring it back to a Board meeting. With respect to sewer, Mr. Mack said there is basically no difference from last year. Discussion ensued concerning hotels, apartments and sewer for other commercial projects. **Maple Hill Water & Sewer**-No change in water; sewer expenses down from last year. **Scotts Hill Water**-Very minor changes. **Water Treatment Plant**-Last year's numbers were estimates/increased this year by bond and principal interest payment. **Solid Waste**-Electronics are brutal because they are not recyclable/using money they get from scrap metal sales for

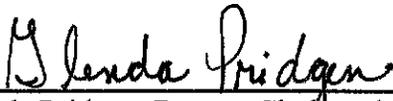
electronics/they have to pay people to take electronics away. Mr. Mack said they are asking for another person for the Transfer Station because the volume of disposal has increased and there are only two people there working six days a week. Mr. Mack also said he is asking for an increase of \$12 per year for people who use the convenience centers. There was discussion of scrap tire recycling. Mr. Tate remarked the Solid Waste Program is a good program and he will support the addition of another person to work at the Transfer Station. All members agreed on the new position and all agreed a \$12 per year increase in convenience center fees is not too much.

EMS – Director Woody Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan said he is requesting a .75¢ tax increase to fund another truck for the east side. He explained this is the first time he has asked for a truck since 2002 and getting this truck will relieve the Rocky Point truck from having to go to the east side. Mr. Sullivan gave statistics on use of the heavy rescue truck and the other trucks. Mr. Tate said he commends Mr. Sullivan. Mr. Sullivan never asked for anything before and said he respectfully asks the Board to support EMS. All Board members agreed to support the increase.

Emergency Management – Director Tom Collins. Dr. Duvall explained he took the contingency line item and put it into the General Fund Contingency, but he left enough in there for Mr. Collins to mobilize in case of a hurricane. Discussion included: Grants; collecting permit fees; vehicles; and the Communications Center. Mr. Collins said he is requesting an Administrative Assistant position which will be funded by an Emergency Management Performance Grant. There was discussion concerning grant writing and whether the person would be required to write grants. Discussion then ensued concerning the salary, which would be \$48,863. Human Resources Director Denise Mulhollen noted the normal starting salary for an Administrative I position is \$27,333 and a person coming in at \$48,863 would be over the top of the pay grade. Mr. Tate was concerned about an Administrative Assistant coming in at a salary higher than Fire Marshal Charles Newman and Assistant Fire Marshal Tommy Batson. Mr. Tate suggested taking the grant funds and training Mr. Newman and Mr. Batson; Mr. Collins said they won't have time. Other discussion included: The current salaries of the Mr. Newman and Mr. Batson; bringing the Administrative Assistant in at \$27,333 and splitting the difference between Mr. Newman and Mr. Batson; giving raises to some employees and not others; and having one grant writer for all County departments. Mr. Tate and Mr. Ward agreed they are tired of seeing new hires coming in making more than current employees. Mr. Brown suggested bringing the person in at the minimum starting salary and Mr. Collins to go back and look at reclassification of Mr. Newman and Mr. Batson.

The Budget Work Session recessed at 4:00 p.m. and the Board went into its regular meeting. The next Work Session is scheduled for June 17, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Mickey Duvall, Clerk to the Board