

BUDGET WORK SESSION
JUNE 17, 2013

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in Budget Work Session with County Departments on Monday, June 17, 2013 at the Pender County Public Assembly Room, 805 South Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina.

Chairman Brown called the Work Session to order at 2:00 p.m. In attendance were: Chairman George Brown; Vice Chairman Fred McCoy; Commissioners Jimmy Tate, Chester Ward and David Williams; 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.

Dr. Duvall noted since the numbers had changed, he asked the Schools to come back in before the budget is finalized, in case the Board has more concerns.

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

The following departments reported:

Board of Education – Superintendent Terri Cobb. Discussion included: They know there are going to be cuts, but don't know where; at this point-in-time, they can't even make a guess; there has been some discussion about loss of grants; they can't give good numbers until they see the approved state budget; issues they have are not so much local, they are more state and federal; they may have to come back and ask for changes; SRO's in the Schools; School Nurses; and grants running out for graduation coaches, school psychologists and school nurses.

Board of Elections – Director Dennis Boyles. Discussion included: Temporary wages; One-Stop voting; municipalities reimburse County for their elections; postage line item; New ID law passed; redistricting; precinct workers; runoff election; proposed law to do away with voting machines; and \$14,400 needed for One-Stop Worker.

Human Resources – Director Denise Mulhollen. Discussion included: Computers cut out since all computers now under IT; cut out cell phone; training for Director and Technician; and not much change overall.

Finance – Director Butch Watson. Discussion included: Budget basically flat; cut out computers; training and supplies line items; and increase in insurance.

Library – Director Mike Taylor. Discussion included: Budget basically the same; shifting around line items; contracted services; temporary and part-time wages; volunteers; York House renovations; York House personnel; and York House would be open two days a week. Mr. Tate was concerned that the York House would only be open two days a week. He said it is historical and can't be treated like a regular library. Mr. Williams said he didn't think we would start out opening it five days a week and he thought we would transition into it and see how it works out. There was discussion of possibly getting UNCW or NC State interns to help in the York House.

Housing – Director Judy Herring. Discussion included: **Fund 73-Housing Voucher Program:** Basically unchanged; is federally funded. **Fund 74-Country Court Apartments:** Basically unchanged except increase in rent; USDA absorbs rent increase; Management fee pays Housing Department; and rent goes to the project for repairs, etc. **Seven Oaks Apartments:** Family Self Sufficiency Program; unassisted living; escrow; earned income; 5-year time limit for tenants; tenants' Development Plan; and Consortium of owners.

Tax Collections – Tax Collector Barbara Murray. Discussion included: Basically flat except for insurance; contracted services; postage line item; computer line items; moving around other line items; and garnishments, releases and refunds.

Mr. Brown said we're not really sure where the Schools are going to be in the scheme of things. Discussion ensued concerning the Schools; it was suggested holding off until more is known, and then do a budget amendment if necessary.

County Manager, BOCC, County Attorney, Animal Shelter – County Manager Mickey Duvall. Discussion included: County Manager's budget cut; \$11,701 put in to make Mr. Watson Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer; dual role for Mr. Watson; 15% increase; and Ms. Mulhollen and Springsted had recommended 5% increase. Mr. Tate asked how did it get from 5% to 15% and Dr. Duvall responded that Human Resources had compared the dual role position with similar peer counties in the region and Mr. Watson would still be the lowest paid Assistant County Manager/Finance Officer in the region. Also, the Springsted recommended 5% did not take into consideration the dual role of Assistant County Manager together with Finance Officer responsibilities. Dr. Duvall indicated that the UNC School of Government salary study had been consulted and the salary was in line with other counties in this region of North Carolina of like size and responsibilities. Mr. Tate asked if they looked at years of experience, degrees, etc. Mr. Tate said when you deviate for one employee, you have to do it for another. Mr. Brown said he likes the idea of having an Assistant County Manager, he thinks it is a fair salary for the position and Mr. Watson has saved the County lots of money. Mr. Tate said he is not fine with the idea, but he will go along with the others. Mr. Tate said "you don't just pull numbers out of the air." There was discussion of evaluation of the County Manager and County Attorney.

The Budget Work Session recessed 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