

TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2014

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in Budget Work Session with Fire Departments on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 at the Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker St., Burgaw, NC 28425.

Commissioners Present: Chairman David Williams; Vice Chairman Fred McCoy; and Commissioners George Brown, Jimmy Tate, and Chester Ward.

Others present: Mickey Duvall, County Manager/Clerk to the Board; Butch Watson, Finance Director/Assistant County Manager; Charles Newman, Fire Marshal; Glenda Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board; and other Fire Department members.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Williams called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone present. The purpose of the meeting was to allow County Fire Departments to present their FY 14-15 budget proposals to the Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Duvall presented each Fire Department's budget proposal on a screen and explained each one's revenues, expenditures, tax rates, etc. Department Chiefs and other representatives distributed additional information and further explained their proposals.

The fire departments reported as follows:

Surf City

New Town Manager Laurence Bergman and Chief Joey Rivenbark were in attendance. Information presented included: Revenues and expenditures as of today's date; number of full-time and part-time employees; wish to remain at \$.07 tax rate; building renovations in and out; types and amounts of grants they received; future plans.

Mr. Williams commented it sounds like the Fire Departments are going the way the Board wants them to go.

Maple Hill

Assistant Chief Chuck Wooten was in attendance. Information presented included: Report only goes back to FY 13/14 on revenues; refinanced other truck when they bought the last one; this shortened loan by three years; this year is looking pretty good; \$30,000 went to tanker and work to the Building out of previous year grants, may get a generator in the future; not asking for anything to change; Maple Hill is all volunteer.

Burgaw

Town Manager Chad McEwen, Chief William George and Fire Administrator Allen Wilson were in attendance. Information presented included: Property insurance; their revenues divided three ways – Fire Department, Police Department and Town Hall; last year they paid off Town Hall; getting new truck; getting Pender Central ISO rates down from 9S to 8B; premiums going down; call volumes increased; St. Helena residents paying flat rate; asking for 2¢ tax increase; State and other grants; Capital Reserve account; substations; purchasing new truck; no fire taxes on State-owned property. Mr. Brown was concerned that it is not fair to other citizens in Pender Central that St. Helena residents only have pay a flat rate. Mr. McEwen is to get information to report how much more revenue would

be received if St. Helena residents have to pay the same as other residents in Pender Central Fire District.

Penderlea

Treasurer Dennis Mills was in attendance. Information presented included: Substation; ISO rating 9; 32 volunteers; not asking for anything additional; what he distributed are projections only; deed on property; their truck. Mr. Newman commented Penderlea's budget is presented in such a way that you can see where every dollar goes, what is taken in and every check number.

New Hanover (Scotts Hill)

Mr. Meyer was in attendance representing New Hanover County Fire Department for the Scotts Hill District of Pender County. Information presented included: There's going to be a lot of changes; Mr. Meyer wants to help the citizens in that area; submitted original budget request to the County Manager; the current budget is \$11.5 million; over half of the budget consists of salaries; they serve Scotts Hill primarily from Porters Neck and use Ogden as back-up; don't anticipate tax rate going up.

(It was noted that Mr. Wooten from Maple Hill called back to let the Board know that refinancing the truck at 2% shortened the loan by eight years instead of three.)

Shiloh

Fred Simpson from Shiloh was in attendance. Information presented included: Equipment purchases; an increase in volunteers – now have thirty; tanker/pumper trucks; State matching grants; replace air packs. When asked what the debt is for, the gentleman responded the property the building sits on.

Hampstead, Sloop Point, Long Creek

Chief Woody Sullivan was in attendance. Information presented included: Folks in the merger area are realizing savings from \$80 to \$200; the goal is to get a 4 ISO rating in Hampstead and a 6 in Long Creek; working with New Hanover County; engaged a consultant to help with merger; thirty-two new firemen hired; a 4th truck in Hampstead; Town of Surf City helps fund the 4th truck; finished hiring process in August; classes to begin at Cape Fear Community College; complete plans for 421 station in October; Scotts Hill and 421 Stations will be similar to each other; \$1.3 million truck we got for \$340,000; 129 full-time staff; doubling size of fleet.

Mr. Tate stated he would like for the Western Fire Departments to remain individually.

Town of Atkinson

Assistant Chief Jason Turner was in attendance. Information presented included: Same amount of equipment; they have two trucks; owe debt on one truck; everything else is paid for; expenditures pretty much the same; State grant; sales from fundraisers down; call volume down; Capital Budget Project; Air Packs.

Wallace

A gentleman was in attendance representing Wallace. The representative gave a presentation, which included no request for a rate increase.

Rocky Point

No one was in attendance from Rocky Point Fire Department. Mr. Brown mentioned that he especially wanted someone from Rocky Point here so they could discuss why they had not moved to the substation yet.

Board members discussed and asked questions of each fire department following their presentation, some discussions of which have been aforementioned.

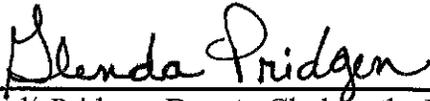
Board member expressed their appreciation to the Fire Departments for all they do for the County.

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

ADJOURNMENT

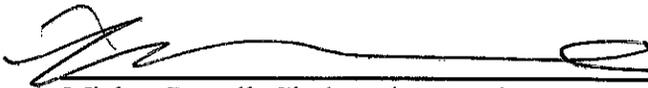
The meeting was recessed at 3:45 p.m. and the Board went into its regular meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Glendá Pridgen, Deputy Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Mickey Duvall, Clerk to the Board