

**BUDGET WORK SESSION
MAY 19, 2016**

The Pender County Board of Commissioners met in Budget Work Session with County Departments on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the Pender County Public Assembly Room, 805 S. Walker Street, Burgaw, North Carolina.

In attendance were: Chairman George Brown; Vice-Chairman Fred McCoy; Commissioners Demetrice Keith and David Piepmeyer; County Manager Randell Woodruff; Melissa Long, Clerk to the Board; Kathy Brafford, Finance Director; Chris King, Senior Accountant; and other staff.

Chairman Brown called the Work Session to order at 4:05 p.m.

Each Department Manager was available to answer questions that the Board may have. Mr. Woodruff had provided advance copies of the recommended Department Budgets.

The following Departments reported:

Pender Adult Services – At 4:13 p.m. the Board discussed the budget request for Pender Adult Services. Mr. Woodruff stated that there was \$130,000 recommended for Pender Adult Services. Programs and Transportation funds/services were discussed.

Soil & Water – At 4:18 p.m. the Board discussed the budget request for Soil & Water. Mr. Woodruff stated that \$82,836 was requested for this fiscal year which was less than they were appropriated last year. Mr. Woodruff recommended that amount in the Budget for Soil & Water.

Forestry – At 4:20 p.m. Hagen Blake from Forestry Service appeared before the Board to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the Forestry budget request. Mr. Woodruff stated that he is recommended \$210,000 in this year's budget as opposed to the \$230,000 budgeted last year and requested this year adding that only \$185,000 was spent last year. Mr. Blake stated that this program is on a reimbursement process and as long as there are no fires or emergencies, the Forestry Service will be able to manage though it may be tough. Discussion ensued as to how the \$20,000 reduction effects the program. Ms. King added that the total budgeted amount has not been used in the last several years.

Courts – At 4:26 p.m. Clerk of Court Robert Kilroy appeared before the Board to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the Clerk of Court Budget request. Mr. Kilroy stated that other than the issues with the courthouse security, he is okay with the recommended budget. Mr. Kilroy added that the upstairs courtroom will need a new coat of paint. Foundation as well as the mold and mildew issues were also discussed at length. Drainage, the basement, assessments on the issues with the building, and Courthouse Security were discussed further.

Emergency Management – At 4:48 p.m. Emergency Management Director Tom Collins appeared before the Board to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the Emergency Management Budget. Mr. Collins stated that this budget speaks for itself. Fire investigations and fatalities for this fiscal year were discussed. The need for warehouse space was then discussed. Mr. Collins noted that staff has considered and looked into the Shell Building, the BASF building, and Dell Labs and it has been recommended to convert the Shell Building if possible. Using the Shell building for Emergency Management, Pender EMS and Fire, the Sheriff's Department, and other state agencies was discussed and the benefits it would bring to the region. Contingency, volunteer programs, as well as river flooding were also discussed.

Fire Departments – At 5:13 p.m. Fire Marshal Tommy Batson appeared before the Board to answer any questions the Board might have regarding the Fire Department Budgets. Mr. Batson noted that there were no tax increases requested for this year. Mr. Batson further explained that the biggest issue is with available manpower. He further stated that the Maple Hill Volunteer Fire Department is at an ISO rating of 9S and in order to keep that ISO, they need help with manpower. A solution for this has been requested and funded in the recommended budget. This solution will cost as the Fire Department will contract with Pender EMS and Fire to put staff in the department during the day. The Board as well as Chief Harold Motley of the Maple Hill Volunteer Fire Department discussed how this agreement would work with the Board. It was discussed that this may become a solution for all rural fire departments that request help.

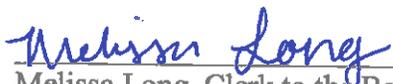
The Board took a break from 5:44 p.m. until 5:54 p.m.

Pender EMS & Fire – At 5:54 p.m. Chief Woody Sullivan appeared before the Board to answer questions the Board might have about the Pender EMS & Fire Budget. Revaluation, S.A.F.E., 911 calls were discussed. Chief Sullivan stated that ED North has really helped his organization with call times as it saves about two hours per call by being able to use ED North instead of going all the way to New Hanover. The proposed agreement with the Maple Hill Volunteer Fire Department was also discussed. Mercedes emblems on ambulances and the use of the shell building were also discussed.

Non-Departmental – At 6:15 p.m. the Board discussed the Non-Departmental Budget. Retiree Healthcare, the employee luncheon, and Workman’s Comp were discussed. Vehicles were discussed at length. Bank service charges and a policy for nightly deposits were also discussed. The discussion ensued regarding changing banks and what that would entail. The Board asked for a plan to be delivered as to steps on making this happen.

There being no further discussion, the Budget Work Session adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,



Melissa Long, Clerk to the Board

Reviewed By:



Ann Jones, Administrative Assistant II